



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 25, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:56 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, 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, 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 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 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.

Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President



Christian Zuckerman
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Kelii Gannet
Kohala, Hawai'i

East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Ka'ū, Hawai'i

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawai'i

Gina Lind
Hāna, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakalā, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahālāwai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Moloka'i

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Rachel LaDrig
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means 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 is a commendable initiative that 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 Hawai'i'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 Hawai'i'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 Hawai'i's broader environmental goals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



BONNIE KAHAKUI
ADMINISTRATOR

DAYNA OMIYA
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
Tel: (808) 586-0554
email: state_procurement_office@hawaii.gov
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>

TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
February 25, 2026, 10:56 a.m.

SENATE BILL 3063, SD1
RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROCUREMENT

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Moriwaki, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 3063, SD1.

Senate Bill 3063, SD 1, 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, subsection 2, 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.



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

Date: 02/25/2026

Time: 10:56 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: WAM

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB3063, SD1, 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 5% of non-local alternatives. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on SB 3063 SD 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 comments on SB 3063 SD 1.



PO Box 4, Kunia, Hawaii, 96759 || 808-622-9026 || www.agstewardshiphawaii.org

February 23, 2026

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

On behalf of **Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i**, we support **SB 3063, S.D.1**, 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. SB 3063 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, SB 3063 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 SB 3063, S.D.1, as a practical and impactful step toward sustaining a thriving, locally sourced school food system.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

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