



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

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TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE
FEBRUARY 3, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

HOUSE BILL 702
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT

Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 702. The State Procurement Office (SPO) opposes the bill due to the request for exemption from Chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), Hawaii Public Procurement Code (Code).

SPO recommends removing entirely the language in Section 2, page 4, lines 18-20, as indicated below:

~~“(e) Except for section 103D-1002, all contracts made for the procurement of goods and services pursuant to rules adopted under this section shall be exempt from chapter 103D.”~~

The SPO objects to the procurement exemption and testifies that procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools should be conducted competitively pursuant to Chapter 103D, HRS

Pursuant to §103D-104.5, HRS, fresh meats and produce are required to be procured, however, the Chief Procurement Officer does have the authority to exempt these food products when by competitive means is either not practicable or not advantageous to the State. Therefore, an avenue already exists towards exempting these items. The Hawaii State Legislature has had the wisdom to insert language that allows for individual cases exemptions; therefore, this bill is completely unnecessary.

The Code is the single source of public procurement policy to be applied equally and uniformly, while providing fairness, open competition, a level playing field, government disclosure, and transparency in the procurement and contracting process vital to good government.

Public procurement's primary objective is to provide everyone equal opportunity to compete for government contracts and to prevent favoritism, collusion, or fraud in awarding contracts. To legislate that any one entity should be exempt from compliance with both Chapter 103D and 103F, HRS, conveys a sense of disproportionate equality in the law's application.

Exemptions to the Code mean that all procurements made with taxpayer monies will not have the same oversight, accountability, and transparency requirements mandated by those procurements processes provided in the Code. It means that there is no requirement for due diligence, proper planning, or consideration of protections for the state in contract terms and conditions, nor are there any set requirements to conduct cost and price analysis and market research or post-award contract management. As such, Agencies can choose whether to compete any procurement or go directly to one contractor. As a result, leveraging economies of scale and cost savings efficiencies found in the consistent application of the Code are lost. It also means Agencies are not required to adhere to the Code's procurement integrity laws.

The National Association of State Procurement Officials state: "Businesses suffer when there is inconsistency in procurement laws and regulations. Complex, arcane procurement rules of numerous jurisdictions discourage competition by raising the costs to businesses to understand and comply with these different rules. Higher costs are recovered through the prices offered by a smaller pool of competitors, resulting in unnecessarily inflated costs to state and local governments."

When public bodies are removed from the state's procurement code, it results in the harm described above. As these entities create their own procurement rules, businesses are forced to track their various practices. Moreover, a public body often can no longer achieve the benefits of aggregation by using another public body's contract because different state laws and regulations may apply to the various public bodies making compliance more difficult.

Each year new procurement laws are applied to state agencies causing state agency contracts to become more complex and costly, while other public bodies, such as agencies with strong legislative influence, are exempted. Relieving some public bodies from some laws by exempting or excluding them from compliance with a common set of legal requirements creates an imbalance wherein the competitive environment becomes different among the various jurisdictions and the entire procurement process becomes less efficient and costlier for the state and vendors.

Thank you.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**FEBRUARY 3, 2021
10:00 A.M.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 702
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT**

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 702, relating to farm to school procurement. This bill would requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products, and exempts the department of education's food program from much of the Hawaii public procurement code. The department supports the further incorporation of local agricultural products into State-run institutional food service programs but defers to the department of education on the specifics of this measure and its affect on their procurement process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/03/2021

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Via Videoconference

Committee: House Agriculture

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0702 RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. Except for the provision relating to Hawaii products, exempts the department's food program from the Hawaii public procurement code.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 702 to facilitate an increase in locally grown and locally raised food products from Hawaii. The Department will require operational and system changes to successfully implement the mandates of this measure as currently drafted, particularly as it relates to internal procurement processes.

Establishing a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products will require close coordination between the Department's Office of Operations and Facilities and the Office of Fiscal Services to ensure compliance with both federal and state procurement requirements. The Department must ensure that the adoption of new rules affecting procurement do not violate any current statutory or administrative regulations that may put existing funding sources in jeopardy.

Equally critical to note are factors that are beyond the Department's control that affect its ability to procure locally grown products, such as fluctuating market conditions that dictate supply and price factors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, February 3, 2021; 10:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0702, RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT.

HOUSE BILL NO. 0767, RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 0702, RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT., and House Bill No. 0767, RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

As received by your Committee, House Bill No. 0702, would exempt the purchase of goods and services by the Department of Education (DOE) for food programs at public schools and incorporate geographic preference for unprocessed locally-grown and locally-raised food products from Hawaii farmers, ranchers, and food producers. This bill would also allow school complexes to regionalize their menus.

House Bill No. 0767, would:

- (1) Transfer the Farm to School Program (Program) from the Department of Agriculture to the DOE;
- (2) Establish the Farm to School Coordinator position who would oversee the Program; and
- (3) Direct the Program to ensure that 30% of food served in public schools consist of locally-sourced products by 2030.

