

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024
2:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 309**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2774
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2774. This bill resolves some of the discrepancies between the locally sourced food benchmarks for the department of education and those of other state entities.

The Department of Agriculture (HDOA) supports the intent of this bill, however, defers to the designated departments, and offers comments. HDOA stands ready to support the departments and agencies in achieving the goals set forth in this bill which directly support our farmers and ranchers to achieve generational economic profitability. Accessing stable anchor markets like government meal programs will create a market base for the sector to grow. HDOA commits to assisting departments in assessing its purchasing, connection to local producers, and assisting producers in meeting the market demand.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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

Date: 01/30/2024
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2774 RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Purpose of Bill: Resolves some of the discrepancies between the locally sourced food benchmarks for the department of education and those of other state entities.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2774.

This bill will help the School Food Services Branch streamline and standardize reporting obligations, which provides the legislature and the public the status of the Department's progress in meeting the local farm to school meal cost goals.

The Department appreciates this bill's intent to separate its local food purchase goals from other state departments, by clarifying that its specific percentage goal targets shall be:

- 30% by year 2030
- 34% by year 2040
- 42% by year 2045
- 50% by year 2050

The most efficient and consistent pathway to purchase more local food is a multi-pronged strategy utilizing distributor-to-farmer partnerships, augmented by increasing direct procurement from farms and food hubs. The Department's menu planners communicate closely with our network of qualified distributors, who currently interface with local farmers about what crop ingredients our school meals will need, six

to twelve months in advance. The recent hiring of a Farm to School Coordinator will support these efforts to increase engagement with local farmers, ranchers, processors, and distributors.

Additionally, the Department is assessing opportunities for more direct local procurement from farms, processors, and food hubs. The Department launched a Request for Information (RFI) campaign in October 2023 to solicit produce and product information from interested farmers and potential vendors, to inform the Department about available resources. After the campaign closed on December 4, 2023, the Department is using the RFI information to develop a Request for Proposal to increase direct purchasing from geographically preferred vendors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Tuesday, January 30, 2024 — 2:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of HB 2774, Relating to Local Agricultural Products.

Dear Chair Woodson 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, clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports the intent of HB 2774 and offers an amendment. This bill resolves some of the discrepancies between the locally sourced food benchmarks for the department of education and those of other state entities.

Ulupono supports the State's farm-to-institution efforts, which commits to local food procurement goals through 2050 (including the DOE's own statutorily required goal of 30% local by 2030). In addition to providing more fresh, nutritious locally sourced meals to our keiki and community, this will serve our local farmers and ranchers by providing market access so they can grow their food operations as state departments makes progress each year toward that goal.

In order to maintain the legislative intent of both Act 175, SLH 2021, and Act 176, SLH 2021, we recommend removing the phrase "provided that the department of education shall be exempt from the requirements of this paragraph" on page 3, lines 13-14, of the bill in order to maintain the current interim goal for the DOE to meet 10% locally sourced meals by 2025. By holding each participating state department, including the DOE, accountable to interim goals, we believe that the state can be transparent and evaluate how best to support the success of each program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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e-mail info@hbf.org; www.hbf.org

January 30, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 2774
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair La Chica, 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 2774, which resolves some of the discrepancies between the locally sourced food benchmarks for the Department of Education and those of other state entities.

HFB strongly supports the increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, poultry, and value-added products in our schools and state facilities. We support the State's Farm-to-School goal of 30% by 2030, in accordance with Act 175, SLH 2021 as well as the Farm-to-State goals established in Act 176, SLH 2021.

Increased purchasing by DOE and other state departments will help address food security and food sustainability by creating demand for local farm products which will result in farmers and ranchers growing more. It will also help provide more of Hawai'i's fresh and nutritious foods to our students and residents.

