

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: **HB250 HD1** Relating to Farm to School Procurement (**Strong Support**)

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa & Committee Members,

Chamber of Sustainable Commerce offers this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB250 HD1, which requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products.

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 HB250 HD1 because it would economically uplift our local farmers, nutritionally benefit our students and replenish our state budget.

Using state funds to purchase locally grown foods supports local taxpayers; it is an investment in a circular economy that will have exponential returns. Whereas, procuring foods from out of state, sends all the economic benefits out of our local economy. The financial gains Hawaii reaps as it shifts to local farm-to-school purchasing should be fully recognized and credited during any state procurement calculation and deliberation.

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 HB250 effective date of July 1, 2023.

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**Hawaii  
Legislative  
Council**

Maile Meyer  
Na Mea Hawaii  
Honolulu

Russel Rudderman  
Island Naturals  
Hilo / Kona

Tina Wildberger  
Kihei Ice  
Maui

Joell Edwards  
Wainiha Country Market  
Kauai

Kim Coco Iwamoto  
AQuA Rentals, LLC  
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