



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

Date: 01/28/2025

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 0110 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.

Department's Position:

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

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 communicate closely with our network of qualified distributors, who currently 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.

COUNTY COUNCIL

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



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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

January 27, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF FERN HOLLAND
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 427, RELATING TO BIOSECURITY AND
HB 643, RELATING TO THE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE PROGRAM
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Wednesday, January 29, 2025
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 325
Via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Kahaloha and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 427, Relating to Biosecurity and HB 643, Relating to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Program. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

Regarding HB 427, it is imperative to support all efforts to enhance biosecurity in Hawai'i. Our state is significantly behind in this area and is recognized as one of the most heavily invaded ecosystems globally. The urgent need for a comprehensive and effective biosecurity system cannot be overstated. For years, I have strongly advocated for strengthening biosecurity measures to safeguard our communities, environment, and way of life. On behalf of Kaua'i and its people, I continue this advocacy today. Investing in biosecurity now will yield long-term cost savings, protect our environment, preserve cultural practices, and honor our history. I urge you to support all measures aimed at establishing and expanding robust biosecurity initiatives for Hawai'i.

Regarding HB 643, Kaua'i is currently facing a severe and rapidly escalating infestation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles (CRB). This invasive species poses one of the most significant threats we have encountered in recent years. It jeopardizes critical agricultural crops, culturally significant sites, and native plant species, including endemic Loulu (*Pritchardia* palms), Hala (*Pandanus*), and the historical groves along the Royal Coconut Coast. Additionally, CRB threatens the iconic tropical landscape that defines Kaua'i and Hawai'i. The potential economic impact of this infestation on Kaua'i is staggering. To mitigate this crisis, it is essential to implement a unified and comprehensive approach, including immediate eradication efforts, robust biosecurity actions, education, and long-term biological control strategies. We must act decisively and collaboratively to address this pressing issue. I urge you to support the strongest possible version of HB 643, ensuring adequate funding and resources to combat CRB through immediate response measures and sustainable management solutions. Please prioritize and fast-track efforts to protect Kaua'i's environment, cultural heritage, and economy from this invasive threat.

Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee
Re: HB 427, Relating to Biosecurity and HB 643, Relating to the Coconut Rhinoceros
Beetle Program

January 27, 2025

Page 2

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 427 and HB 643. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "FERN HOLLAND", written in a cursive style.

FERN HOLLAND
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AAO:mn



HIPHI Board

May Okihiro, MD, MS
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Department of Pediatrics*

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Justin Puckett, CPA, MBA
Humana

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: January 26, 2025

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee of Education

RE: Support for HB 110 Relating to Agriculture Products

Hrg: Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 2:00 pm, Conf Rm 309

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute¹ (HIPHI) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 110, which seeks to standardize and strengthen benchmarks for the procurement of locally sourced food across state institutions. By aligning these targets, HB 110 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.

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 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.

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.



HB 110 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 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 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

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kawika Kahiapo".

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.

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 7:37:07 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Lamosao Chica, and Members of Committee,

The Green Party of Hawai'i is in support of HB110.

Mahalo nui,

Green Party of Hawai'i

Susan RobertsEmery

Co chair GPH

Paauilo



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

HB110
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 2:00PM
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB110** 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.

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





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

January 28, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 110
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair La Chica, 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, 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.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Aloha Chair La Chica, Vice Chair Woodson, and Members of the House Education Committee,

Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber
Kohala, Hawai'i

Tony Vera
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawai'i

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB110.**

The adoption of HB110, aimed at advancing the Department of Education's procurement of locally-sourced agricultural goods, is a significant opportunity to bolster Hawaii's local agriculture sector. Hawaii Farmers Union stands in firm support of this initiative, as it promises not only to enhance the nutritional profile of student meals but also to invigorate the local economy by supporting our farmers. By prioritizing locally grown products, we can ensure the benefits extend across communities, supporting sustainability, freshness, and ultimately, the self-reliance of Hawaii's food systems.

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hāna, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakalā, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahālāwai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Moloka'i

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

However, it is critical to address the language concerns that have emerged with the shift from "produce" to "food" in Act 144 (2022). This change could inadvertently broaden the definition to include products that do not substantially benefit the local agricultural landscape. Current provisions that allow for products containing only 51% locally sourced primary agricultural components risk diluting the impact of the bill. Without clear verification methods for this percentage, and stringent conditions in purchasing contracts, such products may fail to provide significant financial or cultural returns to local farmers.