Testimony on House Bill Nos. 0702 and 0767
Wednesday, February 3, 2021; 10:00 a.m.
Page 2

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

Over the past four years, HPCA has served as a member of the Obesity Prevention Task Force, and as such has joined the Hawaii Public Health Institute and other advocates in support of efforts to promote healthy diets and the increased consumption of locally-grown vegetables and fruits in our schools and communities.

The HPCA also asserts that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely threatened the health and welfare of our citizens, especially Hawaii's underprivileged and rural communities. With so many people unemployed, entire families are struggling to put food on the table on a consistent basis. All one needs to do is visit one of our member FQHC's food distribution events and see the line of cars stretch for miles and the large number of people who wait for hours to receive some surplus food.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated the need for a program like this. Our over-reliance on tourism has weakened our ability to bounce back from COVID's dire economic realities.

The only way for us to protect ourselves from the next global pandemic is for Hawaii to diversify its economic base and become more self-sufficient. And for us to do that, we need to grow more food.

The HPCA understands that the State is experiencing its worst financial crisis since the Great Depression and appreciates how difficult your job will be in deciding where very limited resources will go over the next two years. But to merely perpetuate the status quo will fail to address the underlying problems that created the situation that we currently find ourselves in.

Support for agriculture is bold. Support for these bills in our time of crisis is bold.

We urge your favorable consideration of these bills.

Lastly, because both bills appear to complement one another, this committee may want to consider combining both bills into a single vehicle -- House Bill No. 0767, which appears to have a title broad enough to include the subject matter of both bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.

HB-702

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 2:46:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ming Wei Koh	Center for Getting Things Started	Support	No

Comments:

Center for Getting Things Started fully supports this bill for the following reasons:

- This bill will help provide far greater food security in our communities, along with important relationships between producers and consumers
- This will help schools and communities enhance nutrition education
- Children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods; i.e. kalo, sweet potatoes, etc. by focusing on local relationships that regionalize the menu - deepened sense of plate
- Closer proximity relationships will reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the United States
- Saves the state money by decreasing costs for school meal programs
- Most importantly, it allows kids a more direct connection to the people who grow thier food, their food system, enhancing their community pride and connection to place/identity.

Mahalo nui loa,

Koh Ming Wei

Executive Director



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

HB702

Requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. Except for the provision relating to Hawaii products, exempts the department's food program from the Hawaii public procurement code.

Wednesday February 3, 2021, 10:0 am
Conference Room 325
VIA Video Conference

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB702** relating to farm to school procurement. Ranchers support the Farm to School program and want to see it prosper, for both the health of our students as well as the health of our economy. Any processes that make purchasing local products easier is important to ensuring the program succeeds. There is a need for the procurement process to be streamlined. We are aware of several groups working towards supporting Farm to School and Farm to State, and the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council is participating in these efforts so that both purchasers and producers are educated in how to navigate procurement, and we can increase local purchasing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this issue.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

Position Statement on Local Beef Production

One of the core strengths of any society lies in its ability to be self-sufficient, to feed itself. Hawaii's beef producers are committed to providing wholesome food for its community that is safe, secure and sustainable.

For most of its existence, Hawaii's beef industry has followed a conventional model with production, harvest and processing occurring within state. In the early 1990's, a combination of rising costs and inefficiencies led Hawaii producers to shift to an export calf model which remains dominant today. However, with increasing consumer demand for locally sourced food, there is renewed focus on expanding local beef production. Several private labels have emerged over the last 10 years, raising the flavor and tenderness profile for local beef, further driving demand. The groundwork for expansion has been set.

In recent years, Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) recognized limited harvest capacities as one of the primary constraints for expanding local beef production. It has been HCC's position that each island should have access to a full complement of harvest and processing facilities. The economic benefit of efficiencies achieved with consolidation should be balanced with the unique challenges Hawaii's beef industry faces. These include;

- the vulnerability of interisland transportation of perishable goods and/or live animals as it relates to;
 - food security and safety, animal welfare, affordable shipping rates, labor disputes and equipment failure
- the need to develop and maintain a diversified economic base and skilled labor force on outer islands
- limited competitive markets
- quasi-public responsibility of state-owned food processing facilities

Among other things previously identified (see attached, "A Livestock Harvest Facility for Hawaii"), the ideal model should address;

- Flexible marketing – direct sale vs retained ownership
- Increased capacity/access for all producers to harvest, process and market
- Growth of market share through "coopetition" vs direct competition
- Compliance with regulatory planning concepts and concerns, especially as related to environmental issues
- Preservation of the integrity of locally labeled beef
- Opportunity to expand locally branded products

Our producers continue to provide high-quality grass-fed beef year-round, which serves a loyal, sustainability-minded customer base that increasingly want to know where their food comes

from. HCC supports a business model that facilitates infrastructure that allows each island to maintain autonomy over its beef production from gate to plate.

A Livestock Harvest Facility for the State of Hawaii Hawaii Cattlemen's Council



Senate Bill 1257 provides \$1.5M for the planning and design of a livestock harvest facility within the state of Hawaii. This is an ambitious initiative that represents our strong belief in the future of our industry and our commitment to building infrastructure that will help grow and expand our local markets.

Our critical need for this project is based on the following;

- a. increased consumer demand for local beef
- b. increased market demand created by expanding programs, such as our schools' Aina Pono initiative
- c. availability for producers' strategic culling programs
- d. security for animal welfare in the face of disease or drought

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for planning and design should include the following key components and deliverables from firms who will respond;

1. An analysis of a viable business/feasibility plan that addresses expected throughput, revenues, expenses and return on investment related to the operation of a new facility. Our initial recommendation for Hawaii Island is for a 5,000 head capacity that can be expanded to 10,000 head/year. This will be varied island by island. We see this information as critical to attracting capital to our state and industry.
2. Schematics and drawings of the layout of a new facility that can be adapted to meet different environmental conditions for each island and can scale up or down to meet production needs.
3. Analysis and review of technologies to support the remote locations and sensitive environments in which this facility will operate.

4. Review of the following key features of the facility itself. These features will ensure that the proposed model will meet our goal of creating a facility that serves the sustainability needs of our industry addressed through these economic, social and environmental considerations.

Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity (target steady state, initial, and ramp up) • Scalable/modular • Marketing partner • Added value/processing • Certification for specialty markets – i.e. export, BRC, GFSI • Management expertise • Transportation costs • Flexible marketing – direct sale vs retained ownership • Innovation and technology • Useful life • Potential for multi-species use • Scope of facility—slaughter, processing, and further processing capabilities • Value Added Products and Processing
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food safety • Worker safety • Animal well-being • Employee engagement • Central location • Affordable housing
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy • Waste disposal - bio digester • Water resources and requirements • Critical path for permits • Environmental Impact Statement • Air emissions/odor • Proximity to existing infrastructure and need for establishment of new connections to electrical, water, wastewater, and roadways.

HCC believes our industry and agriculture as a whole are at a critical crossroads. There is a great deal to be optimistic about including consumer demand for more locally sourced food, public officials who have declared a commitment to improve Hawaii’s food security, an advocate in our HDOA administration who believe in the need for Hawaii’s agriculture to thrive and people within the ranching community with the will to move our industry forward. These things combine to create powerful synergy to keep our industry and agriculture a vibrant and relevant part of our state’s economy and landscape. This project is the result of that synergy and a real, tangible move forward for the beef industry.

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 10:00:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jess Sobocinski	FoodCorps Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kā• kou,

My name is Jess Sobocinski and I am the Associate Director of FoodCorps Hawai'i. FoodCorps' mission is to connect keiki to healthy food in schools. We support that vision by partnering with elementary schools and local organizations on Hawai'i Island to place full-time FoodCorps AmeriCorps service members at those schools to provide garden, nutrition, and cooking lessons to students and families. Our members prioritize highlighting locally-grown and raised, culturally-appropriate foods when conducting these lessons. We see how food education benefits the entire community, especially when local farmers are supported in the process! This type of connection takes our work beyond health and nutrition into building a stronger, more resilient local food system. I also see that children are more excited to eat foods that they are familiar with and are sourced locally. I support HB702 because I believe school meals are an essential part of our children's health and that the DOE has the potential to provide a strong, sustainable market for our local farmers.

Mahalo,

Jess



House Committee on Agriculture

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB702

Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports HB702, which we believe helps to provide a tangible solution to help address gaps and missed opportunities in our local food system, while supporting our farmers and food producers and our local economy.

HB702 requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. This measure will help schools and communities improve health education, nutrition and understand the value of sourcing local food.

By focusing on local relationships that “regionalize the menu,” 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.

These closer proximity relationships will in turn also reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the United States.

HB702 also saves the state money by decreasing costs for school meal programs while supporting our local farmers and helping our economy.

Most importantly, HB702 allows kids a more direct connection to their food system, enhancing their community pride and connection to place and identity.

Please support HB702 to help grow our local food economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



Bobby Farias
President
Hawaii Meats LLC
91-319 Olai Street
Kapolei, HI 96707

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

Re: HB 702

Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 10:00am
Conference Room 325
VIA Video Conference

Aloha e Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bobby Farias, and I am the President and Partner of Hawaii Meats, LLC, a locally vertically-integrated ranch. I am writing in **support of HB 702** relating to farm to school procurement. Ranchers support the Farm to School program and want to see it prosper, for both the health of our students as well as the health of our economy. Any processes that make purchasing local products easier is important to ensuring the program succeeds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this issue.

