JOSH GREEN, M.D. GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI SUPERINTENDENT

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

> Date: 03/02/2023 Time: 02:30 PM Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Committee: House Finance

| Department: | Education |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Person Testifying: | Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education |
| Title of Bill: | HB 0247, HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE. |
| Purpose of Bill: | Increases the percentages of local agricultural products that certain departments are required to purchase by certain deadlines. Expands annual reporting requirements to include the total spending by certain market channels. Requires the University of Hawaii system to include a corrective action plan in its respective report to the legislature, should it not meet its benchmark. Repeals the separate benchmark for the department of education that requires thirty per cent of food served in public schools to consist of locally sourced products by 2030. Appropriates funds for the establishment of a farm-to-state liaison within the office of the governor. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1) |

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully opposes this measure. The Department supports the overall concept of HB 247, HD1, but finds that the percentage increases in local agricultural products in the given timeline are unattainable.

We support a reasonable, gradual increase in the rate of local products purchased by the Department that takes into account economic feasibility. If we are unable to procure an item at an acceptable price point it would increase the difficulty of meeting the required percentages.

In addition, the Department finds that the current local supply is unable to meet the needs of the school meal program. The Department will continue to work with food suppliers, which includes local farmers, to build capacity and guarantees of delivery.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SYLVIA LUKE Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA Deputy to the Chairperson

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

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023 ROOM 308 2:30 P.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 247, HOUSE DRAFT 1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 247, HD1 that increases the percentages of local agricultural products that certain state departments and the University of Hawaii system are required to purchase by certain deadlines and specifies other requirements.

The Department offers a comment that we are supportive of the State's goal of increasing local food self-sufficiency, however we defer to the State departments and the University of Hawaii system whose food purchases will be affected by this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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

March 2, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 247, HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference 2:30 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 247, HD1, which increases the percentages of local agricultural products that certain departments are required to purchase by certain deadlines, expands annual reporting requirements to include the total spending by certain market channels, requires each relevant state departments and the University of Hawai'i system to include a corrective action plan in its respective report to the legislature, should it not meet its benchmark, and repeals the separate benchmark for the department of education that requires thirty per cent of food served in public schools to consist of locally sourced products by 2030.

HFB strongly supports the increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, and poultry products in our state institutions and appreciates the Legislature's support of Farm to State and Farm to School Acts 175 and 176 (SLH 2021).

HB 247, HD1 provides additional guidance and updates the reporting obligations for state departments, including the department of education, pursuant to Acts 175 and 176 (SLH 2021), which established programmatic goals for the purchase and procurement of locally sourced products.

We believe that policies, investments, and resources that support agriculture are necessary to ensure that Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers can supply the produce and food products to meet the goals established in Act 176 SLH and this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE Thursday, March 2, 2023 — 2:30 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative <u>supports</u> HB 247 HD1, Relating to Agriculture.

Dear Chair Yamashita 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 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 choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono <u>supports</u> HB 247 HD1, which increases the percentages of local agricultural products that certain departments are required to purchase by certain deadlines; expands annual reporting requirements to include the total spending by certain market channels; requires each relevant state department and the University of Hawai'i system to include a corrective action plan in its respective report to the legislature, should it not meet its benchmark; repeals the separate benchmark for the Department of Education that requires thirty per cent of food served in public schools to consist of locally sourced products by 2030; and, appropriates funds for the establishment of a farm to state liaison within the Office of the Governor.

Ulupono supports the efforts to increase locally produced food into state institutional meal programs. This bill seeks to clarify benchmarks and expand Act 176, SLH 2021, reporting requirements, while also creating dedicated coordination resources in the Office of the Governor.

The Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE) constitutes the majority of meals served across all state departments and agencies, producing approximately 120,000 meals per day with a \$50-\$60 million annual food budget and an estimated \$100 million total annual School Food Services Program budget.¹ This requires close attention, and we hope that the DOE will begin more robust reporting on the efforts to meet its local food purchasing goals. The DOE's most recent Farm to School report to the Legislature, submitted in December 2022, provided general terms and basic statistics. Equally important, there is no action plan or strategy outlining how the department will improve to meet its 30% by 2030 goal.

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

¹ "State of Hawaii Department of Education Financial Report, July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018." School Food Services Program, Pg. 16.



The 2.5-page report would not be sufficient for a \$100 million private restaurant company, and certainly should not be considered sufficient for the DOE school meal system.

