



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 94 / HOUSE
RESOLUTION 86 HD1**

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND BIOSECURITY TO JOINTLY DEVELOP A FARMER-TO-INSTITUTION
COORDINATION PLAN THAT IS ALIGNED WITH THE AINA KITCHEN NETWORK
ROLLOUT

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka ‘Oihana Mahi‘ai a me ka ‘Ōnaehana Mea‘ai
(House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems)

Ke Kapikala o Hawai‘i
(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

‘Apelila 8, 2026

10:00AM

Lumi 325

Aloha e Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the House Committee on
Agriculture and Food Systems:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HCR94/HR86 HD1**, which
urges the Department of Education (DOE) and the Department of Agriculture and
Biosecurity to develop a farmer-to-institution coordination plan aligned with the AINA
Kitchen Network rollout.

Food is a vital connection to ‘āina, culture, and community wellbeing. For Native
Hawaiians, farming is not only an economic activity but stewardship of ‘āina, and
community wellbeing. Strengthening pathways that connect local producers to reliable
markets is essential to advancing Native Hawaiian economic self-sufficiency.

Expanding local food procurement in schools strengthens this connection for our
keiki, supports our local farmers, and contributes to improved health and economic
outcomes. Development of a coordinated Farmer-to-Institution Plan aligned with the
AINA Kitchen Network fills a critical gap in Hawai‘i’s food system; many local farmers
lack the infrastructure to scale production to meet that demand of large public
institutions like our schools. Without intentional coordination and investment, this gap

will persist, limiting both food system resilience and economic opportunities for local producers.

The interagency approach this resolution calls for identifies needed products, assesses production gaps, and supports farmer capacity-building that makes it possible for farmers to have capacity to supply our schools and the DOE to meet its 2030 goal of 30% locally sourced school meal ingredients. Institutional markets such as the DOE represent a powerful opportunity to generate stable, livable income while expanding stewardship of ‘āina, and community wellbeing.

For the reasons stated above, OHA respectfully urges this committee to **PASS HCR94/HR86 HD1.**

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.



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TO: Committee on Agriculture
FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: April 8, 2026
TIME: 10am

RE: HR86 HCR94 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY TO JOINTLY DEVELOP A FARMER-TO-INSTITUTION COORDINATION PLAN THAT IS ALIGNED WITH THE AINA KITCHEN NETWORK ROLLOUT.

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. Institutional purchasing can be a powerful tool in growing our local agricultural sector. This provides local farmers with consistent buyers who they can work with to maximize local production and economic viability. Developing a Farmer-to-Institution Coordination Plan aligned with the phased rollout of the AINA Kitchen Network can help enable institutional purchasing. This will also help ensure that our local keiki are able to enjoy fresh local food. We urge the Committee to pass the measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HR-86-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 11:05:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine L. Andrews, J.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Christine Andrews and I write to you from Wailuku, Maui to respectfully request your support of this measure to develop a farmer-to-institution coordination plan aligned with the Aina Kitchen Network Rollout. Our farmers contribute to food security, our local economies, and our resiliency as communities. Especially after the devastating impacts of the kona low storms on our agricultural communities, our farmers need our support more than ever.

Mahalo nui for supporting farmers and our food security,

Christine Andrews, JD

Wailuku, Maui