

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND
EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 16, 2022

10:00 A.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2304
RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chairperson Hashem, Woodson, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2304. This measure appropriates funds to the Department of Education (DOE) to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii Farm to School Program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure and defers to the DOE.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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

Date: 02/16/2022

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 325 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Agriculture
House Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2304 RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to DOE to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii farm to school program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 2304.

The Department continues to work towards meeting Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021 (Act 175). The implementation of a centralized tracking system will assist the School Food Services Branch with fulfilling the reporting requirements of Act 175. It will also provide the School Food Services Branch the ability to more efficiently and effectively track purchases made by the schools, as that data is currently disaggregated and sits at the school level. The need to train school food service staff on proper use of the centralized data system and for the preparation and procurement of food provisions will be vital to the success of meeting the goals set forth in Act 175. The Department will utilize consultant services for training; this may include, but is not limited to, culinary math and record keeping, various culinary skills with an emphasis on scratch-cooking, and standardized recipe implementation.

The Department appreciates this proposal and the inclusion of funding but asks that any additional funding does not affect the Department's top budget priorities to restore funds that were reduced as a result of the fiscal fallout from COVID-19 and the funding of existing budget shortfalls that were included in the Department's supplemental budget

request. Without those funds, the Department will face severe constraints on its ability to continue to promote equity and access to needed resources and support all students and all schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2304

**February 16, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Room 325 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 2304.

H.B. No. 2304 appropriates an undetermined sum of general funds for FY 23 to the Department of Education to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawai'i Farm to School program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

HB-2304

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 11:29:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Morris Atta	Hawaii Department of Agriculture	Comments	Yes

Comments:

I am available to answer questions on behalf of the Department of Agriculture.

HB-2304

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 8:36:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keith Hayashi	Hawaii Department of Education	Support	Yes

Comments:

Support



**Testimony to the Senate Joint Committee on Agriculture and Education
Wednesday, February 16, 2022; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2304, RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL.

Chair Hashem, Chair Woodson, and Members of the Joint 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. 2304, RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live 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.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the Department of Education to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii Farm to School Program. Specifically, this bill would provide that these funds be used to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals.

Over the past five 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.

Testimony on House Bill No. 2304
Wednesday, February 16, 2022; 10:00 a.m.
Page 2

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated the need for a program like this. Our overreliance 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.

For these reasons, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

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@hawaiipca.net.

HB-2304

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 1:40:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
scott lacasse	Grow Some Good	Support	No

Comments:

Grow Some Good supports this Bill. Mahalo nui!



House Committee on Agriculture / Education

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB2304

Wednesday, February 16th, 2022 10:00am, Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem/Woodson, Vice Chair Perusso/Kapela and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports HB2304, which appropriates funds to the Department of Education (DOE) to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawai'i farm to school program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals.

HB2304 helps with fulfilling the mission to increase school food procurement from local farmers which helps schools and communities improve health education, nutrition and understand the value of sourcing local food.

The more we source local foods for schools and other institutions the more we support our local farmers and help our economy. When sourcing more local food we also reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the United States.

HB2304 will also help ensure our goals to serve more locally sourced and culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for public school students, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others.

Please support HB2304.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned above the printed name.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 — 10:00 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 2304, Relating to the Farm to School Program.

Dear Chair Hashem, Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committees:

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 the 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 2304, which appropriates funds to DOE to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii farm to school program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals.

Ulupono supports the DOE's efforts to move the Hawai'i Farm-to-School Program's local food procurement forward with impactful resource dedication. This bill seeks to address the general roadblocks of internal systems and controls as stated in the DOE's Act 175, SLH 2021, Report to the Legislature. In order to move the needle on local food sourcing, internal systems, such as a centralized food data system, and controls, such as cafeteria training, are vital for the State in its effort to meet farm-to-school goals.

Ulupono believes that it is of extreme importance that the DOE prioritize a centralized data system to better understand how funds are currently spent and improve internal decisions around increasing local food purchases for schools statewide. This system has the ability to support DOE's future strategy to incrementally increase local sourcing for school meals.

It is our understanding that there have been multiple efforts to establish a food data system within the DOE. Yet, per the DOE's recent legislative report, it has not been able to successfully implement a centralized data system to capture important metrics for school meals. As such, we ask this committee to establish a deadline for the DOE to implement the food data system such as 1 year from the passage of this Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Osa Tui, Jr.
President
Logan Okita
Vice President
Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 2304 - RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Hashem, Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 2304**, relating to the farm to school program. This bill appropriates funds to DOE to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii farm to school program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals.

