

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

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 AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023
ROOM 312
2:20 P.M.**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 247
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 247 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 comments 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.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/13/2023

Time: 02:20 PM

Location: 312 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Agriculture & Food
Systems

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0247 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 each relevant state departments and 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.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully opposes this measure. The Department supports the overall concept of HB 247 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 the local farmer, to build capacity and guarantees of delivery.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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February 13, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HB 247
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 312 & Videoconference
2:20 PM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, 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, 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 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.

HB-247

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 5:11:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colehour Bondera	Kanalani Ohana Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for your support!



House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

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

Monday, February 13, 2023 2:20 p.m. Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports HB247, 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 percent of food served in public schools to consist of locally sourced products by 2030.

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 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 United States.



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

Please support HB247 and prioritize quality local food in schools.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



HIPHI Board

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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 Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: February 12, 2023

To: Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Support for HB 247 Relating to Agriculture

Hrg: Monday, February 13, 2023, at 2:20 PM, Conf Rm 312

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, 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 reporting to the legislature to ensure the benchmarks are met. Finally it streamlines meeting the Department of Education benchmark of meeting 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 the 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 will positively impact the health of our keiki and the development of Hawai'i sustainable food systems.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB247.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis Chase'.

Dennis Chase
Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Program Manager
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

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.

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.

HB-247

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 8:27:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the AGR Committee,

Giving ourselves a benchmark of 30% locally sourced foods for DOE school food service by 2030 gives the State a clear pathway to moving forward.

Mahalo to all the sponsors of this Bill and the Committees willing to bring it forward and support it. **The time has come to implement the Farm to School Program for all our keiki.**

Aloha, Nancy Redfeather

HB-247

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:43:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Cedric Gates

House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

House Bill No. 247 -- Relating to Agriculture

Hearing date: Monday, February 13, 2023

Hearing time: 2:20 P.M.

Hearing location: Conference Room 312 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

IN STRONG SUPPORT

Dear Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and members of the committee,

Aloha kākou, my name is Leanne Kami. I was born and raised in Pāhoā on Hawai‘i island and now work in Hilo as a strategy consultant for Kamehameha Schools, focused on sustainable food system development in Hawai‘i. I also own and manage Kohana Family Farms, a small organic farm in Pana‘ewa. 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 by incrementally increasing the percentages of local agricultural products that specific departments must purchase from 30% by 2030 to 50% by 2050. HB247 also expands annual reporting requirements to include the total spending by specific market channels. Should it not meet its benchmark, it also requires each relevant state department and the University of Hawai‘i system to include a corrective action plan in a report to the legislature.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Mahalo,

Leanne Kami

Kohana Family Farms

Leanneokamoto@hotmail.com

126 Awa Street, Hilo HI 96720



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
Monday, February 13, 2023 — 2:20 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 247, Relating to Taxation, and offers comments.

Dear Chair Gates 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 supports HB 247 and offers comments. This 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 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; 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.

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.

The Hawai'i Department of Education's (DOE) \$100 million annual food budget 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 Act 175 report to the Legislature, submitted in December 2022, provided general terms and basic statistics, but lacked a strategy or plan outlining how the department will meet its 30% by 2030 goal. The 2.5-page report would not be sufficient for a \$100 million private restaurant company, and should certainly not be sufficient for the DOE school meal system.

We understand that the task to implement local products into our keiki's meals is complex, and 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

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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 also stands ready to support and collaborate with the DOE in meeting its farm to school goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs



Food+ Policy Internship 2023

food@purplemaia.org

February 8, 2023

To: Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and the House Committee and Agriculture and Food Systems

Subject: **HB247, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Aloha mai kākou,

Food+ Policy **SUPPORTS** of **HB247**, which aligns farm to school goals with procurement goals for other state departments.

This bill sets further goals to incrementally make gains in farm to state procurement, with a final goal of 50% locally sourced by 2050.

The passage of this bill would be an act of needed leadership to put state dollars where they are needed: supporting local farmers, the local food system, and putting healthy food on the plates of our kids..

Mahalo for your consideration,
Kelsey Amos & the Food+Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

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

In 2023, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



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Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki
Kauai

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Agriculture & Food Systems 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.**

This bill ensures that state departments and the University of Hawaii system are held accountable for meeting the highest standards in purchasing local agricultural products. It also recognizes the fiscal restraints that state and university purchasing departments face by setting achievable goals for meeting those standards. By requiring a corrective action plan for the state and university departments that do not meet the benchmarks, it will help ensure that any shortcomings are quickly rectified.

Furthermore, HB247 Agriculture would help promote a sustainable system of food production and consumption, with the increased focus on locally produced products. A sustainable local food system means that the Hawai'i economy benefits from the increased economic activity generated by the purchase of locally grown agricultural products, which translates into additional jobs and tax revenue. In addition, a strong, local supply chain keeps prices competitive, making fresh produce accessible and affordable for consumers. The Hawai'i Farmers Union United strongly supports this legislation, and we believe that if it is enacted, it will have a significant and beneficial impact on the state's agricultural industry.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipō Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

HB-247

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 6:53:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

HB-247

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 11:32:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose.

HB-247

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 12:32:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is Keoni DeFranco and I am submitting testimony in favor of HB 247

Supporting local agriculture and strengthening local food systems is a matter of statewide importance that can improve the resilience of Hawaii's economy, environment, culture, and public health.

Setting clear and ambitious target goals for the purchase of locally grown food ensures that the State plays its role in supporting local farmers and guarantees that revenue derived from local produce remains in the State and feeds local people.

Thank you

HB-247

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 12:57:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Fox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is truly one of the most important, impactful, and effective bills for improving farm to school's ability to operate efficiently and effectively. It's rare that we have an opportunity to pass a piece of legislation that has such broad and deep support across the education, agricultural and food systems sector. Our team has been working on farm to school on Kaua'i since 2010, thus bringing over a decade of hands-on experience in this sector to our thought process and opinion on this matter. We ask you humbly to please take advantage of this incredible opportunity to move this program forward for our communities and for our farmers.

HB-247

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 1:09:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 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!

HB-247

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 2:33:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
penny levin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

in support

HB-247

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:49:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello,

Local food procurement by state agencies provides economic benefits to local food systems by providing a long-term revenue stream for farmers and other food producers, promoting market diversification, and increasing income and economic growth opportunities for individual farmers.

This bill will help to facilitate the increase of locally grown and locally raised food products from Hawai'i farmers, ranchers, and food producers and allow state agencies to regionalize their menus.

Please support HB247.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili