



LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

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

Date: 03/03/2026

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: FIN

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, 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, Hawaii 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 HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
Tel: (808) 586-0554
email: state_procurement_office@hawaii.gov
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>

TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATION
MARCH 3, 2026, 2:00PM

HOUSE BILL 2300, HD1
RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROCUREMENT

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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.



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 3, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, 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.

HB-2300-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:12:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Waters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Writing in strong support of this important bill regarding local food procurement by the DOE.
Mahalo.