

# SCR62

**Measure Title:** REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO INCREASE THE FEDERAL BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND AFTERSCHOOL SNACK REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR HAWAII.

**Report Title:** Federal Meal Subsidies for Public Schools

**Description:**

**Companion:**

**Package:** Local Food Caucus

**Current Referral:** EDU, WAM

**Introducer(s):** CHUN OAKLAND, HARIMOTO, KIDANI, RUDERMAN, Baker, Espero, Galuteria, Ihara, Inouye, Keith-Agaran, L. Thielen

<a href="#"><u>Sort by Date</u></a>		Status Text
3/10/2015	S	Offered.
3/13/2015	S	Referred to EDU, WAM.
3/13/2015	S	The committee(s) on EDU has scheduled a public hearing on 03-18-15 1:30PM in conference room 229.



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Wednesday, March 18, 2015 — 1:30 p.m. — Room 229

**UluPono Initiative Strongly Supports SCR 62, Requesting the United States Secretary of Agriculture to Increase the Federal Breakfast, Lunch, and Afterschool Snack Reimbursement Rates for Hawaii**

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee:

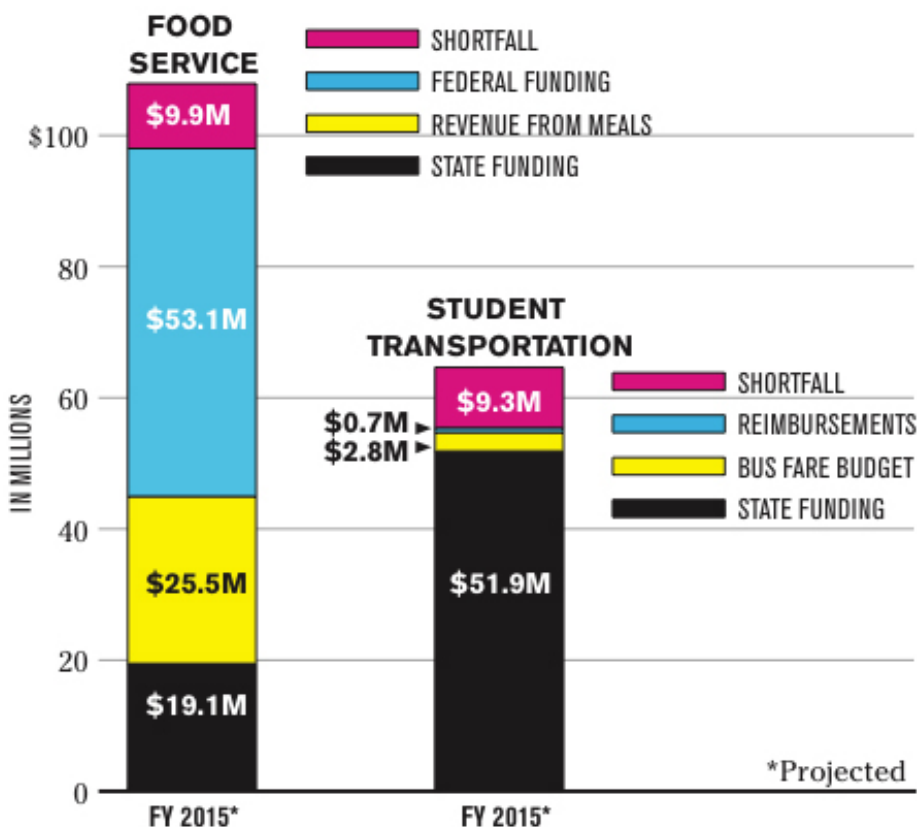
My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of the UluPono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment company that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally grown food, increase clean, renewable energy, and waste reduction. We believe that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity, and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

**UluPono strongly supports SCR 62**, because it aligns with our goal of providing more locally produced food. One of the most important ways to grow local agriculture is to get more local food into schools. This will garner awareness and interest of local foods to generate future demand as those kids grow and eventually enter the workforce, provide for healthy and nutritious foods for our local children as they learn, create new farmers to lower the average age of 60 years old for a farmer in Hawai'i, and create an additional marketplace for local farmers to earn revenue. However, purchasing local food will require additional funding. Currently, the school lunch budget for the Department of Education is funded about half via federal funds, a quarter is earned from meal fees, and the remaining quarter (about \$29 million) comes from the State of Hawai'i.

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*

## DOE SHORTFALL

*The Department of Education is projecting shortfalls in its school lunch and student bus programs for the current fiscal year. It plans to seek a \$19 million boost from the Legislature to cover the costs.*



Source: Department of Education

STAR-ADVERTISER

This means any additional federal funds can both allow more increased local food purchases and could reduce the shortfall the State would need to cover. As the State's funding is limited, any additional federal funds can help open funding for other local needs.

Furthermore, local food purchases have a multiplier effect on the local economy.

**Table 3. Economic multipliers for selected food and agricultural industries, Hawai'i.**

	Multipliers			
	Output (sales)	Earnings	State tax	Employment
Beef	1.90	0.51	0.063	24.20
Pork	1.90	0.51	0.063	24.20
Eggs	1.90	0.51	0.063	24.20
Fresh milk	1.90	0.51	0.063	24.20
Fresh fruits	1.95	0.58	0.075	31.20
Fresh vegetables	2.06	0.54	0.078	26.30

Source: The 2005 State of Hawaii Input-Output Study, August 2008, DBEDT.

Note: Beef, pork, eggs and milk are represented by a single sector in the 2005 Input-Output Model.

For example, an additional \$1 million in local fresh vegetable purchases will produce:

- \$2,060,000 in total economic activity in Hawai'i (from the actual direct purchase of vegetables plus the indirect ripple effect of additional input purchases such as water, seeds, energy and additional worker spending due to wages received from increased employment)
- \$540,000 in earnings for the vegetable farmer
- \$78,000 in additional state tax revenue
- An increase of 26.3 local jobs

If Hawai'i were to receive its appropriate allocation under the pre-determined formula, Hawai'i would receive additional tens of millions of dollars for school food purchases. We urge this committee to adopt this resolution to urge the federal government to increase the reimbursement rates for Hawai'i.

We appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support local food production. We believe that by collaborating we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta  
General Partner

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR62 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Sunday, March 15, 2015 4:22:57 PM

---

**SCR62**

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for EDU on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)