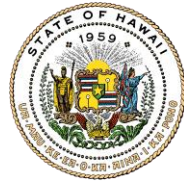


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
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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

Testimony of Sharon Hurd

March 31, 2026

Page 2 of 2

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.

HR-185

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.