

**LATE**

Dear community leaders,

We strongly support the passage of HB2430 that would approve much needed funding for the seniors farmers market nutrition program. Over the years this program has provided valuable assistance to Hawaii's low-income seniors by supplementing their tables with fresh produce and connecting them to farmers markets that supply fresh locally grown food staples.

We're a fiscally sponsored project of the non-profit Feed the Hunger Foundation. We design and operate SNAP/food stamp/EBT friendly food access projects on Oahu.

We have heard it told to us countless times, at our station at the Honolulu Farmers Market and our Kupuna Farm Stand at West Loch Senior Village, that the dollars after paying for housing, medications, medical supplies, and other immediate living expenses, many seniors often have just a few dollars left for food. Those few dollars go to the cheapest food stuffs, often the food with the least nutritional value, made simply to fill an empty stomach. This is the reality of this bill. This the reality for thousands of seniors, the invisible impoverished.

By supporting nutritional health we are helping our seniors to maintain their hard won independence and also preventing and/or slowing the demand on medical services.

Over the years we at GreenWheel have seen the demand for the senior vouchers grow at the farmers markets. We have seen and talked with hundreds of seniors that have already benefited from and those who are waiting to benefit from this program in the coming year.

Roxanne Stark of Hawaii Food Bank has been doing an incredible job over the years in bringing this program into the markets and growing it. She has been there at the markets after hours and on weekends, tirelessly working with the seniors and the vendors, making it all connect and flow so that seniors can afford to purchase fresh vegetables, fruit, honey on their every shrinking budgets.

We stand by this program and ask you to stand by it too.

Respectfully yours,  
Lisa Asagi, Kasha Ho, Lisa Zeman and Nanette Geller  
GreenWheel Food Hub



Hawaii's Voice for a Better Future

**LATE**

HB2430  
HUS  
Tuesday, February 4, 2014  
9:30 a.m.  
Room 329

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

February 3, 2014

**Re: HB2430 Making an Appropriation for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program**

**In Support**

Dear Rep. Carroll, Rep. Kobayashi and members of the Committee:

This program, supported by the Hawaii Food Bank, has provided nutritional support to seniors for many years. We ask the Legislature to enable it to continue via the appropriation called for in this bill.

The appropriation supports the economy in general--not only does it ensure that seniors have access to fresh produce instead of less healthy and often more costly prepared and processed food, but the money circulates in Hawaii's economy instead of going through supermarkets and off to the Mainland.

Kokua Council recommends that the Committee approve this bill.

Larry Geller  
President, Kokua Council

The **Kokua Council** is one of Hawaii's oldest advocacy groups. Kokua Council seeks to empower seniors and other concerned citizens to be effective advocates in shaping the future and well-being of our community, with particular attention to those needing help in advocating for themselves. "We embrace diversity and extend a special invitation to any senior or intergenerational minded individual interested in advocating for these important issues in Hawaii."

**kobayashi1-Joni**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 04, 2014 9:44 AM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2430 on Feb 4, 2014 09:30AM\*



**HB2430**

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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