



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

**Date:** 02/10/2026

**Time:** 02:15 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** EDN

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB2300, 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. Sunsets 6/30/2028.

**Department's Position:**

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

The Department remains committed to increasing locally sourced products for the school meal program in alignment with Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021 (Act 175). The ability to utilize small procurement methods for local products up to \$250,000 gives the department flexibility to execute more local purchasing, test new local products statewide, and initiate ongoing relationships with local producers. The intent of this bill also eases the administrative burden for small producers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on 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 HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON  
EDUCATION  
FEBRUARY 10, 2026, 2:15PM

HOUSE BILL 3200  
RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROCUREMENT

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 2300. The State Procurement Office (SPO) appreciates the intent of this bill to promote administrative efficiency and capacity in the Department of Education's (DOE) small purchase process for local produce and food products. The SPO respectfully offers comments.

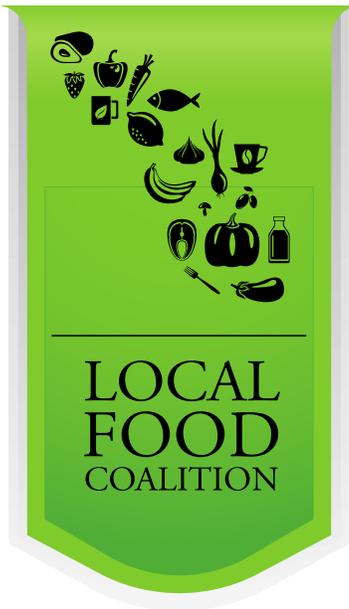
Section 2, Page 2, lines 13-15, adds an exemption from HRS Section 103D-305(a), permitting the parceling of a transaction, the artificial division of a transaction into multiple expenditures, to avoid otherwise applicable requirements for purchases under \$250,000. Exempting the prohibition against parceling would allow the DOE to split purchases exceeding \$250,000 to circumvent procurement requirements, resulting in reduced competition, and limited transparency and oversight.

SPO recommends the revisions to Section 2, Page 2, lines 13-15 to read as follows:

"§302A-1317 **Local edible produce and packaged food products procurement; small purchases.** Notwithstanding section 103D-305(a) provided that multiple expenditures shall not be created at the inception of a transaction or project so as to evade the requirements of this chapter; and provided further that procurement requirements shall not be artificially divided or parceled so as to constitute a small purchase under this section; and (c) and any other law to the contrary, procurements of less than \$250,000 for local edible produce and packaged food

products for the department shall be exempt from the requirement to conduct procurements through an electronic system and shall instead be subject to no less than three written quotes; provided that if the department is unable to receive the required number of written notifications as required by this section, written justification shall be provided and kept by the department."

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



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Thursday, February 10, 2026 – 2:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

## HB 2300 – 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

College of Tropical  
Agriculture and Human  
Resilience - University of  
Hawai'i at Manoa

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

The Local Food Coalition **SUPPORTS** HB 2300, which clarifies and strengthens the Department of Education's ability to procure local edible produce and packaged food products by exempting these purchases—up to \$250,000—from the standard \$100,000 small-purchase threshold under section 103D-305, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

This measure is a practical and necessary refinement to Act 134, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2025. The Department of Education (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 removes this barrier by allowing the DOE to use a streamlined small-purchase process. This approach maintains accountability while reducing administrative friction that has historically limited the 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.



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February 10, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2300**  
RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROCUREMENT

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference  
2:15 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 2300**, which clarifies procurement thresholds for the Department of Education's purchase of local edible produce and packaged food products.

HB 2300 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 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 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.