

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM REPORT



REPORT TO THE 2011 LEGISLATURE

Report on
Status of Respective Purchases and Use of Locally-Produced Produce or other Hawaii
Agriculture Products

FY2010

HCR 289 HD1 (2010)

November 2010

Report to the 2011 Legislature on the Status of Respective Purchases and Use of Locally-Produced Produce or other Hawaii Agricultural Products

House Concurrent Resolution 289 HD1 (HCR 289 HD1) requests that the University of Hawaii report on the purchases and use of locally-produced produce or other Hawaii agricultural products. For the University of Hawaii Community Colleges, this resolution impacts the culinary programs and the cafeteria operations of the campuses. Unfortunately, the data requested by HCR 289 HD1 is not readily available from the accounting records of the programs. When produce or other Hawaii agricultural products are provided by wholesalers to the campuses, there are very few occasions where the campus could differentiate between local or other produce.

While some wholesalers may work with local farmers, their focus is to fill orders. Wholesalers are trying to provide the freshest produce at the least cost, often not considering the source of the product. Campuses with fine-dining programs may request a specific type of local produce. However, once the campus receives the product, it is not accounted for as "local" produce, but rather, as general items for resale (as all other food products are) for the culinary program. To report on the instances where a culinary program requested a specific type of local produce would create immense and undue hardship on fiscal staff who would have to manually cull through the numerous invoices to find the occasions in which this happens.

The primary concern of HCR 289 HD1 is for State public entities to commit to providing healthier and more nutritious meals in their programs. The University of Hawaii Community Colleges embrace this philosophy and focus on this direction in delivery of programs and services.