

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**DOUGLAS S. CHIN**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**FEBRUARY 27, 2018**  
**12:00 P.M.**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2670 HD1**  
**RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

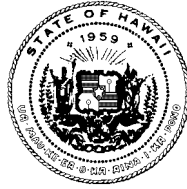
Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2670 HD1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to create a farmers' market dollar-for-dollar matching program promoting the purchase of Hawaii-grown fruits and vegetables for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget and offers comments.

The Department lacks the staff to manage the program at the operational level and intends to administer the program partnering with public and private agencies that have experience and success with similar programs on behalf of SNAP recipients. The Department believes the increased sales of locally grown fruits and vegetables will increase profits for Hawaii farmers statewide and would request that the program include other retail or direct food-to-customer venues such as supermarkets and hypermarkets.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 26, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2670 HD1 - RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 12:00 pm  
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill. The farmers' market dollar-for-dollar matching program helps Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants' increase their purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables by doubling the value of their benefits spent at farmers markets, provides more access to healthy fruits and vegetables, supports local farmers, and keeps food dollars in the local economy. DHS defers to the Department of Agriculture as to program development and implementation issues.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to require the Department of Agriculture to create a farmers' market dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

SNAP is 100 percent federally funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). While FNS supports healthy incentive projects, these projects run counter to SNAP "equal treatment" regulations, which specify that "no retail food store may single out SNAP participants using SNAP benefits for special treatment in any way." Farmers markets that plan to implement a bonus incentive project must inform FNS during their initial authorization or subsequent reauthorization to participate in SNAP.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
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February 27, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2670, HD1**  
RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Room 308  
12:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 2670, HD1**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to create a farmers' market dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

SNAP offers nutrition assistance to eligible, low-income individuals and families, increasing their food purchasing power and improving their nutrition. SNAP also provides economic benefits to farmers participating at farmers' markets, roadside stands and CSA programs.

Some of HFB's farmers' markets participate or have participated in the SNAP program. We believe that access to locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income individuals and families provides benefit to both SNAP participants and farmers. Instead of selling farm products to wholesalers or other distributors at a relatively low price, farmers can sell directly to the consumer at a price that is more profitable.

HFB believes that farmers' markets, roadside stands, and CSAs provide an alternative distribution method that is economically advantageous to farmers. We respectfully suggest that roadside stands and CSAs are also included in this program.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.



Date: February 26, 2018

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Trish La Chica, Policy and Advocacy Director, Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for HB 2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00 pm at Conference Room 308

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **Strong Support** of HB 2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Created by the legislature in 2012, the Obesity Prevention Task Force is comprised of over 40 statewide organizations, and works to make recommendations to reshape Hawai'i's school, work, community, and health care environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents. The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) convenes the Task Force and supports and promotes policy efforts to create a healthy Hawai'i.

Offered amendments:

1. HIPHI requests that Page 2, lines 16-19 be amended to include other direct food retailers in addition to farmers markets that participate in SNAP such as grocery stores and that incentive purchases be used for Hawaii-grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

**Page 2, lines 16-19:**

(b) Beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program who use food stamps for the purchase of Hawaii-grown fresh fruits and vegetables to make purchases at a farmers' market, including grocery stores, and other retailers that accept the voucher, shall receive a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$20 per month to be used exclusively for purchases at a farmers' market. including grocery stores, and other retailers that accept the voucher, .

2. HIPHI requests that the legislature consider renaming this program from "farmers market matching incentive program" to "Local Healthy Food incentive program" updating various sections as appropriate.

**Creating a dollar-for-dollar matching local produce incentive program is a simple yet powerful policy solution.**

HB 2670 is modeled after Double Up Food Bucks, a national program started by the Fair Food Network in 2009. Double Up Food Bucks provides a dollar-for-dollar match on the value of SNAP when spent on local fresh fruits and vegetables. Double Up is a win/win/win: low-income families bring home more healthy food, local farmers gain new customers and bring in more income, and more food dollars stay in the local economy. Double Up is a successful model being implemented in more than 20 states.

**Expanding this incentive program will benefit hundreds of families across the State.**

In Hawaii Island, a local pilot is already being implemented through the Food Basket's *DA BUX: Double Up Food Bucks* program. In partnership with KTA superstores, SNAP customers receive a 50% credit incentive at checkout. Since the pilot began in 2017, there have already been close to 3000 individual DA BUX transactions and an average sales increase of nearly 20% on incentivized produce<sup>i</sup>. DA BUX is currently being offered one week per month in the Big Island and an expansion of a similar statewide pilot program can improve healthy produce access to SNAP families in other islands and improve local agriculture in those communities. In FY2016, there were 176,729 individuals that participated in SNAP.