Respectfully,

Bobby Farias
President, Hawaii Meats, LLC

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 4:59:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

If indeed it has been established that what is needed to move local procurement of foods into the food service of our public school system, is to establish "rules for the procurement of goods and services" including geographic preference and exempt DOE from State Procurement then this bill should be passed. I hope that our State Procurement Officer Sarah Allen will provide testimony that will determine if this indeed is the right path. At this point this is all very confusing to people outside the DOE who try to follow these threads.

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 6:09:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurel brier	Kauai women's caucus	Support	No

Comments:

HB 702, Farm to School Procurement, can improve the health of our children, our environment and our economy. It's a win, win, win. Please support



Testimony of
Sultan White,
CEO of Civil Impact LLC

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, February 3, 2021
10:00 AM

In SUPPORT of
HB702--RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT
HB767--RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Aloha Chair Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair Amy A. Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

Civil Impact LLC is in **SUPPORT** of HB702 which requires the Department of Education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products and HB767 which moves the Hawaii farm to school program from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Education and establishes a programmatic goal that at least thirty percent of food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030.

A holistic education and food system revitalizes our connection to food, farming, and the land, improves public health and well-being, and cultural and environmental awareness. This model of regenerative community food systems ensures the prosperity and longevity of local people and sets an example for the Pacific and the world.

According to a study by the National Farm to School Network, the implementation of these programs increases the grades, test scores, physical activity, and health of students; increases hands-on and experiential learning opportunities and lowers meal program costs at schools; increases income by an average of 5% and diversifies the market for farmers; and contributes to the creation of local jobs and economic activity for the community.

As our farmers struggle to find new distribution channels and pivot due to COVID-19, these programs provide the perfect opportunity to support local agriculture while realizing multiple long-term benefits to the people and this place. Please vote in SUPPORT of HB702 and HB767, and mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sultan White
CEO, Civil Impact LLC

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 8:32:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeri Di Pietro	Hawai`i SEED	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and House Committee on Agriculture Members,

We are testifying in strong support of HB702, Relating to Farm to School Procurement.

This is a vital step that is a win/win/win. Existing farmers would have a steady market and a solid opportunity to plan the timing of crops, the students would eat local, fresh, healthy food and the increase of the market for locally produced Hawaii products. Another important benefit would be a decrease in transportation carbon.

By focusing on local foods, keiki will have greater access to more culturally appropriate food. It is such a benefit to learn to appreciate and enjoy what is most commonly available, that is `aina grown, just like they are. The relationship of eating the foods from your land, like kalo, ulu, sweet potato, is a natural connection.

While it makes good economic sense by benefiting the business economy and jobs, it creates healthy eating that will become a lifelong habit. At some point, the opportunity to apply growing, cooking, mechanical maintenance into curriculum is a natural progression. We need young farmers, we start by introducing them to the foods that are produced in a tropical climate. Allowing procurement opens the door for the changes to the food system that need to happen. We cannot be stuck in a cycle that no longer serves us.

Imagine the reduction in waste management when you take importation packaging out of the equation. The food will decrease the cost of the school meal program, and keep our dollars in the hands of the local economy. The unprocessed locally grown food will be free of many artificial ingredients that are added to industrial shipped food.

Please support good food bills. It is happening in school programs around the world with great success. We should adopt these practices too.

Support HB 702

Mahalo nui loa,

Jeri Di Pietro, President

Hawai'i SEED

PO Box 1177

Koloa, HI 96756

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 9:09:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sam Kakazu	BEES>me	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

The Farm to School Hui continues to implement a dynamic plan and has established Circles to address legislative agendas, mapping food systems, streamlining procurement, examining children's palates and adjusting menus...all of which engages organizations and citizens towards support of local ag operations and provide safe and nutritious food in our schools. My kuleana is "supply" and I support this bill as part of the local food chain.

Sam Kakazu, former farmer, HIDOE (retired), former USDA Field Agent, Pollinator Advocate, Blue Zones (Ko'olaupoko), F2S Hui



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, February 3, 2021 — 10:00 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 702, Relating to Farm to School Procurement

Dear Chair Hashem and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

Ulupono supports HB 702, which requires the Department of Education (DOE) to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. The bill also exempts the department's food program from the Hawai'i Public Procurement code, except for the provision relating to Hawai'i products.

Ulupono supports the Department of Education's Farm to School efforts and believes that adopting policies that further advance local food procurement in school meals is important for the success of the DOE's 'Aina Pono program. Based on the pilots performed at the Kohala Cafeteria Complex and the Mililani Cafeteria Complex, geographic preference can play a major role in increasing student meal participation, supporting healthy lifestyles, and connecting keiki and kupuna to local food. Sourcing from local, regional farmers may also help provide fresher, more nutritious options more efficiently with lower costs for procurement.

