

**SB-1548**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:31:38 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2025 3:08:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

DOE needs more buying power to actualize local food goals. This is a good move for our farmers, for our students, for our teachers, and for Hawai'i. Please increase the DOE limits to match that of other Departments. Please invest in our food systems and our future generations!

**SB-1548**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:33:47 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2025 3:08:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faun Skyles	Testifying for Farm Link Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee on Education  
Hawai'i State Capitol

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee,

Farm Link Hawai'i strongly supports SB1548, which enhances the Department of Education's ability to procure locally grown food for Hawai'i's public schools. Increasing the small purchase procurement threshold will streamline purchasing, making it easier for schools to meet the state's goal of sourcing 30% local food by 2030.

This bill directly benefits Hawai'i's farmers, food producers, food hubs, and students by strengthening our local food system and ensuring fresh, locally sourced meals in schools. We urge your support for this measure.

Mahalo for your leadership and dedication to Hawai'i's food system.

Sincerely,  
Faun A. Skyles  
Culinary Director  
Farm Link Hawai'i



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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Friday, February 7, 2025 — 3:08 p.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports SB 1548, Relating to Department of Education Procurement.**

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

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

**Ulupono supports SB 1548**, which exempts Department of Education (DOE) purchases of local edible produce and packaged food products less than a certain amount from the electronic procurement system requirement and requires at least three written quotes for DOE purchases of local edible produce and packaged food products between certain amounts. This bill also requires at least two written quotes for DOE purchases of local edible produce and packaged food products between certain amounts for certain schools in rural communities.

Ulupono supports the State's farm-to-institution efforts, including the DOE's Farm to School Program, which has the potential to leverage the department's significant buying power to become one of the state's largest purchasers of local food (perhaps one day the largest) while also shaping the tastes, attitudes and eating habits of Hawai'i's keiki for healthy outcomes. The State has committed to local food procurement goals through 2050 (including the DOE's own statutorily required goal of 30% local by 2030), and it is important to provide opportunities for local producers to participate in institutional purchasing.

While the DOE's regional kitchen construction plans advance, the fact remains that these facilities won't be operational for many years. The department should seize current opportunities to strengthen relationships with local food producers. By engaging farmers now, we can align DOE's food requirements with local agricultural production and build supply chain capacity. This proactive approach not only serves today's students better

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*

than waiting for kitchen completion, but also sets up the regional kitchen strategy for long-term success — ensuring a robust supply chain is ready when these facilities open.

By expanding the small purchase exemption for the DOE, schools across the state will have an additional tool now to procure fresh products from local farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Mariah Yoshizu  
Government Affairs Associate

**SB-1548**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:55:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2025 3:08:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

My name is Jessica Sobocinski and I am currently an elementary school teacher, but have spend the last decade involved with the Farm to School movement in Hawai‘i as a garden educator and program director for a nonprofit organization focused on ending childhood obesity with food and nutrition education. I am deeply invested in local food security, and with providing children with healthy, appetizing, and culturally-appropriate food that are fresh and locally sourced. The small purchase procurement threshold has been a huge barrier for local producers and food distributors due to the formal competition and public advertising. Increasing the threshold would remove this barrier and make it significantly easier for these local producers and food distrubtors to get their foot in the door and their food on the plate. I strongly support this legislation as a step in helping Hawai‘i reach its state-mandated goal for 30% local food by 2030.