**An incentive program will improve the health and well-being of Hawai'i families.**

Incentivizing the use of SNAP dollars for fresh fruits and vegetables not only stretches food dollars for families, but it also brings home nutritious food that the entire family can enjoy. Crediting SNAP dollars creates room in the families' budget for other household and healthcare expenses so that food dollars can be spent on locally grown food such as taro, papaya, Hamakua mushrooms, and other produce instead of cheaper, unhealthy alternatives. With more than 25% of children 10-17 years old and 58% of adults in Hawai'i overweight or obese, HB 2670 can help to improve healthier dietary behaviors.

HB 2670 is a powerful and innovative measure that brings together Hawaii families, farmers, and local markets. It is a triple win for health, agriculture, and the local economy. We are in strong support of this measure and respectfully ask you to pass HB 2670 out of committee.

Mahalo,



Trish La Chica, MPA  
Policy and Advocacy Director

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<sup>i</sup> Data collected from September to December 2017, with 2983 individual DA BUX transactions over 4 months (one week per month).



February 27, 2018

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

**RE: STRONG SUPPORT HB2670 HD1** Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which is a way to provide increased access to healthy, local foods. We support this legislation because all members of our community should have the same opportunities to eat healthy, which will support their overall health and sense of well-being. Furthermore, from an economic position, this bill puts more money into our local farming community helping to create financial stability for farmers, which in turn strengthen entire community economies.

At Blue Zone Projects, we support healthy lifestyle habits through a variety of avenues including access to local and healthy sourced foods. This measure helps the people who receive SNAP benefits to purchase more healthy foods at farmers markets. It gives them a dollar per dollar match up to \$20, doubling their buying power when purchasing fresh, local fruits and vegetables. Similar programs have been funded on a smaller scale such as the one in Hawaii county with great success. Over the course of the four-month pilot on the Big Island, there was nearly a 20% increase in sales of the incentivized local, healthy fresh produce. There is a significant amount of support by all stakeholders, and they are staunch proponents of broadening this program statewide.

As Hawaii strives to find more food security, sustain its ever-growing population and explores pathways to strengthen its financial well-being, programs that benefit many aspects of the community need to be cultivated and broadened. We urge you to pass HB2670 HD1 in order to continue this important conversation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Peggy Mierzwa*

Peggy Mierzwa  
Statewide Policy Lead  
Blue Zones Project—Hawaii

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## **American Heart Association testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2670, HD1 “Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program”**

The American Heart Association supports HB 2670, HD 1, but suggests that that Page 2, lines 16-19 be amended to include other retailers in addition to farmers markets that participate in SNAP such as grocery stores and that incentive purchases be used for Hawaii-grown fresh fruits and vegetables..

For more than 50 years, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP – formerly Food Stamps) has been vital in addressing food insecurity and nutrition in the United States. It has an impact on health, educational attainment and economic self-sufficiency. The program helps more than 45 million Americans struggling through underemployment and low or stagnant wages. The majority of benefits go to households with children, older adults or those with disabilities.

Food insecurity and poor nutrition remain problems for millions of American households. Research shows that SNAP benefits are often not adequate to last a family the entire month. A 2016 report by the Food Research and Action Center summarized the important role SNAP plays in addressing food insecurity. Importantly, the majority of SNAP recipients who are eligible for work do so while on the program, underscoring that many recipients are using the program to overcome underemployment or temporary job loss.

Although diet quality has been steadily improving in the U.S. during the past two decades, overall dietary quality is still poor. Most significantly, there is a widening gap associated with education and income. Despite the important role SNAP plays in addressing hunger, additional data indicate that SNAP recipients have worse diet quality than income-eligible non-participants.

The Food, Nutrition, and Conservation Act of 2008 authorized \$20 million for pilot projects to evaluate health and nutrition promotion in SNAP to determine if incentives provided to SNAP recipients and point-of-sale increased the purchase of fruits and vegetables. Under HIP, 7,500 households in Hamden County, Massachusetts were randomly selected to receive a financial incentive for purchasing fruits and vegetables, while the remaining 47,595 households continued to receive SNAP benefits as usual. Overall, HIP participants purchased and consumed more fruits and vegetables. Retailers found the program easy to administer and they increased shelf space or display for fruits and vegetables in store.

The Agriculture Act of 2014 authorized the USDA to provide Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives (FINI) grants to eligible organizations to design and implement projects to increase produce purchases among low-income consumers participating in SNAP by providing incentives at point of purchase. Several Hawaii communities are currently receiving FINI grants to implement “double-bucks” programs and allow for the use of

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diseases and stroke.”*

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Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.