Hawaii farm to school program was created in 2015 to improve the health of 3 Hawaii's children by encouraging consumption of fresh, locally grown foods for nutritional content and to promote healthy behaviors at an early age. We need to support the production and use of local agricultural products in our local schools. To support the Hawaii farm to school program, Act 175, 10 Session Laws of Hawaii 2021 (Act 175), was enacted, which moved the program from the department of agriculture to the department of education and established a programmatic goal that at least thirty per cent of food served in public schools be locally sourced by 2030. Following the enactment of Act 175, the department of education began taking the steps necessary to achieve the Act's programmatic goal. However, in the department of education's recent Annual Report on Farm to School Meals, the department noted that additional resources and funding are needed to carry out the Hawaii farm to school program and accomplish Act 175's programmatic goal. The department's report specifically states that there is no funding available for internal systems and controls which are much needed.

Because a robust education involves developing all aspects of learning for our ever-changing world including the changes in agriculture, and how vital it is to sustainability, and we need to practice what we preach about growing local, buying local, and promoting local sustainability, thus the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



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

February 16, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 2304
RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
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 2304, which appropriates funds to DOE to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii farm to school program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals.

HFB supported moving the Farm to School Program to the DOE. We are strong proponents of the increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, and poultry products in our schools. This will truly be a significant step towards increasing our levels of self-sufficiency. HFB also believes that learning where food comes from is an important part of our children's education. Agriculture education involves more than just learning the basics of food production, it provides the opportunity for our children to understand and appreciate the importance of agriculture.

HFB supports programs and initiatives such as Farm to School because they help to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture. Through Farm to School programs, our children will gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture which will result in healthier eating habits, stronger support for Hawaii's agriculture industry, and will contribute to Hawaii's food security. We still have a long way to go to educate our children about agriculture. Farm to School is another tool that will help in the education process. It is an investment to have well-informed consumers and supporters of Hawaii's agricultural industry in the future. We believe that adequately funding the DOE is critical for the success of Hawaii's Farm to School Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai‘i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Comments for H.B. 2304 – Relating to the Farm to School Program
House Committees on Agriculture and Education
Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 10:00AM via Videoconference

Dear Chair Hashem, Chair Woodson, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **COMMENTS** for **H.B. 2304**, which would appropriate funds to the Hawai‘i Department of Education (HIDOE) to implement systems and controls in order to help implement Hawai‘i’s farm to school program.

The 2021 Hawai‘i legislature passed H.B. 767 S.D. 1, which establishes a farm to school program in HIDOE, and requires 30 percent local food purchases by 2030. In response to this legislation, the HIDOE recently submitted its first annual report on farm to school meals to the legislature,¹ which listed “building internal systems and controls” as a critical unfunded need in order to operationalize the farm to school program.

House Bill 2304 attempts to address this unfunded need by appropriating funds for 1) a centralized food data system; 2) training for cafeteria staff for preparation and procurement; and 3) consultants to effectuate plans of the program in all department schools.

We would like to bring the committees’ attention to some relevant background and context of prior attempts to operationalize systems and controls for HIDOE’s school food services program. In 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Western Regional Office provided HIDOE with on-site technical assistance to help increase efficiencies and reduce costs in their school food service operations. This included providing recommendations to streamline procurement practices and to transition to standardized recipes and cycle-based menu planning. The USDA sent a formal letter to HIDOE summarizing the technical assistance provided and encouraged implementation of some or all recommendations *in lieu of a reimbursement rate adjustment at that time*.

In reference to the first item listed above (“a centralized food data system”) from the bill under consideration, it is relevant to note that—in response to the USDA letter—HIDOE did purchase a school nutrition program software (called eTriton) that would facilitate tracking of local procurement and inventory. However, to the best of our knowledge, it has not been fully implemented, and we understand that a new system is currently being sought. It is unclear why it was felt eTriton did not meet the need. In addition, the other recommendations in the USDA letter were either not implemented or only partially implemented.

Success of the farm to school program depends on many factors, and the purchasing of such software is certainly one of them. If HIDOE would like to purchase a different software for this purpose, it would be prudent for the legislature to ensure that this legislation requires a timeline and plan not just for the purchase of said software, but also for its operationalization, which will include a plan for training and requiring all cafeteria managers and staff to use the program.

¹ https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/Reports/DOE_REPORT2022_FarmtoSchoolMeals.pdf

Thank you for considering these comments in your deliberation of H.B. 2304. Hawai'i Appleseed is in full support of the HDOE farm to school program, and we sincerely hope these comments will ensure any further investments in the program have the intended effect of achieving the state's farm to school goals.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

HB2304

Relating to the Farm to School Program

Wednesday, Feb 16, 2022, 10:00 AM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chairs Hashem and Woodson, Vice Chairs Perruso and Kapela, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five 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.