Mahalo,

Jess

**SB-1548**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:17:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2025 3:08:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Millikan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**To: Chair Kidani**

**Hearing: February 7, 2025 at 3:08PM**

**Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim and Education Committee Members,**

**Please support SB1548 to raise the Department of Education's (DOE) small purchase procurement limit from \$25,000 to \$100,000, in alignment with all other state departments.**

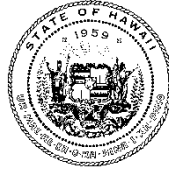
**This procurement change is essential to meeting Hawai'i's goal to source 30% of school food locally by 2030 (as mandated by Act 175, 2021 / HRS 302A-405.6) and more importantly to ensure our vision that every child in Hawai'i has access to fresh, nutritious, locally grown food.**

**Please support our young people, and our farmers, by eliminating this huge barrier for local producers.**

**Mahalo nui**

**Debbie Millikan**

**Honolulu, HI**



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII**  
**STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119  
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**TESTIMONY  
OF  
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ADMINISTRATOR  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
EDUCATION  
FEBRUARY 7, 2025, 3:08 p.m.**

**SENATE BILL 1548  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 1548, which raises the small purchase threshold and removes the requirement to use an electronic procurement system. The State Procurement Office (SPO) provides the following recommendations:

Change Section 2, page 2, lines 17-21, and page 3 lines, 1 – 11 to read:

§302A – Local edible produce and packaged local food products procurement; small purchases. Notwithstanding section 103D-305(c) and any law to the contrary, procurements less than \$100,000 for local edible produce and package local food products for the department shall be exempt from the requirement to conduct procurements through an electronic system and shall instead be subject to no less than three written quotes for procurement of \$25,000 to less than \$100,000; provided that the department may allow for no less than two written quotes for procurements of \$25,000 to less than \$100,000 for local edible produce and packaged local food products to supply schools in rural communities, as determined by the department, and provided further that if the department is unable to receive the required number of written quotations as required by this section, written justification shall be provided and kept by the department; provided that the department develop a form to capture the quotations in a uniform manner. All awards exceeding \$2,500 shall be posted electronically on the Hawaii Awards and Notice Data System, or similar department of education platform, and shall be compliant with Section 103D-310(c).

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.



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

**Date:** 02/07/2025

**Time:** 03:08 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Bill Title:** SB 1548 RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROCUREMENT.

**Purpose of Bill:** Exempts Department of Education purchases of local edible produce and packaged food products less than a certain amount from the electronic procurement system requirement. Requires at least three written quotes for Department of Education purchases of local edible produce and packaged food products between certain amounts. Requires at least two written quotes for Department of Education purchases of local edible produce and packaged food products between certain amounts for certain schools in rural communities. Sunsets 6/30/2028.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 1548.

Adjusting the Department's small purchase procurement capacity temporarily by increasing the threshold of \$100,000 for small purchase procurement, will help further support the goal of 30% locally sourced foods purchased by 2030. This will allow for the unencumbered purchase of locally produced foods from small businesses.

The Department recommends the following dollar amounts:

- (1) Exempting purchases of local edible produce and packaged food products less than \$100,000 from the electronic procurement system requirement;
- (2) Requiring no less than three written quotes for purchases of local edible produce and packaged food products of \$15,000 to less than \$25,000; and
- (3) Requiring no less than two written quotes for purchases of local edible produce and packaged



food products of \$5,000 to less than \$14,999 for certain schools in rural communities.

The Department appreciates the language in the bill that allows for a written justification in the instances where the required quotes are not able to be generated as a result of the limited number of vendors that can be a particular problem in our more rural communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

**SB-1548**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:58:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2025 3:08:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannette Soon-Ludes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Aloha kakou, I am writing in support of SB1548 as an individual citizen with experience as Executive Director of Mala'ai, a nonprofit based on Hawai'i Island dedicated to improving our students' access to garden education and connection with our local food system. At present, the Department of Education's (DOE) small purchase procurement limit is capped at \$25,000, making it more difficult for the DOE to procure locally-produced food by placing additional requirements on such purchases. Removing procurement barriers for purchases up to \$100,000 will support our local farmers and improve our students' access to locally-sourced food in their school meals. For this reason, I am in support of the proposed bill, which would raise the small purchase procurement limit from \$25,000 to \$100,000 and go a long way in supporting our state's goal to source 30% of school food locally by 2030. Me ka ha'a ha'a, Dr. Jeannette Soon-Ludes, PhD