EBT payments for SNAP purchases at certain farmers' markets and commercial retailers. HB 2670, HD1 would supplement federal funding with state funding to expand those programs and to insure their sustainability.

"Double-bucks" programs match SNAP dollars spent on fresh fruits and vegetables with a financial benefit to local growers and food retailers. Low-income families bring home more healthy food, area farmers gain new customers and make more money, and more food dollars stay in the local economy. The "double-bucks" model is active at farmers' markets in 21 states. "Double-bucks" grocery programs are active in 13 states, including Hawaii.

The American Heart Association urges legislators to support HB 2670, HD1 with the suggested amendment and help reduce health disparities in our state by expanding access to fresh fruit and vegetables to those who might be economically challenged to afford access to those foods vital to improved health and reduced obesity.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald B. Weisman".

Donald B. Weisman  
Hawaii Government Relations/Communications Director

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free of cardiovascular  
diseases and stroke."*

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Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.







**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, February 27, 2018; 12:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

**RE: SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 2670, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 2670, House Draft 1, RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Establish a Farmers' Market Matching Incentive Program (Program) for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) within the Department of Agriculture (DOA);
- (2) Provide a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$20 per month for SNAP recipients who use food stamps to make purchases at a farmers' market;
- (3) Establish a Program Special Fund into which legislative appropriations, public and private grants, awards, and gifts be deposited and used to administer the Program and provide matching funds;
- (4) Appropriate \$300,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2018-2019, to be deposited into the Program Special Fund, to be expended by the DOA, for use in administering the Program and providing matching funds; and
- (5) Take effect on July 1, 3000.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 2670, House Draft 1**  
**Tuesday, February 27, 2018; 12:00 p.m.**  
**Page 2**

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of health.

As a member of the Obesity Prevention Task Force, the HPCA joins the Hawaii Public Health Institute and other advocates in support of efforts to promote healthy diets and the increased consumption of locally-grown vegetables and fruits in our schools and communities.

Accordingly, we urge your favorable consideration of this measure.

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



# HAWAII APPLESEED

## CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Supporting HB 2670 HD1– Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
House Committee on Finance  
Scheduled for hearing at on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 12:00 PM, in Conference Room 308

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Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of **HB 2670 HD1**, which would create a farmers' market dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The challenges of living in poverty pose greater risks to people's health than any other single or set of risk factors. Living in poverty has a direct, negative impact on people's health. One reason is that facing constant financial difficulties leads to chronic stress.

By providing monthly benefits to eligible low-income people to purchase food, SNAP plays a critical role in reducing hunger, malnutrition, and poverty, and improving family security, child and adult health, employment, and other outcomes.

Here in Hawai'i, with the highest food costs in the nation, our low-income and working-poor families especially need the support that SNAP provides. The program that SB 2398 would create would double the value of SNAP benefits when people use them to buy local fruits and vegetables.

In other words, it would help low-income and working-class families bring home more healthy fruits and vegetables while also supporting local farmers. In other states that have this program, evaluations have shown that families end up eating more and a larger variety of fruits and vegetables and as well as less junk food.

In addition, not only would this program expand local farmers' sales and customer base, but the U.S. Department of Agriculture (which runs SNAP) also estimates that every \$5 spent in SNAP benefits generates as much as \$9 in local economic activity.

We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

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*The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.*



February 25, 2018

To: To the House Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: **Strong Support for HB2670 HD1**

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12pm room 228

The Hawaii Public Health Association is a group of over 600 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA strongly supports **HB2670 HD1**, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets and other direct food retail venues such as grocery stores will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base. A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important health issues affecting people in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Holly Kessler'.

Holly Kessler, Executive Director  
Hawaii Public Health Association



**WAIANAЕ COAST  
COMPREHENSIVE  
HEALTH CENTER**  
www.wcchc.com

February 26, 2018

**Committee on Finance**

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

**Submitted by:** Mr. Richard Bettini, President & CEO, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2670 SD1 - Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2670 SD1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to create a farmers market dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) is Hawaii's largest and oldest federally qualified community health center and is the only safety-net provider serving the medically underserved along the Waianae Coast. The communities served are impoverished and 29% of families receive SNAP or other forms of public assistance, the highest rate in Hawaii. Our patients suffer from a variety of health disparities including diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease. Optimal nutrition and access to healthy foods is imperative, but often difficult, for our families. Fresh produce, especially local produce, is expensive, even with SNAP benefits.