We understand that the task to implement local products into our keiki's meals is complex, so we commend those within the DOE who are enthusiastic and willing to champion the State's worthy farm to school goals. However, the DOE stated in back-to-back annual reports to the Legislature that the department could not do the necessary reporting accurately due to the lack of information technology (IT) system functionality. Furthermore, for more than 3 years now, the Farm to School Coordinator position within the DOE has remained vacant. The DOE and the State must find ways to support the School Food Services Branch in meeting its farm to school goals, including the development of a local food procurement strategic plan, the development of efficient and effective data gathering IT systems to support that plan, and the hiring of Farm to School positions to provide necessary labor resources. Ulupono and many others remain very open and willing to support the DOE in meeting these needs.

We ask that the Legislature consider adding in a requirement for the DOE to develop a strategic business plan to meet its local food goals established in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata Director of Government Affairs

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 4:40:02 AM Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ted Bohlen | Climate Protectors Hawaii | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Climate Protectors Hawaii STRONGLY SUPPORTS this bill!

Serving more local food at schools and other State facilities would make our students and others healthier, support local farmers, improve food security, and help mitigate the climate crisis by producing less greenhouse gases.

Please pass this bill! Mahalo!

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 9:46:39 AM Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Leanne Kami | Kohana Family Farms | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing this letter as a farmer and member of the Farm-to-School Hui Mission Circle, Hawai'i Farmers Union United, and the Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation.

I strongly support HB247, which aligns Farm-to-School Act 175 and Farm-to-State Act 176 procurement goals.

Farm-to-School programs support local farmers and this bill supports local food production, suppliers, and sustainable food systems in Hawai'i. These requirements of goal setting, benchmarks, and reporting will strengthen efforts to reach the Act 175 goals.

Officers Kaipo Kekona State President

Anabella Bruch Vice-President

Maureen Datta Secretary

Reba Lopez Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Madeline Ross Kohala, Hawai'i

Odysseus Yacalis East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer Ka'ū, Hawai'i

Chantal Chung Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns Hana, Maui

> Reba Lopez Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros Mauna Kahalawai, Maui

> Kaipo Kekona Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai Molokai

Negus Manna Lāna'i

Brynn Foster North Shore, Oʻahu

Christian Zuckerman Wai'anae, Oʻahu

Ted Radovich Waimanalo, Oʻahu

Vincent Kimura Honolulu, Oʻahu

> Ray Maki Kauai



Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB247.**

The bill aims to increase the percentage of local agricultural products that certain state departments and the University of Hawaii system purchase by certain deadlines. This act will also repeal the separate benchmark for the Department of Education, requiring 30% of food served in public schools to consist of locally sourced products by 2030. HFUU agrees that setting clear and ambitious target goals for the purchase of locally grown food ensures that the state plays its role in supporting local farmers, keeps revenue from local produce in Hawaii, and feeds local people.

By clarifying annual reporting requirements to include total spending by certain market channels and requiring corrective action plans if benchmarks are not met, this legislation will ensure that the manifold benefits to Hawaii's economy, environment, culture, and public health are realized.

HFUU believes that the goals to provide locally-sourced food should be consistent across all relevant state departments to avoid any confusion between departments. Furthermore, the establishment of a farm-to-state liaison within the office of the governor will provide critical support to state departments in meeting purchasing goals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

Kend S. K. Kehme



House Committee on Finance

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB247 HD1

Thursday, March 2nd, 2023 2:30 p.m. Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports HB247 HD1, which increases the percentages of local agricultural products that certain departments are required to purchase by certain deadlines.

This bill aligns Farm to School (Act 175) and Farm to State (Act 176) procurement goals. Sets consistent benchmarks for meeting farm to state procurement goals that are consistent across the various departments. Requires annual reporting to the legislature on progress or a plan for corrective action if benchmarks are not met.

Supporting locally sourced food benefits the local economy, helps us become less dependent on tourism and more resilient and secure as an island chain. Growing, processing, and distributing food locally creates and sustains community-based jobs. Direct marketing channels between farmers and consumers boosts local farmers' incomes.

By focusing on local relationships that "regionalize the menu," children attending DoE schools and others being fed by state agencies 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.

Local food has a shorter time between harvest and your table, and it is less likely that the nutrient value has decreased. Food imported from far-away states and countries is often older, has traveled and sits in distribution centers before it gets to your store. This is exacerbated in places like Hawai'i, where our food is treated and shipped such long distances.

Closer proximity relationships with our food will in turn also reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the continental United States.



Most importantly, HB247 HD1 allows keiki a more direct connection to their food system, enhancing their community pride and connection to place and identity.

