



Hawaii's Voice for a Better Future

LATE

HB2430
AGL/HMS
Tuesday, March 11, 2014
2:00 p.m.
Room 016

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

March 10, 2014

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

In Support

Dear Sen. Chun Oakland, Sen. Green, Sen. Nishihara, Sen. Kouchi and members of the Committees:

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."

nishihara1 - Amanda

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 6:11 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: nanette@pamper.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2430 on Mar 11, 2014 14:00PM

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HB2430

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/HMS on Mar 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanette Geller	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB2430. Farmers market vouchers enable low-income seniors to increase their consumption of healthful fresh produce. When the vouchers are used for locally-grown produce, that money goes directly to the farmers and remains in the community. It is estimated that every \$1 spent at a farmers market generates approximately \$1.70 in local economic activity.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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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

nishihara1 - Amanda

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 9:38 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2430 on Mar 11, 2014 14:00PM

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HB2430

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/HMS on Mar 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for advancing this measure and considering appropriating funds for Seniors' Farmers Markets.

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nishihara1 - Amanda

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 11:09 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: cmanfredi@kaufarmandranch.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2430 on Mar 11, 2014 14:00PM*

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HB2430

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/HMS on Mar 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Manfredi	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Yes

Comments:

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