To improve access to healthier foods, in 2008, WCCHC held the first Makeke Farmers Market in Waianae. *The primary purpose of the Mākeke Markets is to help cultivate a community that is healthy in mind, body and spirit by providing vibrant gathering places for the community, local food producers and Hawaiian cultural practitioners.* Since then, the Market has expanded to three locations along the Waianae Coast, serving about 2,000 people each week. The Makeke Markets were one of the first in the State to enable a SNAP recipient to use their EBT cards to purchase produce and other nutritious foods. Last year, the Market did almost \$140,000 in SNAP sales (the highest in the State) and doubled to almost \$72,000 of that amount of fresh locally sourced foods.

Numerous reports on programs across the U.S. that incentivize nutritious produce purchases among SNAP recipients, such as the "Double Bucks" programs, indicate that they are an effective way to encourage more fruit and vegetable purchasing, reduce hunger and supporting healthy diets. In light of these reports, in 2013, WCCHC sought and received its first grant enabling the WCCHC Farmer's markets to provide matching "Double Bucks" type produce coupons to SNAP recipients and those participating in WCCHC chronic disease management programs. The program has been very popular and very successful in motivating Waianae community members to purchase more fruits and vegetables.

The ongoing challenge has been acquiring the funding to sustain these effective incentive programs. Our Health Center has spent a great deal of time and effort to try to keep the program continuously funded, with mixed success.

As such, we strongly support HB2670 SD1, which will expand and sustain incentive-based produce purchasing programs for SNAP recipients, among our most vulnerable families in Hawaii.

Thank you for allowing us to provide this testimony.



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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Tuesday, February 27, 2018 — 12:00 p.m. — Room 308

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2670 HD 1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better management of waste and fresh water. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

**Ulupono strongly supports HB 2670 HD 1**, which creates a dollar-for-dollar matching program for the supplemental nutrition assistance program at farmers' markets, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

Local food is often some of the healthiest and most nutritious foods that Hawai'i's residents can eat. Yet, local food is often slightly more expensive, making it more difficult for residents to obtain in lower socioeconomic areas of our state. Therefore, residents with lower incomes often consume cheaper and healthier food options, leaving them particularly vulnerable to health-related issues. This matching program by the State can leverage federal government support to help those lower socioeconomic residents be able to access locally produced foods that they are likely to not otherwise be able to partake.

At Ulupono, we believe in organizations, public and private, working together on common goals. Through coordination between the federal government's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the State's matching funds, and our local farmer's markets, the public sector is collectively coming together to address poverty, health, and local food production.

From the farmer's perspective, they will grow more local food as demand for their products increase. Through being able to sell their products at farmers markets to a new clientele, farmers are able to obtain more revenue, incentivizing them to grow more local food. Increased local food production will help the state to become more self-sufficient. Hawai'i currently imports the vast majority of its foods.

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As Hawai'i's local food issues become more complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

We believe that by collaborating, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta  
General Partner

**HB-2670-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:26:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII'**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

12:00 P.M.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

RE: Testimony in Support of HB **2670 HD1**, RELATING TO  
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Good afternoon. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii ("DPH"). Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. **2670 HD1** relating to Department of Agriculture; SNAP; Farmers' Markets; Matching Incentive Plan; and an appropriation.



The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in support of House Bill No. **2670 HD1** and is in favor of its passage.

House Bill No. **2670 HD1** is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the Department of Agriculture to create a farmers' market dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "[w]e support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among all age groups, as well as on better nutrition." (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 378-380 (2016)).

As House Bill No. **2670 HD1** requires the Department of Agriculture to create a farmers' market dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

**HB-2670-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 4:45:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
PHC HNL	Pioneering Healthier Communities of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

February 24, 2018

From: Pioneering Healthy Communities – Honolulu

Re: HB2670 HD1

The Pioneering Healthier Communities Initiative brings together local, diverse leaders to discuss and support strategies, policies and programs that we can accomplish together to build healthier communities in our island home. The Honolulu Committee was established in 2009. The members of PHC of Honolulu are involved in helping children and families to become healthier through schools, afterschool programs, healthcare and community initiatives such as farmer’s markets.

Our State today is in the middle of an epidemic of obesity and chronic disease such as diabetes. The risk begins in early childhood; today about 1/3 of children are overweight or obese. In many of our rural and low-income communities, the problem is much more prevalent and more severe. This translates to thousands of children, adolescents and young adults with significant chronic disease risk in each of our communities.

If we are serious about supporting health, tackling healthcare costs and creating vibrant, more productive communities in Hawaii, ***we must prevent obesity-related chronic diseases before they start.*** This will take a sustained, comprehensive strategy involving every aspect of our society – including government, business, healthcare, employers, schools, childcare and more. It also includes making fresh foods, especially fruits and vegetables, more accessible to our community members.

