



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

Date: 02/11/2026

Time: 09:45 AM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: GVO/CPN

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB2258, RELATING TO LOCAL PURCHASING PREFERENCE.

Purpose of Bill: Gradually requires that by 2032, 30% of natural landscaping materials purchased by certain departments be purchased from sources that manufacture, process, produce, or harvest the natural landscaping materials in Hawaii. Applies to the Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Department of Defense, Department of Accounting and General Services, and University of Hawaii.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments for the committee's consideration on SB 2258.

While the Department supports the intent to promote local businesses and sustainability, the proposed mandates for natural landscaping materials pose significant implementation challenges and potential additional costs. Identifying and sourcing sufficient quantities of such materials that meet the specified percentage thresholds, particularly for landscaping needs across numerous school facilities statewide, may prove difficult and potentially more expensive than currently available options. Furthermore, the Department's procurement processes are governed by state laws and administrative rules designed to ensure competitive bidding and cost-effectiveness. Introducing new, specific material mandates could complicate these processes and increase costs for landscaping projects, thus diverting funds from other critical educational needs.

The Department recommends that the committee consider the practical availability and cost implications of sourcing local natural landscaping materials before enacting the proposed mandates. Further study may be warranted to assess the market capacity for these materials and to develop a phased approach that allows for gradual integration without undue financial burden.

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

SB-2258

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:12:20 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/11/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

SB-2258

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:28:36 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/11/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Blazak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chairs McKelvey and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees,

As a constituent of Senate District 1, I support the intent of this measure.