These pilots have been successful at modeling how local food procurement can be expanded to state institutional purchasing when there is buy-in across various state and local entities, community companies and organizations, and the overall community as a whole. This effort can be extremely important in supporting our local food production goals while also increasing the State's food security.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



LAND USE RESEARCH
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

1100 Alakea Street, Suite 408
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 521-4717
www.lurf.org

February 1, 2021

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Testimony in Support of HB 702, Relating to Farm to School Procurement (Requires the Department of Education [DOE] to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. Except for the provision relating to Hawaii products, exempts the department's food program from the Hawaii public procurement code.)

Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 10:00 a.m., in Conference Room 325, via Videoconference

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 702**, and to offer comments.

HB 702. The purpose and intent of this bill is to create a limited procurement exemption system for the purchase of goods and services by the DOE related to the administration of food programs at public schools that will incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products, thereby facilitating the increased use and consumption in schools, of locally grown and locally raised food products from Hawaii farmers, ranchers, and food producers and to allow school complexes to regionalize their menus.

LURF's Position. LURF members include farmers, ranchers and landowners who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider programs such as that proposed by this bill significant to the conduct of their operations and to help sustain their businesses. These landowners and agricultural stakeholders believe HB 702 will greatly assist with the effort to achieve long-term sustainability of Hawaii's food supply, economic growth, and disaster preparedness, including increased production of food for our schools. Assuring incorporation and use of locally grown food into school food programs will also assist by acquainting students to healthy local food options and stimulating their interest in agricultural careers.

The purpose of this bill is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes, Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution, “to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands.”

LURF therefore appreciates the objective of HB 702, which is to support agriculture and instigate further collaboration between the DOE and agriculture-related operations through effective procurement policies and procedures. Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be meaningless without implementation of such measures.

By recognizing the significance of, and need to assist the local agriculture industry, and implement measures which help to support the growth and maintenance of agriculture in the State, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

For the reasons stated above, LURF is in **support of HB 702**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.



February 1, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT for HB702**

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT of HB702**, requiring the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products.

Blue Zones Project was brought to Hawai'i by HMSA to help increase the overall well-being of our communities and to make Hawaii a healthier, happier place to live, work and play. To accomplish that goal, we address ways that we can lower obesity rates, tobacco use, and chronic diseases.

Our statewide school structure, stringent procurement policies, and unique geographies makes it exceptionally challenging for schools to source foods locally, despite the availability of fresh produce in many areas. This bill will help to better facilitate local food procurement, which is one of the top ways to make school meals healthier. It is well recognized that most U.S. youth do not meet the recommendation of eating 2.5 to 6.5 cups of fruits and vegetables daily,¹ but exposing more students to fresh produce can shift student's perceptions about healthy foods and influence eating behaviors, both in and out of the school environment.

This bill can substantially improve student diets while supporting our local agriculture community. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT of HB702**.

Colby Takeda
Senior Manager

¹ National Farm to School Network. <http://www.farmtoschool.org/>



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

House Bill 702
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair Hashem; Vice Chair Perruso; and Members of the House Committee on
Agriculture:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii stands in support of HB 702 which establishes rules for procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. The Environmental Caucus supports this bill because it allows children a more direct connection to their food system, enhancing community pride and connection to place/identity.

By focusing on local relationships that “regionalize the menu”, children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods: i.e. kalo, sweet potatoes, breadfruit, etc..

Closer proximity relationships will reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the mainland.

The State of Hawaii will save money by decreasing costs for school meal programs and support or local farmers.

Passage of HB 702 will help schools and communities enhance their educational and nutritional programs.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

/s/ Jeff McKnight

Chair, Food Security and Agriculture Committee
Vice Chair., Environmental Caucus



Hawai'i Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council
Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation
Hawai'i Farmers' Union United
Hawai'i Food Industry Association
Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association
Kohala Center
Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i
Maui Farm to School Network (Maui F2SN)
Ulupono Initiative
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources - University of Hawai'i at Manoa

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
February 3, 2021 - 10:00 A.M. - Videoconference

**RE: HB 702 - Relating to Farm to School Procurement -
In Support**

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition **supports** HB 702, which requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. Except for the provision relating to Hawaii products, exempts the department's food program from the Hawaii public procurement code.

LFC strongly supports increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, and poultry products in our schools. Strong procurement policies and procedures are essential to a successful farm to school program. This measure will truly be a significant step towards providing a long-term revenue stream for farmers and encourage the next generation of farmers.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of HB 702. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

John Garibaldi
808-544-8319
jgaribaldi@wik.com



LATE

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Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 3, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 702
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Conference Room 325
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 702, which requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. Except for the provision relating to Hawaii products, exempts the department's food program from the Hawaii public procurement code.

HFB strongly supports the increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, and poultry products in our schools.