Numerous report on programs across the U.S. that incentivize nutritious produce purchases among SNAP recipients, such as the “Double Bucks” programs, indicate that they are an effective way to encourage more fruit and vegetable purchasing, reduce hunger and supporting healthy diets. In light of these reports, in 2013 WCCHC sought and received its first grant enabling WCCHC Farmer’s market to provide matching “Double Bucks” type produce coupons to SNAP recipients and those participating in WCCHC chronic disease management programs. The program has been very popular

and very successful in motivating Waianae community members to purchase more fruits and vegetables.

We also are aware of positive economic, education, and environmental benefits of this type of program. As such, we strongly urge you to pass this Bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Paula Adams

Michael Broderick

Joy Barua

Jennifer Dang

Stacy Evensen

Daniel Leung

Ray L'Heureux

Michael Libertini

John Mai

May Okihiro

Tina Tamai

Diane Tabangay



Feb. 25, 2018

To: House Finance Committee

Fr: Kristin Frost Albrecht, Interim Executive Director  
The Food Basket, Hawaii Island's Food Bank

**Testimony in Strong Support of HB 2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

Good Afternoon, House Finance Committee,

My name is Kristin Frost Albrecht and I am the Interim Executive Director of The Food Basket Inc., Hawaii Island's Food Bank. Our mission is to "End hunger in Hawaii County". We strongly support this bill.

The Food Basket has been pioneering dollar for dollar matching programs for locally grown produce on the Big Island for since 2014. We deeply believe the passage of this bill will provide much needed food cost relief for low income families and access to locally grown fresh vegetables and fruit that they otherwise couldn't afford.

The Food Basket operates a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program called *Ho`olaha Ka Hua* "DA BOX" that provides a box of produce featuring 7-8 locally grown vegetables and fruit once a week, year round and island wide. We source produce from over 55 Big Island farmers and provide SNAP customers an incentive price that allows them to access locally grown produce that otherwise would be too expensive to purchase on a weekly basis. (SNAP stands for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program formerly known as food stamps.) With the nutrition incentive dollar for dollar matching program we've grown our program to nearly 200 customers a week, with over half of those being SNAP customers.

We have also just completed a pilot project with KTA Superstores with our Double Up Food Bucks "DA BUX" program that provides a 50% discount on Big Island grown produce on the third week of the month at Point of Sale (POS) at the grocery store check-out for SNAP customers. In our 4 month pilot we saw the SNAP sales of eligible DA BUX produce increase nearly 20% on average - and with little to no advertising.

Finally, we also operate DA BUX at 4 farmers markets on Hawaii Island - 2 in West Hawaii and 2 in East Hawaii again on the 3rd week of the month providing a \$1 for \$1 match on Hawaii Island grown produce to SNAP customers.

During our 4 month pilot period in East Hawaii, our programs brought in \$40,000 on sales of Big Island grown produce with \$20,000 of that being federal nutrition incentive dollars going back

into our local economy, benefitting our island farmers, low income residents and improving food security. Given both grocery store sales and farmers market sales were limited to one week and one day of the month respectively, expansion of this program statewide with multiple outlets and extended program implementation times, would be hugely beneficial for farmers and low income consumers.

### **Why we support this bill:**

- Double Up Food Bucks helps Hawaii's low-income families eat more fruits and vegetables while supporting Hawaiian farmers and growing local economies.
- It provides an immediate incentive for cash-strapped families to purchase quality fresh produce. For instance, if a family spends \$20 in their SNAP benefits at the farmers market, they get \$20 in Double Up Food Bucks to spend on locally grown fruits and vegetables. This means they bring home \$40 of healthy food for just \$20.
- Double Up Food Bucks is a win/win/win and provides great benefits to 3 sectors: Low-income families eat more healthy food, our farmers gain new customers and make more money, and more food dollars stay in our local economy. Each has a positive ripple effect of benefits.

### **Communities & Farm Income:**

- Double Up helps our local family farmers and island communities.
- With this program, farmers gain new customers and make more money. This stimulates production and sends positive economic ripples throughout our local farms.
- Double Up Food Bucks DA BUX also provides an important market for beginning farmers, helping them grow their businesses.
- Fact: Last year, our Double Up Food Bucks DA BUX program benefitted over 55 farmers on the Big Island.

### **Economic Development:**

- Double Up Food Bucks is a powerful way to stimulate our local economy.
- Doubling federal nutrition benefits on locally grown produce keeps more food dollars circulating in our community, creating jobs and economic opportunity.