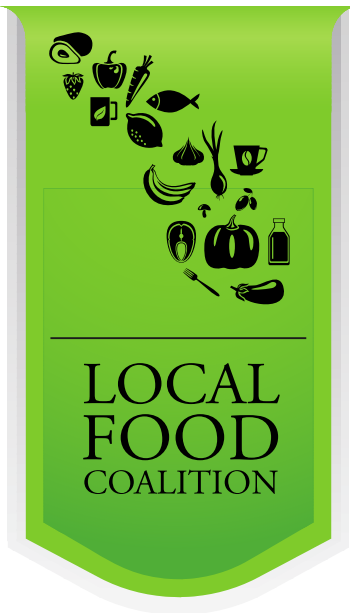
The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB2304** to appropriate funds to DOE to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii farm to school program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals.

This bill will provide additional necessary resources to help the DOE achieve the programmatic goal established under Act 175 (SLH 2021) that at least 30% of food in public schools will be locally sourced by 2030.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





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
and
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
February 16, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. – Via Videoconference

**RE: HB 2304 – Relating to the Farm to School Program –
In Support**

Aloha Chairs Hashem and Woodson, Vice Chairs Perruso and Kapela, and Members of the Committees:

The Local Food Coalition **supports** HB 2304, which appropriates funds to the Department of Education (DOE) to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii farm to school program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals.

Act 175 (SLH 2021) moved the farm to school program from the Department of Agriculture to the DOE to increase efficiency of the Hawaii Farm to School Program to provide students with healthier food choices and support local agriculture. This bill will provide additional resources needed to help the DOE achieve the programmatic goal established under Act 175 (SLH 2021) that at least 30% of food in public schools will be locally sourced by 2030.

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 2304. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Kendall Matsuyoshi
808-544-8345
kmatsuyoshi@wik.com



Date: February 15, 2022

To: Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Education

From: Lydi Bernal, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator

Re: SUPPORT for HB2304, Relating to the Farm to School Program

Hearing: February 16, 2022 at 10:00am Via Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB2304**, which appropriates funds to the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawai'i Farm to School Program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals.

This bill addresses the needs identified in the [HIDOE "Farm to School Meals" Report to the 2022 Legislature](#) on [Act 175 \(SLH 2021\)](#). Allocation of funding for a centralized food data system and cafeteria staff training also aligns with the goals and priorities activities identified via the ['Aina Pono farm to school meals pilot](#) conducted by HIDOE from 2016-2020.

Ultimately the success of the Hawai'i Farm to School Program will depend on the program being **adequately resourced and staffed**, including – at a minimum – hiring of two Farm to School Coordinators within the HIDOE School Food Services Branch, and a School Garden Coordinator within the HIDOE Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design (see [HB2013](#) and [SB2182](#)). The program will also require **proper planning** that is informed by and continually inclusive of community input and participation.

The **Hawai'i Farm to School Hui** is a statewide network comprising five Island Networks and over forty public-private entities with a collective mission to strengthen Hawaii's farm to school movement. The three pillars of successful farm to school programs are: 1) school gardens and on-campus farms, 2) food education, and 3) school food improvements through local procurement. The Hui formed in 2010 and is a program of Hawai'i Public Health Institute.

The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui appreciates the Committees' strong support of farm to school, and respectfully requests that the Committees continue this support by passing HB2304.

Me Ke Aloha,
Lydi Bernal
Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator



Farmer owned, 'āina grown

Testimony In Support of HB 2304 Relating to the Farm to School Program
House Committee on Education & House Committee on Agriculture
February 16, 2022

Testimony of Dana Shapiro
General Manager
Hawai'i Ulu Producers Cooperative

Dear Chairpersons and members of the Committees,

The Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative supports HB 2304 Relating to the Farm to School Program. We formed the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative in 2016 to build a network of small-scale, diversified farms that grow breadfruit and want to improve community access to this amazing, nutritious food. From 2018 to 2020 we were a primary local supplier for the DOE's 'Aina Pono program, providing minimally processed sweet potatoes, bananas, green papayas, and 'ulu – which transitioned to not only a Harvest of the Month menu item but also a regular part of the school lunch cycle in school year 2019-2020. We firmly believe in serving fresh, locally grown foods in our schools and this bill will make the Act 175 goal of 30% local food in schools by 2030 possible by appropriating necessary funds to secure additional resources including a centralized food data system, training for staff on preparation and procurement and consultants to support all department schools.

We are living proof not only that farm to school / farm to institution is possible in Hawai'i, but of its huge potential benefit for both local farmers and children. To this day one of the strongest memories I have is standing in a supermarket giving out samples of 'ulu when a little boy excitedly ran up and told his mother how much he knows about and loves 'ulu because he ate at in school. At the same time the partnership between our co-op and DOE had a meaningful impact on the 100 small-scale, diversified, family farmers of the co-op - located on both Hawaii island and Maui - by enabling us to expand the number of crops we purchase from farmers and to grow our overall volumes from 20,000 pounds in 2017 to 40,000 pounds in 2018 and nearly 200,000 pounds by 2020. About half of our volume was going to local schools at the pinnacle of this relationship.