HFB is committed to working with the Department of Education and the other state entities to implement a procurement program that will allow Hawai'i farmers and ranchers to source more local products for Hawai'i's Farm to School and Farm to State programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



HIPHI Board

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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: Tuesday, January 30, 2024

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
Members of the Education Committee

Re: Strong Support for HB2774 Relating to Local Agriculture Products

Mtg: Tuesday, January 30, 2024

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 Hawai'i Farm to School Hui,ⁱ which collectively represent over 60 organizations from across the islands.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) appreciates the opportunity to provide Support for HB2774, which streamlines the benchmarks for various state departments in meeting a 30% locally sourced products goal by 2030.

This bill clarifies the differences between Farm to School (Act 175) and Farm to State (Act 176, Act 144) procurement goals. The requirements of goal setting, benchmarks, and reporting will strengthen the efforts to reach the Local Food procurement goals.

The bill supports an increase in local procurement via a continuum of incremental goals through 2050. Every year the locally sourced food goals increase by 5% for the Department of Education, 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 HB2774.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis Chase', written over a light blue horizontal line.

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

ⁱ 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.

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

LATE

Tuesday, January 30, 2024
2:00PM, House conference room 309
Hawaii State Capitol

LATE

Support for H.B. No.2774

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Jenny Kuwahara and I am a teacher at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of the intent** of H.B.No. 2774.

I am a product of the Hawai'i public school system and have eaten the same processed meals 30 years ago that are currently being served to students. The Standard American Diet menu that students are presented with at school has impacts seen in the healthcare system as well as in our environment. When we study the impacts of the industrial agriculture system on the environment, students ask me "why isn't the government doing anything about this." This bill, which lays out the incremental increases of local food procurement requirements is a step in the right direction.

This bill needs stronger reporting requirements and enforcement in order to be effective. As we know, the current percent of local food procurement falls far below the goal of 30% by 2030 from Act 175.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2774 because the health of our students, economy, and environment depend on a more sustainable food system and state institutions should be held accountable for their role in our food system. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Jenny Kuwahara
Mililani High School

HB-2774

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:40:04 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/30/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keilana Tanigawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

LATE

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

LATE

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

2:00PM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2774

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

Our names are Erika Miyamoto, Keilana Tanigawa, Zoe Hirata, and Kira Murphy and we are Juniors and Seniors at Mililani High School. We are testifying in support of H.B.No. 2774. We believe that our school system should have more locally grown food. As students, we have to eat the food the school provides everyday. Processed foods are not the best for our health, nor our environment, and economy. We think that introducing more local food to the school system would be very beneficial. It is just the first step in reaching the percentage goals promised by 2030 for locally sourced food in Hawai'i Departments. We would really hope to see more specific plans on how the local food will be implemented into our school systems and where we might receive the food from. I like how the bill speaks about having a "consistent, predictable pace." We really hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2774 because we want to learn how to use the resources our island provides us so that we can use it to change the course of food for future families and children. We want

future students to be able to enjoy what they eat. We want to strengthen the health of Hawaii's land and our relationship with it. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Elika Miyamoto, Keilana Tanigawa, Zoe Hirata, and Kira Murphy

Mililani High School

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

LATE

Tuesday, January 30, 2024
2:00PM, House conference room 309
Hawaii State Capitol

LATE

Support for H.B. No.2774, S.D. 96789.

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,
My name is Bella Nakagawa and I am a Sophomore at Mililani High School. I am
testifying in support of H.B.No. 2774,

I support this bill as I am a student that will be affected by this. I care for my health and the health of my peers, and thus this bill is of utmost importance. Furthermore, not only am I a student, but a participating part of this community. I care about this island that I have grown up on, and will continue to live on, and I care about the future of local businesses, local farmers, and the people. I hope that this bill will help to alleviate the dependence of Hawai'i on importing goods, and lead us to a path of sustainability.

While I support this bill I believe that perhaps there should be some amendments. As this is an issue that has been addressed in previous bills, I think we should consider why they have not been working. Including an incentive for the Departments, as well as a consequence if they do not fulfill these goals, will provide far more visible change. Additionally, clarifying rules/regulations and how to file reports would help to clarify.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2774. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Bella Nakagawa
Mililani High School