### **The Public Health Benefits:**

- Double Up Food Bucks is designed to meet families' immediate needs for healthy food while also supporting healthier communities by addressing the underlying causes of poor diet in both urban and rural communities.
- With Double Up, federal nutrition dollars work harder—simultaneously reducing hunger while supporting healthier diets for SNAP households, which can support long-term healthcare savings.

**Hunger:**

- Low-income families should not have to choose between being hungry and being healthy. With programs like Double Up Food Bucks, they don't have to make that choice.
- This is a practical, bipartisan approach to improving the health impact of the SNAP program in our state.

**What our customers say about Double Up Food Bucks DA BUX:**

*"The DA BUX Double Up Food Bucks program has been the best food option for our family because it allows us to bring home and prepare twice as many healthy meals. I support state funding to expand the DA BUX Double Up Food Bucks program to connect with more families who want to prepare healthier meals.*

*Steve Motherwell (Big Island)*

*I LOVE DA BUX program as it helps us to purchase more fresh, healthy foods and experience new foods we wouldn't normally try.*

*Mahalo!*

*Laura (Big Island)*

We respectfully ask your committees to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kristin Frost Albrecht



**HB-2670-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:59:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike	Community First	Support	No

Comments:

On Hawaii Island a community coalition called Let's Make SNAP Happen (LMSH), which includes Community First, Food Basket, UHH College of Pharmacy, KTA Super Stores, Blue Zones Project, Hawaii Community College, and Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has come together to increase SNAP enrollment throughout the County. We have made significant progress in raising the awareness of how much economic benefit is lost when people who need help in purchasing food do not use their benefits. We are currently working with DHHS to simplify the SNAP application form as the first step in our enrollment campaign. We estimate that as much as \$30 million in economic activity could be added to Hawaii Island's economy if we came close to having 100% participation.

The Double Bucks programs would magnify the community benefit of the enrollment campaign. It would increase the value of participation. People would be incented to eat more healthy foods, and local farmers would have more demand for their produce. We strongly support HB 2670 HD1.



**HB-2670-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 12:07:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carol R. Ignacio	Blue Zones Project	Support	No

Comments:

We strongly support this Bill.

Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 12:00pm  
Conference Room 308

**House Committee on Finance**

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson  
Vice President & Government Relations

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2670 HD 1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

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My name is Michael Robinson and I am Vice President and Government Relations at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system with over 70 locations statewide including medical centers, clinics, physicians and other caregivers serving Hawai'i and the Pacific Region with high quality, compassionate care. Its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox – specialize in innovative programs in women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, cancer care, bone and joint services and more. Hawai'i Pacific Health is recognized nationally for its excellence in patient care and the use of electronic health records to improve quality and patient safety

I testify in support of HB 2570 HD 1 which creates a healthy produce incentive program in the Department of Agriculture for SNAP participants. The program would give those on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) a dollar-for-dollar match of up to \$20 for the purchase of local fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets which would benefit both SNAP participants and local farmers.

This farmers' market incentive program doubles the purchasing power of Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs estimated to be 61% higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP participants spend their SNAP dollars at large national discount food chains on cheap processed food because many lower income families can't afford healthier options. Evaluation data from similar programs in other states have shown that such programs effectively support low-income families in affecting improvements in their dietary behaviors.

Nutrition incentives increase sales and farm income by increasing local farmers' customer base, effectively keeping federal funding circulating in our local economy. Using the USDA's economic multiplier coefficients, the \$1.6 million in SNAP at Hawai'i

farmers' markets (2016) generates nearly double the economic impact, by encouraging more spending by local businesses.

Hawai'i Pacific Health is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the people of Hawai'i. This measure will improve the nutritious food options available to low-income families. Healthy dietary behavior is a huge determinant of long term health outcomes. Through incentivizing the purchase of local fresh produce, this program will also decrease healthcare costs over these families lifetimes.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of HB 2670 HD 1.

Larry and Nanette Geller  
Honolulu, HI 96817

HB2670  
WAM  
Tuesday, February 27, 2018  
12:00 p.m.  
Room 308

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

February 25, 2018

**Re: HB2670 Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

**In Strong Support—with suggested change**

Dear Rep. Luke, Rep. Cullen and members of the Committee:

Several other states have matching programs to encourage low income recipients of federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to purchase healthy produce at farmers’ markets. This bill is intended to create the framework for a statewide matching program in Hawaii.

Eating healthy reduces the incidence and social cost of obesity and diseases such as diabetes.

