



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

Date: 04/16/2026

Time: 02:05 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: EDN

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SCR130, 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.

Purpose of Bill: 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.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in regards to SCR 130. We appreciate the support from the Legislature in helping the Hawaii State Department (Department) meet the 30 percent target by 2030.

Meeting the 2030 local purchasing goal and acting in response to the audit findings is a Department priority as reiterated in the upcoming memo from the Superintendent to Principals, Cafe Managers, and School Food Services staff.

The Department is part of a collective of State agencies, including the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), that are currently working to establish a Memorandum of Understanding between the DAB, Agribusiness Development Corporation, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, the Department of Health, the Department of the Attorney General, the Department of Transportation, the University Of Hawaii, Leeward Community College, the Department Of Labor and Industrial Relations, and the Department to support the nutrition of Hawaii's keiki. The workgroup which also includes other partners, such as the Hawaii Farm Bureau, is currently collaborating on aligning the supply and demand of commodities to meet the needs of the AINA Kitchen Network and the 2030 goal.

In regard to the request for a proposal to implement software to replace handwritten records, the Department is rolling out K-12 food service software starting in June 2026 that will replace handwritten records, after just completing the procurement process that began over a year ago. The resolution points out that both Departments are

understaffed. Funding and FTE would be needed to create another plan. In light of both branches being understaffed and currently committed to several large-scale initiatives, we urge the committees to consider consolidating the multiple overlapping resolutions currently brought forward requesting work groups, reports, and plans in relation to local procurement and the regional kitchens.

While we appreciate the support from the legislature that this resolution signals, the Department is well underway with partnerships and plans to meet the State's goals and respond to the recent audit.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



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

April 16, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SCR 130

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

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
2:05 PM

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair La Chica, 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 SCR 130, which urges the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to jointly develop a farmer-to-institution coordination plan aligned with the rollout of the AINA Kitchen Network.

Hawai'i has set an ambitious goal to source thirty percent of school meal ingredients locally by 2030, yet current procurement remains significantly below that target. As noted in the resolution, the Department of Education achieved only approximately 5.4 percent local procurement in the 2023–2024 school year, highlighting the gap that still needs to be addressed.

HFB agrees that increasing local food procurement requires more than procurement policy changes alone. Farmers need clear market signals, long-term contract certainty, and coordinated support to scale production to meet institutional demand. Without a coordinated approach, it will be difficult for local producers to align planting, harvesting, and investment decisions with the needs of large-scale institutional buyers such as the Department of Education.

HFB also recognizes that there are ongoing efforts, such as the Nourishing Hawai'i Future initiative, that are already working to strengthen connections between local producers and institutional markets. We view these efforts as complementary and believe they can help

inform and support the development of the coordination plan envisioned in this resolution. Aligning and building upon existing initiatives will be important to avoid duplication and maximize impact.

We strongly support the development of a coordinated plan that identifies specific product needs, assesses production capacity, and outlines a strategy to build farmer capacity over time. The inclusion of multi-year procurement structures is particularly important, as farmers require predictability to make investments in land, labor, and infrastructure.

We also support efforts to improve data tracking and transparency in local food procurement. A centralized system to accurately track locally sourced products and spending will help ensure accountability and better inform future policy decisions.

As this effort moves forward, HFB encourages continued coordination with the agricultural community to ensure that the plan is practical, achievable, and reflective of on-the-ground conditions. Aligning production capacity with the phased rollout of the AINA Kitchen Network will be critical to the long-term success of this initiative.

HFB appreciates being included as a stakeholder in this process and looks forward to working with the Department of Education, Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, and other partners to strengthen Hawai'i's local food system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 |
Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e:
info@hawaiiifood.com

Executive Officers

Kit Okimoto, Okimoto Corp., *Chair*
Jayson Watts, Mahi Pono, *Vice Chair*
Jill Tamura, Tamura Super Market, *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *President and Executive Director*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, Odom, *Advisor*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*
Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Advisor*
Maile Miyashiro, C&S Wholesale, *Immediate Past Chair*

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

DATE: April 16, 2026
TIME: 2:05pm

RE: SCR130 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.

SCR-130

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 2:23:12 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/16/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support with comment: To include the flower, foliage production.

130 SCR 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.