This month, we surpassed over 800,000 lbs of produce purchased from local farmers since our inception. We hope to continue to supply this nutritious food to the Department of



Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

79-1017 E Honalo Rd, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740 | 808-238-8869 | eatbreadfruit.com | info@eatbreadfruit.com

Education, with the department equipped with funds and resources to implement fresh, locally grown foods in school cafeterias and on students' plates.

Sincerely,



General Manager



HB-2304

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 1:32:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jimmy Gomes	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 2304 per HCC testimony

HB-2304

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 4:29:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Weston Yap	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Chair Au Belatti, and members of the House Agriculture and Education committees,

This is testimony in support of HB 2304, related to the Farm to School Program. It is a practical move to transfer this program from HDOA to HDOE, to more efficiently feed students with produce grown by local farmers.

May I offer that I think this bill will have better success making it through the House FIN and Senate WAM committees if the authors of the bill could better define budget line items for these "internal systems and controls" that the bill aims to implement? Some limits on the scope of work and expenses related to the following, could help assess costs:

- (1) A centralized food data system;
- (2) Training for cafeteria staff for preparation and procurement; and
- (3) Consultants to effectuate plans of the program in all department schools.

Would you add in point (4) - Develop a protocol to identify local growers capable of supplying DOE, and develop clear guidelines on how that grower can scale-up their harvest, pack, hold and distribution capabilities to meet DOE's purchasing standards?

In regard to point (3) Consultants, I hope you are thinking of local experts like Letitia Uyehara, formerly of Armstrong Produce, Lydi Morgan Bernal of Hawaii Farm to School & School Garden Hui, Dexter Kishida of Honolulu County's Food Security & Sustainability Program, Claire Sullivan of Farm Link Hawaii, or Natalie McKinney of Kokua Hawaii Foundation. Many mainland consultants have come and gone, leaving reports that fail to address local complexities.

I also hope that you are able to give attention to neighbor island school needs in equal measure to Oahu school needs.

Thank you for your time.

Weston Yap

HB-2304

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 6:58:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Press	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a teacher at Ilima Intermediate in Ewa Beach on Oahu. I support this bill.

Michael Press

Committees on Education and Agriculture
The Hawaii State House of Representatives
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HB 2304 Testimony

February 11, 2022

Dear Chairs Woodson and Hashem, Vice Chairs Kapela and Perruso, and esteemed members of the House Committees on Education and Agriculture,

I SUPPORT WITH BILL [HB2304](#), which seeks to appropriate funds for training and resources to further the Department of Education's (DOE) school food programs to serve students fresh, locally grown foods.

My name is Erika Molyneux, and I am a resident of Kaneohe and a mother of an elementary student at Kapunahala Elementary School. As someone interested in my own children's health and education as well as the state's fiscal responsibility in stewarding taxpayer money, I see only benefits in investing in our local agriculture and bringing our students fresh meals created from local produce, meats, fish, and dairy. Furthermore, I am impressed by the findings listed in the related bill [HB1864 HD1](#) that this plan is likely to both improve nutrition and save money for the state in the long run.

For all these reasons, I strongly support PASSING BILL [HB2304](#) and to benefit our state's local workers, trek toward self-sustainability and better nutrition, and financial responsibility. Mahalo nui!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erika Molyneux', written in a cursive style.

Erika Molyneux

HB-2304

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 2:50:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha nui kākou,

Farms to schools is an absolute yes for me. Please make this decision and related ones to support these types of critical learning skills for our keiki, schools and communities.

Mahalo nui,

Kimeona Kane

HB-2304

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 6:21:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rainbow Ulii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. #fixourfoodsystem

HB-2304

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 8:07:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2304 that would appropriate funds to DOE to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii farm to school program. This measure will meet the State's local food goals in school meals which is a win:win:win for the economy, our keiki, and our climate.

Please pass this important legislation. Mahalo.

HB-2304

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 12:19:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear AGR/EDN Committee members,

Bill HB2304 is a win-win-win because it will

- 1) improve the health of Hawaii's keiki by serving more local fruits and vegetables in schools
- 2) teach school children about crops and farming by bringing them into contact with farmers
- 3) encourage greater food production in Hawaii and support local food producers

We can all appreciate the need for these improvements. Please support, pass and fund this bill without delay. Its benefits will outweigh its costs.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

HB-2304

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 8:47:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Reagan Cline	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The state set ambitious and meaningful goals encouraging schools to serve more local (and generally healthier!) foods. However the lack of infrastructure and leadership present today seem to be making it really hard to meet these goals. Last I saw, there is not even a way to measure how much local food is served in schools today and measuring is the first step to improving. Please take the extra step to ensure that Hawaii is staffed for success to reach local food goals in our schools.