



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

**Date:** 04/02/2026  
**Time:** 02:00 PM  
**Location:** 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
**Committee:** FIN

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB3063, HD1, RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PROCUREMENT.

**Purpose of Bill:** Exempts from the Hawaii Public Procurement Code procurements by the Department of Education of any amount of local edible produce and packaged food products that do not cost more than five per cent of non-local alternatives. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

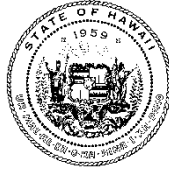
The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 3063, SD 1, HD 1.

The Department remains committed to increasing locally sourced products for the school meal program in alignment with Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021 (Act 175), and appreciates the potential ability to expend up to 5% more to procure local edible produce and packaged food products compared to non-local alternatives.

Under Hawaii Public Procurement Code, the Department can already apply a 15% differential for agricultural products and a 10% differential for processed goods. Since the current logistics of our program depend on distributors who win an entire contract rather than specific line items, and the Department has very minimal direct contracts because of operational logistics, the differential or the ability to expend more for local products are difficult to utilize at this time. As we move into the Regional Kitchen model and have contracts directly with producers, these two mechanisms will be a catalyst for more local purchasing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 3063, SD 1, HD 1.

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**  
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TESTIMONY  
OF  
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ADMINISTRATOR  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON  
FINANCE

April 2, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

SENATE BILL 3063, SD1, HD1  
RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROCUREMENT

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 3063, SD1, HD1.

Senate Bill 3063, SD1, HD1, amends Section 302A-1317, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), authorizing the Department of Education (DOE) to purchase **any** amount of local edible produce and packaged food products that cost no more than five per cent (5%) more than non-local alternatives to be exempt from electronic procurement requirements.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) acknowledges the intent of this bill to reduce administrative burden and promote local agriculture and food producers; however, the SPO has considerable concerns and offers comments on this measure.

### Comments

The SPO has significant concerns regarding the enforceability of the proposed pricing condition. The bill does not clearly define nor establish a mechanism for how the DOE is to determine, document, or verify the price of a comparable non-local alternative. A valid price comparison requires a competitive solicitation; without this, the 5% pricing threshold becomes subject to interpretation.

The intent of Chapter 302A-1317, HRS, is to exempt the purchase of local edible produce and packaged food products, less than \$250,000 from electronic procurement. Adding **any** amount

of local edible produce and packaged food products that cost no more than five percent (5%) goes beyond the intent and spirit of the law.

Exemption of **any** procurements that meet the 5% pricing threshold from electronic procurement requirements reduces transparency and competition and increases risk of collusion, resulting in limited public visibility, a smaller pool of qualified vendors, and higher costs.

### **Recommendations**

The SPO recommends removal of language in Section 1, Page 1, lines 9-11, in its entirety.

~~["(2) Any amount for local edible produce and packaged food products for the department that cost no more than five per cent more than non-local alternatives,"]~~

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



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April 2, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 3063, SD1, HD1**  
RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROCUREMENT

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, 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 SB 3063, SD1, HD1**, which strengthens the Department of Education's ability to procure locally grown edible produce and packaged food products by providing clear procurement flexibility and recognizing a reasonable cost differential for local products.

Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers operate in one of the highest cost environments in the nation. Land, labor, transportation, invasive species pressures, and limited scale all impact the price of locally grown food. The 5% allowance gives DOE reasonable flexibility to prioritize Hawai'i-grown products while maintaining responsible cost controls.

SB 3063, SD1, HD1 also complements the State's Farm to School initiatives and Regional Kitchens. Procurement flexibility is essential to ensure that regional kitchens can effectively source Hawai'i-grown products at a meaningful scale. Without workable procurement pathways, farmers and food processors cannot reliably access institutional markets.

By clarifying and strengthening DOE's authority to prioritize local products within a defined cost framework, this measure advances food security, supports rural economies, and creates stable markets for Hawai'i's agricultural producers.

SB 3063, SD1, HD1 represents a practical, accountable step toward increasing the use of Hawai'i-grown food in our public school system.