In 2009, the State enacted ACT 175 which gave Hawaii agricultural products a price preference and included Hawaii agricultural products under the State's procurement code. HFB believed that agricultural producers' price preference for bidding presented a competitive advantage. This included enjoyment of the small business preference rule that permits an agency to identify certain contracts for competition among small businesses or requires a large business to subcontract with small businesses to provide the products. We believed that the preference helped cultivate a level playing field with out-of-state bidders and created additional market opportunities for Hawaii's farmers and small businesses

HFB suggested the changes because farmers and ranchers were having a difficult time entering into state supply contracts. During our involvement with this process, it became clear that education at all levels, not just within our group of farmers and ranchers, but

even within the procurement office, was needed. Although HFB attempted to move everyone in this direction, the training was never accomplished.

In previous sessions, there have been measures proposed to remove the preference and ease the process required for governmental bodies to acquire local agricultural commodities by exempting Hawaii agricultural producers from the procurement code. This would change the current code back to where it was before HFB's requests to the Legislature modified the language, resulting in the current code.

In previous sessions, when bills were introduced that would revert to exempting locally-grown agricultural products from the procurement code, HFB has requested clear metrics to help determine the success of the procurement code with the exemption.

Many formal and informal studies have been done addressing farm to school programs. Our farmers and ranchers have tried to work with the procurement system and can speak to the shortcomings of the system. For example, supplying a school or schools within a geographic area is feasible. Providing to the entire school system is not. The focus should now be on working with the procurement system to make institutional markets accessible while considering the capacity of farmers and ranchers in Hawaii. Assistance to farmers on how to navigate the system should also be a priority.

The proposed geographic preference will provide the flexibility that should help increase the purchase of more locally-grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, and poultry products for our Farm to School program.

HFB is committed to working with the department of education to implement a procurement program that will allow Hawaii farmers and ranchers to source more products for Hawaii's Farm to School program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

Executive Officers

LATE

Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Chair*
Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Vice Chair*
Eddie Asato, The Pint Size Corp., *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
John Schlif, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor*
Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Beau Oshiro, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:
Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 3, 2021
TIME: 10am
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: HB702 Relating to Farm to School Procurement

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure. Increasing the use of locally grown food in our schools has a range of benefits. Making sure that Hawaii's school kids to have access to fresh, healthy, Hawaii grown fruits, vegetables, fish, poultry, and meat is good for kids. Providing a stable, consistent, large scale buyer is good for our local farmers. This measure is a win win. We encourage you to pass it and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-702

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 4:19:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support helping kids develop a connection to the food they eat.

HB-702

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 4:29:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mikyla Thomas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha to all,

My name is Mikyla Hi'ilani Thomas. In my almost 30 years of life, my neighborhoods have been Kuli'ou'ou, Wailuku, HÄ• na, PÄ• lolo, Kaunakakai and now Mililani. Because of these places I have a wide range of perspectives on food, health and education as it correlates to an individual's self determination. I now have a better understanding of the shortcomings and opportunities of Hawai'i's diverse communities. I am a graduate of Hawai'i's Public School System and I stand before you exuding my general learner outcome of a community contributor. I realized at a young age that my education system and the food I was being served were decisions made for me by people from a far away place with no ties to this 'Ä• ina. I speak to you on behalf of my two children Rell and Faith and the hundreds of thousands of keiki who are just like me in the public school system today. As a school garden teacher I saw what it meant to kids to eat fresh produce. Many of my students were economically disadvantaged and by sharing something as simple as fresh fruit and vegetables I witnessed their chins lift and their eyes light up. They stood taller and it was clear that they felt valued. Each year the DOE sends over 110 Million dollars to mainland companies. If we can keep that money recirculating in Hawai'i why would we not want to support the DOE in their efforts to support local food producers while building our childrens relationships to foods that grow well close to home. I support House Bill 767!

Mahalo for your time!

HB-702

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 6:42:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael deYcaza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Good for the kids and good for the farmers.

HB-702

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 10:55:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our children deserve the best food possible and need to learn that they are fed by the land of Hawaii. This bill is a win-win as it supports local agricultural, keeps money circulating in our economy longer, and is better for kids. I support and hope you will too.

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 3:23:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
autumn ness	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this because it:

- Saves the state money by decreasing costs for school meal programs
- Supports our local farmers
- Most importantly, it allows kids a more direct connection to their food system, enhancing their community pride and connection to place/identity

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 3:44:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- This will help schools and communities enhance education, nutrition
- By focusing on local relationships that “regionalize the menu,” children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods; i.e. kalo, sweet potatoes, etc.
- Closer proximity relationships will reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the United States
- Saves the state money by decreasing costs for school meal programs
- Supports our local farmers
- Most importantly, it allows kids a more direct connection to their food system, enhancing their community pride and connection to place/identity

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 4:10:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Noelani Ahia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill. Food Security and the health of our ohana is critical, especially at this time with climate change and the current and possible future pandemics. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Noelani Ahia

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 4:35:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 4:44:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

I am writing in support of HB702. Our schools consume large quantities of food that is currently imported to the State. This is an atrocity. We have local farmers who need the support of long term steady outlets for their produce. Our keikis need fresher, more wholesome food. This is a partnership made to order.