**Technical change:** page 2 lines 16-19 is unclear. Suggest change to require that the Department of Agriculture establish a minimum limit of \$20 per month. This will allow the DOA to adjust the limit upwards as the budget and potential federal grants may require. Note below that California, among other states, has received grant money which may be applied to these incentive programs. We would want Hawaii to make the maximum use of any federal funds without the need for additional legislation.

**Importance of the direct-to-consumer model**

**Sales at farmers’ markets go 100% into the pockets of local farmers**—no profits are sent out-of-state by supermarket chains. An additional benefit of increased SNAP sales at farmers’ markets is that federal money remains in Hawaii and circulates in the economy. SNAP and incentive programs increase the income for local food producers.

Locally-owned retailers, such as farmers markets, **return more than three times as much of their sales to the local economy** compared to chain competitors.



Each \$1 in SNAP is calculated to provide \$1.79 in local economic activity. Farmers pay for supplies and labor using the federal funds SNAP brings to the state. Matching programs help increase farm income and widen their customer base. Strengthening farm income contributes to goals related to farm sustainability in Hawaii.

SNAP users who shop in farmers’ markets buy produce which is fresher and cheaper than even the same products from the same farm sold in supermarkets. They not only buy local produce but may buy other locally-produced food products sold at the markets. In supermarkets they will buy more processed food originating out-of-state and of questionable nutritional value.

Farmers markets provide the best access to fresh fruits and vegetables for at-risk populations (obesity, diabetes, etc.). Hawaii has a year-round growing season and a wide selection of fruits and vegetables that are picked fresh for the farmers' market. Because produce is fresher than in supermarkets it keeps longer and is likely more nutritious. Once shoppers become familiar with the range of produce available, they will not rely so much on highly processed, sugar- and salt-laden prepared food. The health benefits are clear. Prices are competitive with and often cheaper than in supermarkets. **Fresher, cheaper and healthier—how much better can it get?**

## Federal support

Last year the USDA awarded a \$3.9 million Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) grant—the largest in the country—to California, to expand their healthy eating program at farmers' markets. The stated purpose of the USDA awards is to incentivize low-income shoppers to spend their SNAP benefits on locally-grown fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Another objective is to encourage SNAP recipients to become life-long produce consumers. Clearly, forming the habit of shopping for fresh produce and cooking it at home will have a positive impact on health.

This bill establishes a special fund that would receive similar grants (“any public or private grants, awards, or gifts for the purpose of the farmers' market matching incentive program”).

## How incentive programs work

Incentive programs, in their simplest form, provide SNAP participants with matching funds to purchase SNAP-eligible food items.

Some programs provide a dollar-to-dollar match while others establish certain limits. There may be a cap to the match, for example, up to \$10 per day.

The possibility of private or federal grants is very real because the USDA is supporting these matching programs. The California FINI grant is but one example.

Let's bring these grants to Hawaii. This bill should set the groundwork to do that.

--Larry and Nanette Geller / Honolulu

## USDA Awards Nation's Largest Grant to Expand California Healthy Eating Program to More Farmers' Markets

August 9, 2017 by Ecology Center



[PRESS RELEASE] – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA) and its partners a \$3.9 million Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) grant – the largest in the country. FINI grants are designed to increase the

purchase of fruits and vegetables among low-income people participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (aka SNAP, formerly food stamps).



**HB-2670-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 10:16:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2670-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:55:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
C. Azelski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2670 for long-term health and economic benefits.

**HB-2670-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 5:45:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bev Brody	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



Date: February 24, 2018

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: **SUPPORT for HB2670 HD1**, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

Respected Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in strong **SUPPORT of HB2670 HD1** that will improve access to affordable, healthful, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program made available in farmers' markets and other direct food retail venues such as grocery stores will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawai'i's low-income families.

Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Fresh produce incentives will also improve healthful eating behaviors among Hawai'i's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawai'i than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced, less healthful options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart disease, diabetes and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthful produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and good for the economy.

I strongly **support HB2670 HD1** and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD  
Keaau, HI

**HB-2670-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 11:57:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paula Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2670-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:01:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Often low income families cannot afford the quality fruits and vegetables essential to their famiy's Health! Please support this important bill; which also supports local farmers!

**HB-2670-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 1:14:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dan Domizio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Increasing the buying power for healthy fruits and vegetables in our most vulnerable community members is a dramatic and forward seeing initiative. It will put the purchase of the best dietary elements in the hands of those who make the purchases most directly.

I urge you to pass HB2670 HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dan Domizio PA-C Emeritus

**HB-2670-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 1:40:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maria Teresa Belardo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. This is a much needed resource in our community especially with our Kupuna. Please pass this bill. Mahalo!