For better alignment with local food sustainability goals, it is recommended that the bill entirely remove HRS §302A-405.6. Additionally, updating reporting requirements to track the status of progress towards local procurement goals more accurately is essential. The department should specifically report on total spending broken down into consumable foods and produce—and particularly on single-ingredient local products that are unequivocally 100% sourced from Hawaii. This level of detail can ensure transparency and accountability, serving to

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

Ted Radovich
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:45:33 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Kennedy	Strata Farms LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because incorporating locally sourced food into school meals strengthens our local agricultural sector while providing students with nutritious and culturally significant foods. Unfortunately, Hawai‘i has fallen behind on its goal to source 30% locally grown or produced food in school meals by 2023. This bill aims to encourage schools to take meaningful steps toward achieving the objectives of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Using public procurement to expand markets for Hawai‘i’s farmers and producers is a vital way to support local agriculture and reduce reliance on imports.

Moreover, this initiative will give children access to healthier, culturally relevant foods, such as kalo and sweet potatoes, fostering a deeper connection to the origins of their meals. Improved access to nutritious foods will also enhance learning outcomes. I support this - Ian Kennedy

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 5:32:56 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emelia Briscoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Sadly, progress in Hawai'i's goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals by 2023 has lagged. This bill seeks to incentivize schools to take action to meet the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii's farmers and producers is one critical way Hawai'i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Additionally, children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes. Please support HB110.

Mahalo,

Emelia Briscoe, Honolulu

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 5:36:47 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tasman Kekai Mattox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits local agriculture, while providing students with nutritious foods. Sadly, progress in Hawai'i's goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals by 2023 has lagged. This bill seeks to incentivize schools to take action to meet the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii's farmers and producers is one critical way Hawai'i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Additionally, children will have greater access to more nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes. Please support HB110.

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 6:05:52 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
yvonne mahelona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Sadly, progress in Hawai'i's goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals by 2023 has lagged. This bill seeks to incentivize schools to take action to meet the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii's farmers and producers is one critical way Hawai'i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Additionally, children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes. Please support HB110.

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 6:26:18 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sulara James	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB110. It is important that we support the best possible health for our children by feeding them local, organic, nutritious food and that we support our local farmers by having them serve as the source for this healthy produce.

Mahalo for caring about our children and making healthy foods available to them as we support our hard working, health conscious farmer

With Gratitude & Aloha,

Sulara James.

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 9:55:25 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Sadly, progress in Hawai'i's goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals by 2023 has lagged. This bill seeks to incentivize schools to take action to meet the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii's farmers and producers is one critical way Hawai'i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Additionally, children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes. Please support HB110.

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:49:14 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Bernstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodsen and members of EDN,

I'm testifying in support of HB110. One of the keys to making Hawaii more resilient is increasing the share of food produced locally. Increasing the demand for locally produce food would greatly assist in this goal. HB110 will help with this effort. Please pass this bill out of your committee.

Mahalo,

Paul Bernstein

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 1:18:04 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Kimo Pestana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure. It benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, appropriate foods.

School children will have more culturally nutritious foods, such as taro and sweet potatoes.

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 4:57:31 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lela Kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Sadly, progress in Hawai'i's goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals by 2023 has lagged. This bill seeks to incentivize schools to take action to meet the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii's farmers and producers is one critical way Hawai'i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Additionally, children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes. Please support HB110.

mahalo,

Lela Kalama, Kea'au, HI

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 6:14:34 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Sadly, progress in Hawai'i's goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals by 2023 has lagged. This bill seeks to incentivize schools to take action to meet the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii's farmers and producers is one critical way Hawai'i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Additionally, children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes. Please support HB110. Mahalo.

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 7:13:40 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irena Bliss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Sadly, progress in Hawai‘i’s goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals by 2023 has lagged. This bill seeks to incentivize schools to take action to meet the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii’s farmers and producers is one critical way Hawai‘i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Additionally, children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes.

Please support HB110.

It is vital to continue to live the values of Aloha ‘Āina, Mālama ‘Āina and make decisions that support the well-being and thriving of all future generations on island.

Mahalo nui for your consideration and support.

