



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: 03/31/2026

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: EDN

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HCR195, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF AUDITOR'S REPORT NO. 26-08 REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HAWAII'S FARM-TO-SCHOOL AND LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT INITIATIVES.

Purpose of Bill: Requesting The Department Of Education To Convene A Working Group To Address The Findings And Recommendations Of Auditor's Report No. 26-08 Regarding The Implementation Of Hawaii's Farm-to-school And Local Food Procurement Initiatives.

Department's Position:

We appreciate the support from the Legislature in helping the Hawaii State Department (Department) meet the 30 percent target by 2030 and wish to provide comments on HCR 195.

Meeting the 2030 local purchasing goal and acting in response to the audit findings is a Department priority as is being reiterated in the upcoming memo from the Superintendent to Principals, Cafe Managers, and School Food Services staff.

The Department is already part of a collective of State agencies currently working to establish a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, the Agribusiness Development Corporation, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, the Department of Health, the Department of the Attorney General, the Hawaii Farm Bureau, and the Department to support the nutrition of Hawaii's keiki. The workgroup is collaborating on aligning the supply and demand to meet the 2030 goal.

The School Food Services Branch has already started or completed work on all the audit recommendations. For example, over the 2026-27 school year, the Department is rolling out K-12 food service software that will replace handwritten records, after just completing the procurement process that began over a year ago.

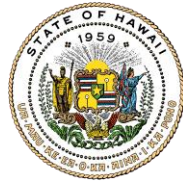
While we appreciate the support from the legislature that this resolution signals, the Department is well underway with partnerships and plans to meet the State's goals,

respond to the recent audit, and address the intent of this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



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SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026

2:00 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM 309 AND VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 195 / HR 185

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF AUDITOR'S REPORT NO. 26-08 REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HAWAII'S FARM-TO-SCHOOL AND LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT INITIATIVES.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution No. 195 and HR 185 requesting the Department of Education to convene a working group to address the findings and recommendations of Auditor's Report No. 26-08 regarding the implementation of Hawaii's Farm-to School and Local Food Procurement Initiatives.

The Farm-to-School and Local Food Procurement Initiatives are in place and include goals to increase the amount of locally sourced products, which Hawaii farmers and ranchers anticipate providing to meet the goals. The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) provides comments.

The Department defers to the Department of Education ("DOE") to determine whether a Working Group, whose work is to review and discuss the findings of the Auditor's Report and identify strategies to improve data collection, procurement practices, coordination between the DOE and the agricultural sector, local food supply

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March 31, 2026

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chains capable of serving public schools and provide recommendations to the DOE would be their preferred response to the Auditor's Report. Should the DOE consider the Working Group as an effective and efficient response, the Department is ready to serve as an active member.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony on this measure.

HCR-195

Submitted on: 3/26/2026 6:02:50 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HCR195 TESTIMONY: SUSAN PCOLA-DAVIS

STRONGLY SUPPORT based on auditors report. AND Board of Education presentation on March 19, 2026.

On March 19, 2026 a presentation at the Board of Education from the DOE provided Audit Corrective Actions: Internal Control Structure.

This document should be provided to this Working Group rather than starting from scratch. It also should be shared with the State Auditor.

AUDITOR's Summary

1. The Department of Education's efforts to increase the percentage of locally sourced products in its school meals to meet the legislatively mandated goal of 10 percent by 2025 were without structure, direction, or consequential actions.
2. While the Department of Education's plan to develop regional kitchens may allow for the incorporation of more local foods in school meals, it lacks essential details to support the department's contention that it will increase its spending on locally sourced products to 30 percent by 2030.

HCR195: Convene a Farm-to-School and Local Food Procurement Working Group to review the findings of Auditor's Report No. 26-08 and identify strategies for strengthening the Department's ability to meet its local food procurement goals.

The Working Group is requested to review i.e.read and discuss the findings of Auditor's Report No. 26-08.