Please support this bill.

Susan Stayton

Lawai, HI

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 6:18:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon douglas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is critical that Kauai embrace sustainability and that this is integrated into our schooling system. Not only does this enable closer connection with local farmers and sustainable crops, it also fosters culturally appropriate and nutritious lifestyles, while avoiding imports and have money leave our island and go to corporations on the mainland.

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 6:21:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We must support local farmers first !

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 6:45:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angeline Zhou	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I've never written an online testimony, but we need all the organizational/infrastructural support to increase the production and consumption of local agriculture. Starting with public schools would be a great measure, and this bill would fall under organizational support. Starting with public schools and our keiki and getting the ball rolling(!! not idling) would be a great move for public health as Hawaii's has a high prevalence of childhoods obesity and healthier habits are so much more effective when introduced/taught at a younger age. I am a first year medical student here at JABSOM and I fully support this measure. Please keep fighting for the health of our aina and keiki <3

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 7:37:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill will help local farmers, be great for the kids, save money, and help save the planet by lowering carbon emissions. Please pass this bill!

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 8:18:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is a win-win for our kids/schools & farmers - please see that it passes.... Mahalo

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 9:24:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michal Fentin Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB702 Farm to School Procurement because it would help schools and communities enhance our children's nutrition and, hence, their education. It would also provide much needed support to our local farmers. Further, it would save the State money by eliminating packaging and transportation costs.

Thank you.

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 9:36:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the passage of HB702 because it requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products.

I know that:

- This will help schools and communities enhance education, nutrition
- By focusing on local relationships that “regionalize the menu,” children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods; i.e. kalo, sweet potatoes, etc.
- Closer proximity relationships will reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the United States
- Saves the state money by decreasing costs for school meal programs
- Supports our local farmers
- Most importantly, it allows kids a more direct connection to their food system, enhancing their community pride and connection to place/identity.

Please pass HB702. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary Lu Kelley

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 10:48:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca M Goldschmidt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write in support of HB702. As a Hawaii resident who plans to have my future children attend Hawaii public schools, this bill is necessary to support local/regional agriculture and the longterm health of the people of Hawaii. This bill will help reduce our carbon emissions, reduce our reliance on imported foods, and will incorporate hands-on understanding of sustainable food systems into the education system. Mahalo for considering the future of our islands and our keiki.

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 11:05:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
brandi corpuz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha My name is Brandi Corpuz and I live in Kihei Maui. I am the Executive Director of Rooted Kekahi Me Ka Aina, a community agriculture non-profit, operating in Oahu, Maui and Molokai. We are a place based educational program who grows healthy food and families together. I am in support of HB702 because our children need fresh locally grown food. Our schools should be buying as much local foods as possible on every island. This will help our farmers and food sustainability in Hawaii. It will cut cost to import food from elsewhere and it will show our kids that eating local can and should be done in Hawaii. As an educator myself I believe that Hawaii needs to get back to supporting our natural resources and this is one way we can do that. Thank you, Brandi Corpuz

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 7:39:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

I'm writing in full support of this bill because:

- This will help schools and communities enhance education, nutrition
- By focusing on local relationships that “regionalize the menu,” children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods; i.e. kalo, sweet potatoes, etc.
- Closer proximity relationships will reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the United States
- Saves the state money by decreasing costs for school meal programs
- Supports our local farmers
- Most importantly, it allows kids a more direct connection to their food system, enhancing their community pride and connection to place/identity

Please support this bill.

me ke aloha ‘Ā• ina,

Nanea Lo

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 8:50:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meredith Cross	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

My name is Meredith Cross, a resident of Kapa'a on Kaua'i where I am raising a 3 year old daughter with my husband Rob. This is personally important to me and my ohana where we believe a direct connection to the aina that provides for us is one of the most important for us all to understand. It must start with and continue with the keiki. Please also see below for additional reasons why I am in support of this bill:

- This will help schools and communities enhance education, nutrition
- By focusing on local relationships that “regionalize the menu,” children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods; i.e. kalo, sweet potatoes, etc.
- Closer proximity relationships will reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the United States
- Saves the state money by decreasing costs for school meal programs
- Supports our local farmers
- Most importantly, it allows kids a more direct connection to their food system, enhancing their community pride and connection to place/identity

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,
Meredith Cross

Kapa'a, HI 96746

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:01:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Leo Braulick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear members of the committee:

I am writing in support of HB702 (Farm to School Procurement) because it will:

- support our local farmers
- help schools and communities enhance education and nutrition
- reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste
- allow kids a more direct connection to their food system

I hope you will also support HB702.

Sincerely,

Nathan Leo Braulick

2333 Kapiolani Blvd., #1604

Honolulu HI 96826

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:09:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 702 We need this bill for food security. Mahalo, Laura Gray R.N.

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:11:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Kaiakapu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

My name is Christopher Ka’iakapu and I write in SUPPORT of BILL HB702 relating to Farm-to-School procurement. I am from the ahupua’a of Hanapepe on the island of Kaua’i. I am a Native Hawaiian, conservationist, health food enthusiast, native plant nursery manager, and aspiring farmer. In my opinion, addressing our broken food system and decreasing our dependence on imported foods is of top priority in Hawai’i. Now more than ever as the pandemic has made it more apparent that change is needed, and especially as a culture that traditionally prides itself as a self-sufficient and food abundant one. This bill will help enhance education and nutrition for our keiki, while also supporting our local farmers. It will connect keiki to their food system and environment, and help provide access to culturally significant and nutritious foods, like kalo, uala, and ulu. Furthermore, this system will not only help minimize the carbon footprint of our food by decreasing shipping, but will also help save the state money by decreasing costs of school meal programs. For health, education, conservation, and local sustainable ag... please vote in favor of HB702.

Mahalo piha,

Chris Ka’iakapu

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:44:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Drayer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I very much support this!

Thank you,

Erin

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:57:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LILY NGUYEN	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a garden educator at a school that participates in Farm to School and Garden to Cafeteria. It is extremely powerful empower students to connect to their food from seed to plate. They are able to improve their overall health and become more connected to themselves, the environment, and their community. Access to nutritious, fresh food should be a fundamental right for students.

LATE

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 11:36:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Jahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I live in Wahiawā and I believe this will help provide far greater food security in our communities, along with creating important relationships between producers and consumers. This will help schools and communities enhance education and nutrition. By focusing on local relationships that “regionalize the menu,” children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods; i.e. kalo, sweet potatoes, etc. Closer proximity relationships will reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the United States and help reduce the effects of global climate. This will also save the [fake] state money by decreasing costs for school meal programs, and most importantly, it allows kids a more direct connection to their food system, enhancing their community pride and connection to place/identity. Mahalo.

LATE

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 12:20:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is extremely important to the welfare of our keiki and our islands. Providing fresh, local foods on each of our islands is a possibility and we must. Hawai`i is unique. Let's do what's right for our islands.

LATE

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 4:11:39 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dexter Kishida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 702. This bill gives the DOE the tools needed to more effectively and efficiently procure locally grown and raised food. While the DOE has been creative, finding ways to purchase more local, executing geographic preference and the possibility of a high small purchase threshold would assist the DOE to respond to volatile markets such as local product. Thank you.

LATE

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 4:23:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

Please support this important farm to school procurement bill. Requiring that 30% of foods served in public schools be locally sourced by 2030 is an admirable and achievable goal that will have a three-fold benefit to Hawai'i: It will boost the demand for local food, helping local farmers to expand production; it will increase the amount of fresh, healthy food our keiki consume, reducing long term healthcare costs; and it will keep more money circulating in our local economy, strengthening and sustaining our local economy as we diversify away from tourism.

It's high time we got a move on toward food justice and food independence, and the legislature needs to set benchmarks like this one and require state agencies like the DOE to take the lead.

Mahalo!

LATE

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:21:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mira Gurung	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha honorable members of congress, thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony as follows:

As a garden and nutrition teacher at an elementary school on the Big Island, I know that our keiki in school are fed meals sourced from far away, lacking in nutrition. We have an amazing opportunity to connect keiki to local food systems whilst supporting local farmers and investing in our own food security and community! This is definitely the way forward for our keiki and food systems.

Mahalo,

Mira Gurung

LATE

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 1:42:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

Bill HB702 benefits both Hawaii's children and Hawaii farmers. Keikis benefit by having healthier, locally-grown produce for lunch, and farmers get to tap into new markets: nearby schools. Additionally, relationships in the neighborhood grow stronger and some kids may grow up to be farmers.

This is a win-win. Please support this bill.

Thank you.

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii

LATE

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 5:18:57 AM
Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannette Gurung	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill and urge its passing for the following reasons:

- it increases the state's food security status
- saves money from the cost of food transportation
- provides teaching and learning opportunities for students related to nutrition and to gain an appreciation of our local farm resources and aia
- reduces carbon emissions from transport
- provides more direct and sustained and predictable revenue to local farmers.

LATE

HB-702

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:28:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Davene Januszewki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a mother of 2 and as someone who has worked in a preschool and volunteered everyday in my girls school it was one of the number 1 concerns that my kids were not being fed healthy organic food in school. This resulted in my children feeling ill, not being able to concentrate, spending afternoons in the nurse's office due to illness from the food the schools fed them. They were used to healthy, clean food. Not laden with chemicals and toxins like the food fed to most children in schools including Kauai schools. If the purpose of schooling is to teach kids to be healthy, educated individuals the food they fed is of the utmost importance. It's what fuels their bodies and minds it must be of the highest quality and not actually killing them.

Mahalo for your attention,

Davene Januszewski

Kalaheo, HI