Please support HB247 HD1 and prioritize quality local food in schools and other government institutions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Anne Frederick Executive Director

HB-247-HD-1 Submitted on: 3/1/2023 11:33:45 AM Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nicole Galase | Hawaii Cattlemen's Council | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports this measure



HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH Chair University of Hawai'i at Hilo

JoAnn Tsark, MPH Secretary John A. Burns School of Medicine, Native Hawaiian Research Office

Debbie Erskine Treasurer ARCH-MEPS Consulting LLC, Owner

Keshia Adolpho, LCSW Na'au Healing Center

Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

Carissa Holley, MEd Hale Makua Health Services

Dina Shek, JD Medical-Legal Partnership For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai HMSA

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP Kaiser Permanente

May Okihiro, MD, MS John A. Burns School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaiʻi

Community Health Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free Coalitions

Hawaiʻi Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

To: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Date: March 1, 2023

- Re: Strong Support for HB 247 HD1 Relating to Agriculture
- Hrg: Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 2:30 PM, Conf Rm 308

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) works to advance policy and systems change to reduce disparities and improve the health of Hawai'i residents. HIPHI is home to and testifies here on behalf of the Obesity Prevention Task Forceⁱ and The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui,ⁱⁱ which collectively represent over 60 organizations from across the islands.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) appreciates the opportunity to provide Strong Support for HB 247 HD1, which increases the percentage of local agricultural products that certain departments need to purchase by a specific date. It also expands annual reporting requirements to include the total spending by certain designees. It requires reports to the legislature to ensure the benchmarks are met, and creates a Farm-to-State Liaison within the Governor's office to coordinate efforts between the five departments affected by the bill. Finally, it streamlines meeting the Department of Education benchmark of 30% locally sourced products served by 2030.

This bill aligns Farm to School (Act 175) and Farm to State (Act 176) procurement goals and expands annual reporting requirements. The requirements of goal setting, benchmarks, and reporting will strengthen efforts to reach the Act 175 goals.

The bill supports an increase in local procurement by creating a continuum of incremental goals through 2050. Every year the locally sourced food goals increase by 5%, culminating in a 50% locally sourced goal by 2050. Increased procurement of locally grown and raised foods for consumption by Hawai'i's students positively impact the health of our keiki and help to develop Hawai'i sustainable food systems.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 247 HD1.

Mahalo,

Dennis Chase Hawaiʻi Farm to School Hui Program Manager Hawaiʻi Public Health Institute

ⁱⁱ Founded in 2010, the **Hawai'i Farm to School Hui** is a statewide network comprising five island-level networks, community organizations, schools, state agencies, and other food systems stakeholders 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) education, and 3) school food improvements through local procurement.

ⁱ Created by the legislature in 2012, the **Obesity Prevention Task Force** is composed of over 40 statewide organizations, and it works to make recommendations to reshape Hawaii's school, work, community, and healthcare environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents.



March 1, 2023

HAWAI'I STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: SUPPORT of HB247 HD1

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee,

State procurement of locally grown food will create important new markets to support our local farmers. HB247 creates necessary metrics, benchmarks and reporting mechanisms to ensure state agencies are meeting targets for ramping up procurement of local food.

Increasing local food procurement in our state agencies is a win for local farmers and food producers while also providing nutritional meals students in Hawaii's public schools and to others served foods in Hawaii's state institutions.

We ask you to please support HB247 as italigns Farm to School (Act 175) and Farm to State (Act 176) procurement goals.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Anna Camacho, co-founder





Testimony of the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice H.B. 247 – Relating to Agriculture House Committee on Finance Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 2:30PM

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **H.B. 247**, which would align the "farm to state" benchmarks passed into law in 2021 with the farm to school goal of 30 percent local by 2030 ("30 by 30"), expand the "30 by 30" goal to match the benchmarks of the other state departments, expand reporting requirements, and establish a "farm to state liaison" position within the office of the governor.

Hawai'i Appleseed is one of several organizations that has been working with SFSB for over a decade on a wide variety of initiatives to help more children access nutritious food at school. We understand that the 30 by 30 farm to school goal will not only help local farmers, but will also improve the quality of school meals and drive higher school meal participation rates. Adequate nutrition is essential for children's health, learning, and long-term development. Unfortunately, for too many families in Hawai'i, school breakfast and lunch are the only balanced, nutritious meals they get in a day.

We have included a graphic that shows how this bill aligns the farm to state benchmarks with the 30 by 30 goal. We think this alignment will be a productive way to streamline the efforts across multiple agencies.

While we agree that the centralized kitchen model currently proposed by HIDOE could be a constructive component of a farm to school plan, we want to emphasize that farm to school (even more than other institutional food purchasing initiatives) requires much more planning and coordination than just centralizing purchasing and production. Getting the ingredients from farm to central kitchen is just the first step. Getting the ingredients from the central kitchen to schools, then into recipes, onto students' plates, and finally into bellies will require much more planning and coordination within HIDOE. We are therefore highly supportive of the bill's inclusion of a farm to state liaison position in the office of the governor. This position will provide critical support for aligning the metrics of the various state departments, standing up systems for data collection, and providing support to ensure benchmarks are met. We also appreciate the inclusion of a "corrective action plan" clause.

