

February 21, 2023

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 23, 2023
10:00 am
via Video Conference



RE: **HB248 HD2** Relating to Education (**Strong Support**)

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa & Committee Members,

Chamber of Sustainable Commerce offers this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB248 HD2, which requires the department of education to fully implement the farm to school (F2S) program and F2S meals program by the 2024-2025 school year, provides that complex area superintendents (CASs) have the authority to implement the F2S and F2S meals programs, requires certain school cafeteria supervisors to report directly to CASs, establishes school cafeteria supervisor positions, requires the office of talent management of the department of education to conduct a compensation review of school cafeteria supervisor positions and appropriates funds.

As business owners who believe we can strengthen our economy without hurting employees, consumers or the environment, we urge this committee to vote in favor of passing HB248 HD2 because everything we feed our children from knowledge to nutrition will have an immense return on our investment.

Too many of our schools' kitchens and culinary talent are underutilized. CAS's are the correct point person to identify available local food resources and talent. Schools themselves are centers of the community; local farmers already have relationships with schools in their district and are known food resources.

This bill has had three committee referrals in the House which offers sufficient discussion. We ask this committee to amend the counter-effective date of July 1, 3000, inserted by a previous committee; return to the original HB248 effective date of July 1, 2023.

**Hawaii
Legislative
Council**

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