

HB-515-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 6:31:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

Local foods should be used. This means that each island should be to the best of its' ability providing foods to their own island. O`ahu large scale purchases and then sending to Mau`i or another island is not providing local grown.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 — 10:00 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 515 HD 1, Relating to School Food Programs.

Dear Chair Hashem and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

Ulupono supports HB 515 HD 1, which requires the State Auditor to audit the Department of Education's School Food Services Branch to determine how much local produce is being purchased and served to students.

Ulupono supports increasing local food within the Department of Education's school meal programs. We believe it is in the State's best interest to establish a baseline from which the Department of Education can make administrative decisions to increase locally grown food in our schools. We recommend adding further information to this audit to include detailed metrics similar to the annual report listed in HB 767. This audit should not preclude the Department of Education from moving forward with locally grown food procurement goals and objectives.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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February 17, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 515, HD1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Conference Room 325
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perusso, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 515, HD1, which requires the auditor to audit the department of education's school food services branch to determine how much local produce is being purchased and served to students.

HFB strongly supports the increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, and poultry products in our schools.

In previous sessions, when bills were introduced to remove the local agriculture preference and to return to exempting locally-grown agricultural products from the procurement code, HFB has requested clear metrics to help determine the success of the procurement code with the exemption.

Product purchase data help increase the purchase of more locally-grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, and poultry products for our Farm to School program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-515-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 9:49:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe Hammond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. Having an audit on the department of education's school food branch will help determine how much produce is being locally sourced. This will really put it into perspective that our schools would rather source there food elsewhere rather than locally. Since COVID-19 it has become so important to support local businesses. With this bill it may be eye opening and hopefully our schools will move towards sourcing there food from our local farmers instead.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/17/2021

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 325 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Agriculture

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0515, HD1 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the auditor to audit the department of education's school food services branch to determine how much local produce is being purchased and served to students. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 515, HD1 to have the State auditor conduct an audit of the School Food Services Branch to determine the amount of local produce being purchased and served to students.

The School Food Services Branch is currently performing its own internal audit to evaluate the amount of local product purchased since the 2019-2020 school year. Evaluating the prior year's procurements will assist the Department with assessing baseline amounts of local produce purchase prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.