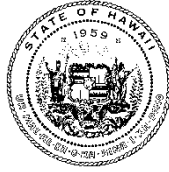


JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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 SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS
APRIL 1, 2026, 10:03 AM

HOUSE BILL 2300, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROCUREMENT

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 2300, HD1, SD1. The State Procurement Office (SPO) respectfully offers comments.

The SPO finds the proposal to lower the procurement threshold from \$250,000 to \$200,000 acceptable. Furthermore, the SPO appreciates that the bill includes language prohibiting parceling and supports administrative efficiency and capacity within the Department of Education's (DOE) small purchase process for local produce and food products, while preserving procurement integrity and transparency.

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



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

LATE

Date: 04/01/2026

Time: 10:03 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: WAM

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB2300, SD1, 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 DOE procurements of local edible produce and packaged food products. Sunsets 6/30/2028. Effective 7/31/2055. (SD1)

Department's Position:

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

At the \$200,000 threshold, this measure still offers a practical procurement tool to support the Department's statutory obligation to increase locally sourced food while preserving transparency and documentation. However, having the threshold set at \$250,000 is ideal for streamlining work, as it would align with newly created mandates in Act 134 (2025). 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, SD 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.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

April 1, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2300, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROCUREMENT

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:03 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwake, 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, SD1, which clarifies procurement thresholds for the Department of Education's purchase of local edible produce and packaged food products.

HB 2300, HD1, SD1 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.

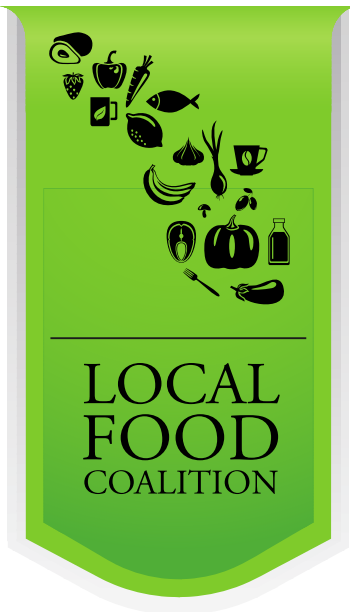
Hawai'i's Farm to School program improves student nutrition, supports local agriculture, and strengthens food security. The State has established a goal of sourcing at least 30% of school meals from local farmers, ranchers, and value-added food producers, and Act 134 represented an important step toward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

HB 2300, HD1, SD1 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, SD1 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, SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 – 10:03 a.m.
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

**HB 2300 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION PROCUREMENT**

SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition **SUPPORTS** HB 2300 HD1 SD1, which adjusts the applicability of Act 134, SLH 2025, to clarify the threshold for Department of Education (DOE) 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 SD1 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.



HIPHI Board

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Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
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Hawai'i Climate Change and Health
Working Group

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Immunization Coalition

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: March 30, 2026

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Support for HB 2300 HD1 SD1, Relating to Department of Education
Procurement

Hrg: April 1, 2026 at 10:03 AM in Conference Room 211

Hawai'i Public Health Institute¹ (HIPHI) works to advance policy and systems change to reduce disparities and improve the health of Hawai'i residents. We **support HB 2300 HD1 SD1**, which adjusts the applicability of Act 134, SLH 2025, to clarify the threshold for the Department of Education (DOE) procurement of local edible produce and packaged food products.

More Straightforward to Work with Local Farmers

This bill maximizes flexibility for local food purchases from small and medium-sized farmers, particularly those in rural areas. Rural schools often face additional challenges, such as limited access to technology or fewer available vendors. Reducing the number of required quotes acknowledges these barriers and supports more equitable access to local procurement opportunities.

Fully Implementing the Intent of Act 134

Act 134 exempted purchases of local edible produce and packaged food products under \$250,000 from the electronic procurement system of the DOE. To fully effectuate Act 134, the department requires that new statutory language allow for small purchase procurement of more than \$100,000. The changes envisioned by Act 134 and this measure support Hawai'i's farm-to-school initiatives and the goal to source 30% of school food locally by 2030.²

¹ Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships, and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.

² *Hawai'i Farm to School Resource Hub - Advocacy, legislation, & policy.* (n.d.).
<https://sites.google.com/hiphi.org/hawaiiif2s/advocacy-legislation-policy>



This measure will reduce administrative burdens, allowing schools to quickly acquire fresh, nutritious Hawai'i-grown produce. Ultimately, these policies will strengthen local agriculture, boost economic self-sufficiency, and improve student health by providing fresher meals while advancing sustainability and reducing reliance on imported foods.

More Regionalized Purchasing

For several years, stakeholders have advocated for regionalizing local food purchases. For example, bananas to be served in school breakfasts on Kaua'i should be purchased from farmers on that island. This arrangement fosters stronger relationships between school communities and local farmers, increasing knowledge of locally grown and raised foods among Hawai'i's students, and advancing the development of sustainable food systems in Hawai'i.

Meeting our 30% by 2030 Goal

Under Act 175, the DOE is required to purchase locally grown food as 30% of total procurement by 2030 and 50% by 2050.³ The added flexibility afforded under this measure will help achieve these goals and support students and their families in understanding the importance of local food systems.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nate Hix", written in a cursive style.

Nate Hix
Director of Policy and Advocacy

³ Tagami, M. (2023, December 12). Hawaii Education Department takes 'Big first step' to increase local food in schools. *Honolulu Civil Beat*. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/12/hawaii-education-department-takes-big-first-step-to-increase-local-food-in-schools/>

HB-2300-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 11:28:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2026 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

HB-2300-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 2:41:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2026 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2300 HB RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROCUREMENT.

HB-2300-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 7:58:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2026 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!!!

A good way to help local farmers and ranchers to build their businesses.

Mahalo!