Irena Bliss
Ha‘ikū, Maui 96708

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 7:21:19 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. This bill seeks to incentivize schools to take action to meet the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii’s farmers and producers is one critical way Hawai‘i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Additionally, children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes. Please support HB110

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 8:19:54 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support 110 HB RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Thank you,

Theresa Thompson

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 8:49:39 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Luthy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Sadly, progress in Hawai'i's goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals by 2023 has lagged. This bill seeks to incentivize schools to take action to meet the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii's farmers and producers is one critical way Hawai'i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Additionally, children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes. Please support HB110.

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:18:38 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra M Javar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully SUPPORT hb110. This is essential for us to support our local farmers who provide us with fresh and healthy local products. This is another way to be self sufficient.

Mahalo

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:51:54 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Sadly, progress in Hawai'i's goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals by 2023 has lagged. This bill seeks to incentivize schools to take action to meet the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii's farmers and producers is one critical way Hawai'i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Additionally, children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes. Please support HB110.

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:03:30 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Sadly, progress in Hawai'i's goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals by 2023 has lagged. This bill seeks to incentivize schools to take action to meet the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii's farmers and producers is one critical way Hawai'i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Additionally, children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes. Please support HB110.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:05:05 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support HB110, which will incentivize schools to take action to meet the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge. Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Sadly, progress in Hawai'i's goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals by 2023 has lagged.

Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii's farmers and producers is one critical way Hawai'i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Additionally, children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes.

Thank you

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:12:39 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
De Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honored members of House Committee on Education,

Please support this bill.

We should and must provide locally-sourced agricultural and food products for our schools. This is a **win-win** for our state.

Farmers will have the benefit of a state contract, which will help sustain their continued production, decreasing our state's dependency on imports. Our students will get food that is healthier, fresher and more culturally-connected than imported foodstuffs. [If L&L Barbecue in Kihei, Maui can do it](#), so can other institutions. **It's a no-brainer.**

It is my understanding progress in Hawai'i's goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals by 2023 has lagged. We need to step it up! It also should be 50% or even more! We have nearly everything here: meat, eggs, spices, sweet potato, fish, vegetables, fruits, etc. We may not have all the pantry staples some place assume are important but we can likely replace them with ulu or kalo: flour, tortillas, pies, fries, etc.

Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes.

Please, PLEASE support HB110.

D. Austin

Kihei, Maui

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 3:45:08 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isis Usborne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee,

Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Sadly, progress in Hawai‘i’s goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals by 2023 has lagged. This bill seeks to incentivize schools to take action to meet the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii’s farmers and producers is one critical way Hawai‘i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Additionally, children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes. Please support HB110.

Mahalo,

Isis “Izzy” Usborne (they/them)
Kapahulu Ave resident (96815)
2026 JD Candidate at William S. Richardson School of Law

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 5:54:45 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB110 STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Representatives! I'm writing to ask you to support HB110.

Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Sadly, progress in Hawai'i's goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals by 2023 has lagged. This bill seeks to incentivize schools to take action to meet the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawai'i's farmers and producers is one critical way Hawai'i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Additionally, children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes. Please support HB110.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:32:51 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Woodson, Vice Chair Representative La Chica and Members of the Committee on Education.

Please vote for HB110 to support the Hawaii farm to school initiative.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:48:02 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Sadly, progress in Hawai'i's goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals by 2023 has lagged. This bill seeks to incentivize schools to take action to meet the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii's farmers and producers is one critical way Hawai'i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Additionally, children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes. Please support HB110.

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:32:13 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Education Committee Members,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support HB110 which modifies certain benchmark goals and timeline for the Department of Education to provide locally-sourced agricultural and food products.

Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii's farmers and producers is one critical way Hawaii can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this request.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:42:43 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keila Paahana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:18:44 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

LATE

HB-110

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:06:49 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni DeFranco	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly support HB110 because it promotes locally sourced food in our school meals, benefiting Hawai'i's agricultural sector while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Despite our goal to source 30% of school meal ingredients locally by 2023, progress has fallen short.

This bill is a critical step forward by leveraging public procurement to expand markets for local farmers and producers, reducing our reliance on imports. It also ensures children have access to healthier, culturally significant foods like kalo and sweet potatoes, fostering a deeper connection to their food sources and supporting better learning outcomes.