Thank you for considering these comments in your deliberation of H.B. 247. We understand that this is not a silver bullet solution, but we do think that–combined with some other reforms the legislature is considering this session–it will go a long way toward improving the way we deliver school meals to Hawai'i's public school children. Our child nutrition programs are one of the best safety nets available to ensure Hawai'i children have access to the nutrition they need in order to learn and grow. We sincerely believe that this legislation will help us achieve this outcome.



The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building. LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.



HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 308 THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023 AT 2:30 P.M.

To The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair Members of the Committee on Finance

SUPPORT HB247 HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **supports HB247 HD1** which increases the percentages of local agricultural products that certain departments are required to purchase by certain deadlines; expands annual reporting requirements to include the total spending by certain market channels; requires the University of Hawai'i system to include a corrective action plan in its respective report to the legislature, should it not meet its benchmark; repeals the separate benchmark for the department of education that requires thirty per cent of food served in public schools to consist of locally sourced products by 2030; and appropriates funds for the establishment of a farm-to-state liaison within the office of the governor.

The Chamber wholeheartedly supports the intent of this bill and believe this is an effort toward a more sustainable Hawaii. We encourage Hawaii residents to buy local first and need our major institutions to do the same. We understand that much of our local produce and products come at a higher price point because of the higher price of doing business in Hawaii and recognize the challenge of cost brought up by the Department of Education. These agencies are on an operating budget and we must look at this wholistically, so the budget afforded to these agencies should correlate with the higher expenditures. An added benefit is that local agricultural jobs are more likely to be preserved.

For these reasons, we support HB247 HD1.

Sincerely,

Pamela Jumpap

Pamela Tumpap President

<u>HB-247-HD-1</u>

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 10:56:08 PM Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sherry Pollack | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support this bill that will help to facilitate the increase of locally grown and locally raised food products from Hawaii farmers, ranchers, and food producers and allow state agencies to regionalize their menus.

Mahalo!

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 10:50:53 AM Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nanea Lo | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom a Kanaka Maoli.

I'm writing in SUPPORT of HB247 HD1.

State procurement of locally grown food will create important new markets to support our local farmers. HB 247 creates necessary metrics, benchmarks and reporting mechanisms to ensure state agencies are meeting targets for ramping up procurement of local food. Increasing local food procurement in our state agencies is a win for local farmers and food producers while also providing nutritional meals students in Hawaii's public schools and to others served foods in Hawaii's state institutions.

Please support HB247.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mōʻiliʻili

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 12:28:58 PM Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| brandi corpuz | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha my name is Brandi Corpuz and I support HB 247 to support the state procurement of local food. This will be a great thing for our local farmers and our people. We need help with food security in Hawaii and farmers need help to grow the amount of food that we need.

Please support HB 247 and secure of food supply.

Sincerely, Brandi Corpuz

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 1:44:04 PM Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ezgi Green | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha kākou!

State procurement of locally grown food will create critical new markets to support local farmers. HB 247 creates necessary metrics, benchmarks, and reporting mechanisms to ensure state agencies meet targets for ramping up local food procurement. Increasing local food procurement in our state agencies is a win for local farmers and producers while providing nutritional meals to students in Hawaii's public schools and to others served foods in Hawaii's state institutions.

Please support HB247.

I appreciate your consideration,

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Ezgi Green, Waialua

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 2:30:36 PM Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Yvonne Yoro | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee,

My name is Yvonne Yoro, resident of Wahiawā, Oʻahu. I am testifying IN SUPPORT of House Bill 247 HD1.

For our students and farmers, please consider passing this bill. Students across the state will benefit in witnessing the growth of our support for local agriculture. They deserve to know where their food is coming from, they deserve to know the farmers and stewards who took great care to get their food to their plates, they deserve to know and become more familiar with the foods that are grown locally, raised locally, and less processed. As noted in a study on local foods to communities, benefits include:

- Reduced safety risks,
- Conserving open space of farmland that aligns with the preferences of the community,
- Positively impacting food security, and
- Increased revenue and jobs for local economies.

In passing this bill and appropriating funds to create and hire a farm-to-school liaison we will expedite the process of developing a more local diet and identify gaps in nutrition needs.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify IN SUPPORT of House Bill 247 HD1.

Aloha, Yvonne Yoro

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 11:41:28 PM Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| james pirtle | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This bill is very mis leading and we as a state have the ability to provide more than all the needs for locally sourced foods. the more you promote farming the more plemntiful the products. The more your free up land and regulations the cheaper and more bountiful the produce will get. i oppose this bills because its design for profiteering not the benefit of the people.