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



Date, 2026

To: Chair Todd Chris, Vice Chair Takenouchi Jenna, and the Senate Committee on Finance

Subject: **Senate Bill 3063 SD1 HD1**

Aloha,

As a member of the Hawai'i Food+ team, I am in strong support of Senate Bill 3063. This bill allows the Department of Education to buy local food at a 5% budgeting increase. It also helps the purchasing process for local produce so schools can easily source from Hawai'i farmers. The Department of Education set a goal called the Hawai'i Farm to School Plan, which is a statewide goal of 30% locally sourced food in schools by 2030.

Senate Bill 3063 will play a vital role in achieving this goal. SB3063 prioritizes local food procurement in Hawai'i, which helps create a more resilient food system and ensures children in schools have access to nutritious food. School meals can be the most reliable source of nutrition for many children.

The amended bill clarifies the language to state that the purchasing of locally produced food is allowed even if it costs up to 5% more than non-local alternatives. This makes the bill a real, enforceable thing for farmers that is easy to follow. The amendments also state that the DOE can bypass complicated procurements instead of using quotes or a written bid. This makes it faster and easier for schools to buy food, especially from smaller agribusinesses.

This bill supports Hawai'i's farmers, improves student nutrition, and strengthens food systems. These amendments make the bill flexible and viable for becoming a law. Please support **SB3063 SD1 HD1**.

Mahalo,

Carlin McFadden & the Food+ Policy Team

#fixourfoodsystem

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**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2026, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

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Natalie Urminska  
Kaua'i

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

The Hawai'i Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU supports SB3063.**

SB3063 promotes the integration of locally sourced produce and packaged food products into the procurement practices of the Department of Education. By allowing an expenditure up to 5% more for local alternatives this bill supports Hawaii's agricultural communities.

Supporting local farmers and producers contributes significantly to the state's economy, keeping the financial resources within the community and strengthening the local agricultural sector. This bill encourages the growth and sustainability of farming enterprises that are vital to Hawaii's rural communities, empowering farmers to innovate and diversify their operations. Moreover, reducing the dependency on imported foods minimizes the carbon footprint associated with long-distance transportation, aligning with Hawaii's broader environmental goals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin  
Advocacy Director  
Hawai'i Farmers Union



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April 1, 2026

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

On behalf of **Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i**, we support **SB3063 SD1 HD1** which clarifies Department of Education small purchase possibilities for local edible produce and packaged food products.

Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i leads the [Statewide Food Systems Coordination Initiative \(HSFSC\) initiative](#), launched in 2024 with philanthropic and gubernatorial support. The initiative works to align agricultural stakeholders, address infrastructure barriers, secure federal resources, advance **institutional procurement of local food**, and support policy priorities that strengthen Hawai'i's food system. SB3063 directly advances this work by giving DOE practical flexibility to prioritize locally grown products in schools, **supporting Regional Kitchen efforts and creating reliable markets for farmers statewide**. Many states across the country such as Washington and Maine use similar provisions on local procurement compatible with USDA geographic preference standards.

As an island state, Hawai'i relies heavily on imported foods, and transportation, labor, and scale limitations often make locally grown products more expensive to procure. Despite these challenges, Hawai'i has a vibrant agricultural sector capable of supplying schools with fresh, nutritious, and culturally relevant foods—but only if school food services have **practical flexibility to prioritize local products**.

By giving DOE clear authority and flexibility to prioritize local foods within defined cost thresholds, SB3063 strengthens Hawai'i's ability to support local farmers, expand access to fresh and culturally relevant meals for students, and build resilient, locally based food systems. We respectfully urge the Committee to support SB3063, as a practical and impactful step toward sustaining a thriving, locally sourced school food system.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Shaw".

Dr. Amanda Shaw, PhD, Statewide Food Systems Coordinator  
Email: [amanda@agstewardshiphawaii.org](mailto:amanda@agstewardshiphawaii.org), Tel: 808 429 5310

**SB-3063-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 8:04:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support. Mahalo!