

**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**

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

TESTIMONY  
OF  
**BONNIE KAHAKUI, ADMINISTRATOR**  
**STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
MARCH 17, 2026; 3:05 PM

HOUSE BILL 812, HD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 812, HD1. The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports the intent of the bill, which authorizes a contract for the purchase of local produce having a value of more than \$25,000, may be for a term of at least five years, under certain conditions.

The SPO appreciates that the House Draft 1 includes SPO's recommended language that the contract shall contain a price adjustment clause to either increase or decrease the value, given that the farming and ranching industries are vulnerable to natural disruptions and environmental conditions.

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



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

**Date:** 03/17/2026

**Time:** 03:05 PM

**Location:** CR 225 & Videoconference

**Committee:** GVO

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB812, HD1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

**Purpose of Bill:** Authorizes a contract for the purchase of local produce having a value of more than \$25,000 to be for a term of at least five years, under certain conditions. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide support on HB 812, HD 1.

The Department appreciates that longer term contracts could help with providing stability to some vendors and appreciates the change in language to may, allowing for, but not requiring, five year contracts. The update to language allowing for contracts exceeding \$25,000 rather than at \$250 allows flexibility to work with a variety of small and mid-size producers to provide the volume of products the Department needs to serve school meals. The ability to forward contract in this sense will provide small and midsize producers the certainty they need to work with the Department, and hopefully open the door to scaling local food supply into the Department. This bill offers one of the many tools needed to increase local purchasing.

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



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

March 17, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 812, HD1**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference  
3:05 PM

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Gabbard, 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 812, HD1**, which authorizes contracts for the purchase of local produce with a value of more than \$25,000 to be for a term of at least five years. This measure is an important step in increasing farmer participation in the Farm to School program and helping the Department of Education achieve its goal of sourcing 30 percent of school food locally by 2030, as established in Act 175, SLH 2021.

Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers face unique challenges, including high land, water, labor, energy, transportation, and input costs, as well as uncertainty in market stability. Short-term contracts do not provide the reliability farmers need to justify expanding production, investing in new infrastructure, or hiring additional labor. Authorizing longer-term contracts for local produce creates the opportunity for a more predictable and stable institutional market for farmers and ranchers, encouraging them to increase production and invest in their operations.

Increasing procurement of locally grown agricultural products supports food security and sustainability while ensuring students receive fresh, nutritious food. However, farmers and ranchers have long struggled with the state procurement process, which can be challenging to navigate. HB 812, HD1 helps encourage more local producers to participate in the Farm to School program by allowing longer-term contracts that provide the financial security farmers and ranchers need to engage in state procurement programs.

Establishing longer contracts will also increase the diversity of available local food products. With greater certainty in purchasing agreements, farmers will be able to grow specialty crops, expand fruit and vegetable production, and raise more livestock and poultry specifically for institutional markets. This will further align with the state's goals of reducing reliance on imports and strengthening Hawai'i's agricultural economy.

To further strengthen this initiative, we encourage the Department of Education to continue working with local farmers and ranchers to ensure procurement policies are accessible, practical, and effective. Helping farmers and ranchers understand and navigate the procurement system is crucial to making Hawai'i-grown food a significant part of school meals and other state purchasing programs.

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

**HB-812-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 5:56:53 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/17/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill. It will help small farmers get financing. Mahalo for your hard work.