

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair
Addison Bulosan
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Fern Holland
Arryl Kaneshiro



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 14, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF ADDISON BULOSAN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

HB 110, HD 1, RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Senate Committee on Education

Monday, March 17, 2025

3:00 p.m.

Conference Room 229

Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 110, HD 1, Relating to Local Agricultural Products. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

I wholeheartedly support the intent of HB 110, HD 1, which would greatly affect the Kaua'i community.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 110, HD 1. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

ADDISON BULOSAN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

JY:ss

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/17/2025

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 0110, HD1 RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Purpose of Bill: Modifies certain benchmark goals and timeline for the Department of Education to provide locally-sourced agricultural and food products. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) would like to provide comments on HB 110, HD 1.

This bill will help the School Food Services Branch streamline and standardize reporting obligations, which provides the Legislature and the public the status of the Department's progress in meeting the local farm-to-school goals.

The Department appreciates this bill's intent to separate its local food purchase goals from other state departments by clarifying that its specific percentage goal targets shall be:

30% by year 2030

34% by year 2040

42% by year 2045

50% by year 2050

The most efficient and consistent pathway to purchase more local food is a multi-pronged strategy utilizing distributor-to-farmer partnerships, augmented by increasing direct procurement from farms and food hubs. The Department's menu planners, procurement and farm to school coordinator communicate closely with our network of qualified distributors for both local value-added processed and agricultural food products, and interface with local farmers about what crop ingredients our school meals will need six to twelve months in advance.

Additionally, the Department is assessing opportunities for more direct local procurement from farms, processors, and food hubs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HIPHI Board

May Okihiro, MD, MS
Chair

John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD

Secretary
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender

Carissa Holley, MEd

Treasurer
Hale Makua Health Services

Debbie Erskine

ARCH-MEPS Consulting LLC, Owner

Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD

University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

Jennifer José Lo, MD

Hawai'i Health Partners

Misty Pacheco, DrPH

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP

Kaiser Permanente

Dina Shek, JD

Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai

HMSA

JoAnn Tsark, MPH

John A. Burns School of Medicine, Native
Hawaiian Research Office

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Network

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: Friday, March 14,, 2025

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

RE: Support for HB 110 HD1, Relating to Local Agriculture Products

Hrg: Monday, March 17, 2025 at 3 pm in Conference Room 229

Hawai'i Public Health Institute¹ (HIPHI) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB 110 HD1**, which seeks to standardize and strengthen benchmarks for the procurement of locally sourced food across state institutions. By aligning these targets, HB 110 HD1 ensures a consistent and predictable approach to increasing local food sourcing, fostering greater economic resilience, sustainability, and public health benefits for Hawai'i's residents.

Unified Targets

Food systems play a critical role in public health, and access to fresh, locally grown food is fundamental to improving nutrition and preventing chronic diseases. Currently, different state agencies operate under varying procurement targets, creating inconsistencies in implementation and limiting the ability of local farmers and food producers to scale up effectively. HB 110 HD1 addresses this issue by establishing a clear and cohesive framework across key departments, ensuring that the Department of Health, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Department of Defense, and the University of Hawai'i System move forward with a shared vision for increasing the use of Hawai'i-grown food.

Robust Food System and Economy

This bill strengthens Hawai'i's local food economy by creating a more coordinated and stable demand for local agricultural products. Farmers and food producers will have greater assurance that state institutions will purchase their products, allowing them to plan and invest in their operations with more confidence. Keeping food dollars within the state supports local businesses, creates jobs, and contributes to a more sustainable agricultural sector. Reducing reliance on imported food also mitigates the risks associated with supply chain disruptions, economic fluctuations, and natural disasters, making Hawai'i's food system more resilient.

¹ Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships, and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.

Strengthened Food Security

HB 110 HD1 also significantly advances food security and equity. Many of Hawai'i's most vulnerable populations, including students, hospital patients, and incarcerated individuals, depend on state-provided meals. Ensuring these meals contain more locally sourced, nutrient-dense foods supports better health outcomes and reduces dependence on highly processed, imported alternatives. Increasing the share of local food in schools, hospitals, and correctional facilities benefits individual health and fosters a stronger connection between communities and Hawai'i's agricultural heritage.

Hawai'i's heavy dependence on imported food—estimated at 85–90% of the state's supply²—poses a serious challenge to sustainability. Investing in local food systems is essential for reducing this reliance and lowering the state's carbon footprint. HB 110 HD1 is necessary to reinforce food sovereignty and ensure Hawai'i can provide for its people, even in times of crisis. For these reasons, HIPHI supports HB 110 HD1 and urges the committee to pass this measure. This bill will help build a more resilient, sustainable, and health-conscious food system for Hawai'i's future.

Mahalo nui loa for considering this measure and the opportunity to testify in support of HB 110 HD1

Mahalo,



Kawika Kahiapo
Hawaii Farm to School Network Program Coordinator
Hawaii Public Health Institute

² OFFICE OF PLANNING, et al. "INCREASED FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY." *HAWAII STATE PLAN*, report, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2007, files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/spb/INCREASED_FOOD_SECURITY_AND_FOOD_SELF_SUFFICIENCY_STRATEGY.pdf.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025
3:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 110, H.D. 1
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 110, H.D. 1. This bill proposes adjustments to certain benchmark goals and a timeline for the Department of Education to provide locally sourced agricultural and food products.

The Department of Agriculture fully supports this bill to align and address discrepancies in local food procurement benchmarks across various state agencies. We believe that establishing a standardized timeline and consistent targets provide an advantageous planning framework and enhance executive decision-making for all stakeholders involved in the *farm-to-state* purchasing supply chain for locally grown and raised food products.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 17, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 110, HD1
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 110, HD1, which modifies certain benchmark goals and timeline for the Department of Education to provide locally-sourced agricultural and food products.

HFB strongly supports the increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, poultry, and value-added products in our schools and state facilities. We support the State's Farm-to-School goal of 30% by 2030, in accordance with Act 175, SLH 2021 as well as the Farm-to-State goals established in Act 176, SLH 2021.

Increased purchasing by DOE and other state departments will help address food security and food sustainability by creating demand for local farm products which will result in farmers and ranchers growing more. It will also help provide more of Hawai'i's fresh and nutritious foods to our students and residents.

HFB is committed to working with the Department of Education and the other state entities to implement a procurement program that will allow Hawai'i farmers and ranchers to source more local products for Hawai'i's Farm to School and Farm to State programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

HB110 HD1
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Monday, March 17, 2025, 2:00PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB110 HD1** which modifies certain benchmark goals and timeline for the Department of Education to provide locally-sourced agricultural and food products.

We appreciate this bill's intent to align and clarify the local food purchasing benchmarks across state departments. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports the purchasing of locally sourced food, and Hawaii's ranchers are ready to contribute to that by providing local beef, a nutritious protein. Hawaii's locally grown beef provides 10 essential nutrients in a single 3 oz. serving. This includes high-quality protein, iron, zinc and B vitamins. These nutrients are especially important for the development of young, active growing children, and beef currently provides 3% of the 6% of locally purchased food the DOE purchases, and we can grow that contribution. This will help the students, the state, and agriculture.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director

