



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

Date: 03/18/2026

Time: 01:00 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: EDU

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB2300, HD1, RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PROCUREMENT.

Purpose of Bill: Adjusts the applicability of Act 134, SLH 2025, to clarify the threshold for Department of Education procurement of local edible produce and packaged food products. Prohibits the artificial division and parceling of Department of Education procurements of local edible produce and packaged food products. Sunsets 6/30/2028. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2300 HD 1.

Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, (Act 175) established the Hawaii Farm to School Program within the Department and requires that by 2030 at least thirty percent of food served in public schools consist of locally sourced products, measured by total food cost. The Department is required to report annually to the Legislature on its progress toward that goal, including large purchases of locally sourced products and vendor participation.

The Department's food procurement model primarily relies on contracted distributors and suppliers who aggregate products from multiple local farmers and producers. As a result, many local products are incorporated into the school meal program through larger supply contracts rather than direct farm-level purchases. Accordingly, the use of small direct purchases may be limited.

However, HB 2300 HD 1 provides targeted flexibility that can support implementation of Act 175 in circumstances where direct sourcing is appropriate, such as piloting new locally produced items, addressing seasonal availability, or supplementing distributor supply. Allowing procurements under \$250,000 to proceed through no fewer than three written quotes maintains competition while reducing administrative barriers for smaller producers who may not participate in electronic procurement systems.

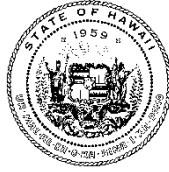
This measure offers a practical procurement tool to support the Department's statutory

obligation to increase locally sourced food while preserving transparency and documentation. The Department remains committed to compliance with chapter 103D, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), including the prohibition against artificial division or parceling of procurements. All procurements will continue to be structured and documented consistent with statutory requirements.

HB 2300 HD 1 enhances implementation flexibility without altering the Department's reporting, accountability, or competitive obligations under Act 175 and chapter 103D, HRS.

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

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



BONNIE KAHAKUI
ADMINISTRATOR

DAYNA OMIYA
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

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TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATION
MARCH 18, 2026, 1:00PM

HOUSE BILL 2300, HD1
RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROCUREMENT

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 2300, HD1. The State Procurement Office (SPO) appreciates the incorporation of the recommendation to include the prohibition against parceling. The House Draft 1 version promotes administrative efficiency and capacity in the Department of Education's (DOE) small purchase process for local produce and food products while maintaining procurement integrity and transparency.

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



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March 18, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 2300, HD1
RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROCUREMENT

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice-Chair Kidani, 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 2300, HD1, which clarifies procurement thresholds for the Department of Education's purchase of local edible produce and packaged food products.

HB 2300, HD1 builds upon Act 134, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2025, to strengthen Hawai'i's Farm to School program and expand the Department of Education's ability to procure locally grown food. This measure provides additional clarity and flexibility to help ensure that the program functions smoothly and delivers the intended benefits to students and local food producers.

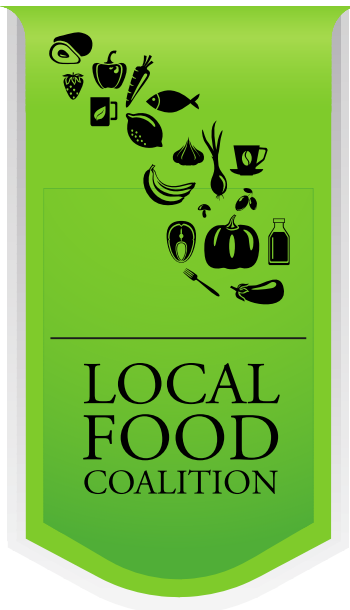
Hawai'i's Farm to School program improves student nutrition, supports local agriculture, and strengthens food security. The State has established a goal of sourcing at least 30% of school meals from local farmers, ranchers, and value-added food producers, and Act 134 represented an important step toward achieving that goal. As implementation continues, it is appropriate to make technical adjustments to support effective, practical execution.

HB 2300, HD1 helps address operational challenges by clarifying procurement tools and providing DOE with flexibility to work more effectively with local farmers and food producers. These refinements are especially important for small and mid-sized producers who may not have the administrative capacity to navigate complex procurement systems but are well-positioned to supply fresh, locally grown products to schools.

By reducing administrative barriers and improving access to institutional markets, HB 2300, HD1 supports a more stable and predictable demand for Hawai'i-grown food. This certainty encourages farmers to invest, plan production, and diversify crops, benefiting both the agricultural sector and public education.

We appreciate the Legislature's continued commitment to Farm to School and respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB 2300, HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**HB 2300 HD1 – RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PROCUREMENT**

SUPPORT

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

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the
Committee:

The Local Food Coalition **SUPPORTS** HB 2300 HD1, which adjusts
the applicability of Act 134, SLH 2025, to clarify the threshold for
Department of Education procurement of local edible produce and
packaged food products.

This measure is a practical and necessary refinement to Act 134,
Session Laws of Hawai'i 2025. DOE is the largest institutional food
purchaser in the state, and its ability to buy local food at scale is
essential to meeting the statutory mandate that at least 30 percent
of school meals be locally sourced by 2030. Current procurement
thresholds and administrative requirements often prevent schools
from purchasing local food efficiently, even when local producers
are ready and able to supply it.

HB 2300 HD1 removes this barrier by allowing DOE to use a
streamlined small-purchase process. This approach maintains
accountability while reducing administrative friction that has
historically limited DOE's ability to support Hawai'i farmers,
ranchers, and food manufacturers.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



PO Box 4, Kunia, Hawaii, 96759 || 808-622-9026 || www.agstewardshiphawaii.org

March 17, 2026

Aloha e Chair Donna Mercado, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

On behalf of **Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i**, we support **HB2300 HD1**, which clarifies Department of Education small purchase possibilities for local edible produce and packaged food products.

Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i leads the [Statewide Food Systems Coordination Initiative \(HSFSC\) initiative](#), launched in 2024 with philanthropic and gubernatorial support. The initiative works to align agricultural stakeholders, address infrastructure barriers, secure federal resources, advance **institutional procurement of local food**, and support policy priorities that strengthen Hawai'i's food system. HB2300 HD1 directly advances this work by giving DOE practical flexibility to prioritize locally grown products in schools, **supporting Regional Kitchen efforts and creating reliable markets for farmers statewide**. Many states across the country such as Washington and Maine use similar provisions on local procurement compatible with USDA geographic preference standards.

As an island state, Hawai'i relies heavily on imported foods, and transportation, labor, and scale limitations often make locally grown products more expensive to procure. Despite these challenges, Hawai'i has a vibrant agricultural sector capable of supplying schools with fresh, nutritious, and culturally relevant foods—but only if school food services have **practical flexibility to prioritize local products**.

By giving DOE clear authority and flexibility to prioritize local foods within defined cost thresholds, HB2300 HD1 strengthens Hawai'i's ability to support local farmers, expand access to fresh and culturally relevant meals for students, and build resilient, locally based food systems. We respectfully urge the Committee to support HB2300 HD1, as a practical and impactful step toward sustaining a thriving, locally sourced school food system.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Dr. Amanda Shaw, PhD, Statewide Food Systems Coordinator
Email: amanda@agstewardshiphawaii.org, Tel: 808 429 5310