



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**  
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Testimony **COMMENTING** on HB2619 HD2  
RELATING TO HOMEMADE FOOD PRODUCTS

SENATOR JOY A. BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 03/23/2026, 01:40PM, CR3225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined. This measure may impact the priorities identified in the  
2 Governor's Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department's)  
3 appropriations and personnel priorities.

4 **Department Position:** The Department offers comments.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Health Services Division, Food Safety Branch  
6 (EHSD-FSB) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

7 HB2619 HD1 directs the Department to adopt administrative rules applicable to "farm  
8 kitchens" such that "farm kitchens" are regulated on the same basis as "home kitchens"  
9 producing homemade food products while preserving the Department's authority to ensure  
10 food safety. The measure seeks to accomplish this by defining "farm kitchen" and directing  
11 adoption of administrative rules for regulation of farm kitchens that are no more stringent than  
12 those for home kitchens producing homemade food products.

13 The Department supports that "farm kitchens" be treated equally to "home kitchens"  
14 and that both have the necessary appurtenances (e.g. clean water, sinks, etc.) and sanitary  
15 conditions necessary to produce homemade food products safely. Should this measure become  
16 law, the Department will develop and adopt administrative rules consistent with the measure.

1           The Department notes that the definition included in this measure for “homemade food  
2 products” is identical to the definition of “homemade food products” in Hawaii Administrative  
3 Rules, Chapter 11-50, Food Safety Code. As such, the definition is repetitive and may  
4 unintentionally prevent future changes to allow for a broader range of “homemade food  
5 products” allowances in the future. The Department requests that the definition of  
6 “homemade food products” be removed from this bill to prevent potentially impairing the  
7 Department from changing the scope of allowable “Homemade food products” in future rule  
8 amendments.

9   **Offered Amendments:** Page 3, line 14 to Page 4, line 5.

10           ~~“Homemade food products” means:~~

11           ~~(1) Not time/temperature control for safety food produced or packaged in a home~~  
12           ~~kitchen or farm kitchen that does not include dried meats or seafood; and~~

13           ~~(2) Foods of plant origin that are pickled, fermented, or acidified, except for~~  
14           ~~cantaloupes and other fruits from the melon family, that are produced or packaged~~  
15           ~~in a home kitchen or farm kitchen that have a pH of equal to or less than 4.2 or a Aw~~  
16           ~~value that is less than 0.88; provided that any homemade food product containing~~  
17           ~~cut tomatoes, such as salsa, must be kept refrigerated at or below forty one degrees~~  
18           ~~Fahrenheit.~~

19           Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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TO: Committee on Health and Human Services  
FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 23, 2026

TIME: 1:40pm

RE: HB2619 HD2 Relating to Homemade Food Products

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure to provide regulatory clarity and increase economic opportunities by making the department of health's administrative rules for home kitchens and homemade food products applicable to farm kitchens, while preserving the department's authority to ensure food safety.

As the measure notes, homemade food product operations provide important opportunities for small scale food producers to participate in local food systems while maintaining public health protections, and many small farms prepare value-added food products in kitchens located on their farms.

Making the rules for home kitchens applicable to farm kitchens is a logical way to encourage increased local food production. We urge the Committee and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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March 23, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2619, HD2**  
RELATING TO HOMEMADE FOOD PRODUCTS

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference  
1:40 PM

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair McKelvey, 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 2619, HD2**, which requires the Department of Health to adopt rules to authorize and regulate farm kitchens on the same basis as home kitchens producing homemade food products.

As production costs continue to rise, improving farm revenues and profitability is critical to the continued viability of Hawai'i's farms and ranches. One important pathway is the ability to add value to raw agricultural products. Off-grade and excess production are often lost due to market conditions. Converting these products into value-added goods can increase farm revenue, reduce waste, create new business opportunities, and expand access to locally produced food.

Authorizing farm kitchens provides farmers with additional flexibility to diversify their operations and develop value-added products as an additional revenue stream. This approach supports local food systems, rural entrepreneurship, and Hawai'i's goals of increased food self-sufficiency and economic resilience.

HFB encourages clear, workable rules that recognize the unique operating conditions of farms while maintaining appropriate food safety standards. As in prior discussions regarding cottage food operations, we support non-potentially hazardous food products and defer to the Department of Health on standards for potentially hazardous foods to ensure public health protections remain strong and clear.

HFB appreciates that this measure maintains food safety protections while providing regulatory clarity. Ensuring that farm kitchens are regulated no more stringently than home kitchens and are not required to obtain a commercial food establishment permit solely because they are located on agricultural land provides certainty to farmers while maintaining appropriate consumer protection.

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

**HB-2619-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 10:55:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/23/2026 1:40:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support that can help people earn money to meet Hawaii's high cost of living. Mahalo!

March 23, 2026, 1:40 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

**LATE**

**To: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**

**Sen. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair**

**Sen. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair**

**From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii**

**Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns**

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2619 HD2 — RELATING TO HOMEMADE FOOD PRODUCTS

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and other Committee Members,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [HB2619 HD2](#), which would require the Department of Health to adopt rules for farm kitchens producing homemade food products that are no more strict than the rules governing home kitchens.

The bill defines a farm kitchen as “a kitchen located on agricultural land, including land zoned for agricultural use or land actively used for agricultural production, in which homemade food products are prepared using ingredients that may include agricultural products grown or raised on the same farm.”

Act 195 (2024) expanded the kinds of homemade foods that Hawaii residents could sell and allowed homemade foods to be sold at retail, through the mail and over the internet, as long as they are properly labeled.

This legislation would build on that law and be especially beneficial for rural entrepreneurs who do not have easy access to commercial kitchens.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas  
Director of Strategic Campaigns  
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii