



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

**Date:** 04/02/2025

**Time:** 10:01 AM

**Location:** CR 211 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Bill Title:** HB 0110, HD1, SD1 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. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

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

**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 WAYS AND MEANS**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025**  
**10:01 A.M.**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

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

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 110, H.D. 1, S.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](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

April 2, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 110, HD1, SD1**  
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference  
10:01 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, 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, SD1**, 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.



## HIPHI Board

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University of Hawai'i at Hilo

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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: Monday, March 31, 2025

To: Senator Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Support for HB 110 HD1 SD1, Relating to Local Agriculture Products

Hrg: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 10:01 am at Conference Room 211

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Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>1</sup> (HIPHI) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB 110 HD1 SD1**, which seeks to standardize and strengthen benchmarks for the procurement of locally sourced food across state institutions. By aligning these targets, HB 110 HD1 SD1 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 SD1 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 SD1 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 supply<sup>2</sup>—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 SD1 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 SD1 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 SD1.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kawika Kahiapo". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

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

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<sup>2</sup> 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](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/spb/INCREASED_FOOD_SECURITY_AND_FOOD_SELF_SUFFICIENCY_STRATEGY.pdf).



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

**HB110 HD1 SD1**  
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Wednesday, March 2, 2025, 10:01 AM  
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB110 HD1 SD1** 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



**HB-110-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 3:13:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is important for building food security, diverstiy and sustainability as well as maintaining and adding jobs. Mahalo!



**HB-110-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 9:53:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support



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Vincent Kimura  
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska  
Kaua'i

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

The Hawai'i 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. **HFU 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.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin  
Advocacy Director  
Hawai'i Farmers Union



# Food+ Policy Internship 2025

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

1 April, 2025

Subject: HB110 HD1 SD1 (Local Food Procurement Benchmarks)

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Aloha Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Y. Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

Hawaii Food+ Policy is in support of HB110 HD1 SD1, which maintains benchmarks for locally sourced food procurement in state institutions, aligning with initiatives started under Act 175 (2021). However, we would like to offer comments on the nature of this bill.

HB110 HD1 SD1 redefines the goals we have set for the Department of Education (DOE) to fall in-line with the 5-year goals expressed in Act 176 (2021) and Act 144 (2022). In aligning these goals, we want to ensure that the percentages put forth are goals that the state is committing to and goals which will be maintained by the state which had previous conflicts with the goals set by Act 175 (2021).

We also want to provide comments on the exemption of the DOE for the year 2025 from the law's minimums established by both Acts 176 and Act 144 which we are seeking to align with this legislation. There need to be appropriate measures put in place to ensure that we are sincere and serious about achieving the goals set and there needs to be methods to initiate corrective action when departments do not meet such goals or regress from such goals.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB110 HD1 SD1 with our comments.

Mahalo,  
The Hawaii Food+ Policy Team

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**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2025, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.