**From:** [danamh@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:danamh@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Dana Hazelton](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 11:40:52 AM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases. Many years ago, my child and I were the recipients of SNAP benefits. For a brief period of time I could use them to buy produce at farmers markets, which gave us the opportunity and incentive to make healthy food choices. I remember thinking, how akamai our government was for creating this opportunity! Farmers markets are a great way to connect with other families, your community, our farmers, and give children a place to actually experience the bounty of our land.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Dana Hazelton, BS, RN  
Health Program/Campus Grant Coordinator, Kauai Community College

Sincerely,  
Dana Hazelton  
Koloa, HI 96756

**From:** [tenayajackman@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:tenayajackman@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Tenaya Jackman](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 10:52:01 AM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Tenaya Jackman  
Honolulu, HI 96815

**From:** [kalikoamona@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:kalikoamona@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Kaliko Amona](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 10:35:02 AM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Kaliko Amona  
Haleiwa, HI 96712



**From:** [pracs@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:pracs@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Charles Racsa](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 10:30:08 AM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Charles Racsa  
Honolulu, HI 96825

**From:** [snharris@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:snharris@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Stephen Harris](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 8:59:39 AM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Harris  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**From:** [laksmi.abraham@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:laksmi.abraham@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Laksmi Abraham](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 10:00:37 AM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Laksmi Abraham  
Wailuku, HI 96793

**From:** [danielle@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:danielle@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Danielle Mitchell](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 8:50:22 AM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Danielle Mitchell  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [Jenna22@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:Jenna22@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Jenna Lee](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 8:26:10 AM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Jenna Lee  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [pualei.kaohelauii@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:pualei.kaohelauii@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Pualei Kaohelauii](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 8:13:32 AM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Pualei Kaohelauii  
Kekaha, HI 96752

**From:** [kmedeiros@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:kmedeiros@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Kendra Medeiros](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 7:28:51 AM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Kendra Medeiros  
Lanai City, HI 96763

**From:** [keawe9@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:keawe9@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Keawe Kaholokula](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 6:33:05 AM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Keawe Kaholokula  
Honolulu, HI 96826



**From:** [77coconuts@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:77coconuts@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Jen Azuma Chrupalyk](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Sunday, February 25, 2018 7:31:05 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Jen Azuma Chrupalyk  
Wailuku, HI 96793

**From:** [eocb44@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:eocb44@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Erin Bantum](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Sunday, February 25, 2018 5:29:00 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Erin Bantum  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**From:** [selene.legare@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:selene.legare@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Selene LeGare](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Sunday, February 25, 2018 4:34:59 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

I teach a college-level Health Promotion course for Community Health Workers, with students ranging in age from 18 to 70. Cost is the number one barrier to healthy eating for my students -- and the number one barrier that they see in their communities.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Selene LeGare  
Kahului, HI 96732

**From:** [hilarysfnceveryactioncustom.com](mailto:hilarysfnceveryactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Hilary Smith](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Sunday, February 25, 2018 12:55:32 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Hilary Smith  
Kamuela, HI 96743

**From:** [lcoltin@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:lcoltin@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Lilian Coltin](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Sunday, February 25, 2018 12:22:28 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Lilian Coltin  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**From:** [jeanniebutel@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:jeanniebutel@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Jean Butel](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Sunday, February 25, 2018 9:13:17 AM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Jean Butel  
Honolulu, HI 96815

**From:** [heatheramohr@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:heatheramohr@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Heather Mohr](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Sunday, February 25, 2018 9:02:15 AM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Heather Mohr  
Honolulu, HI 96825

**From:** [atrinh3@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:atrinh3@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Alan Trinh](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 11:32:42 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Alan Trinh  
Hilo, HI 96720



**From:** [bmih@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:bmih@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Bryan Mih](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 11:12:37 PM

---

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Bryan Mih  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [luluhand6@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:luluhand6@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Alexis Hand](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 10:00:16 PM

---

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Alexis Hand  
Makawao, HI 96768

**From:** [angelina@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:angelina@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Angelina Mercado](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 9:30:16 PM

---

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Angelina Mercado  
Honolulu, HI 96819

**From:** [william.digiorgio@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:william.digiorgio@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [william digiorgio](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 9:16:29 PM

---

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
william digiorgio  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**From:** [shay.chanhodges@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:shay.chanhodges@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Shay Chan Hodges](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 8:48:44 PM

---

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Shay Chan Hodges  
Haiku, HI 96708

**From:** [cricketlachica@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:cricketlachica@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Christopher La Chica](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 6:30:04 PM

---

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Christopher La Chica  
Mililani, HI 96789

**From:** [mauimindfulness@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:mauimindfulness@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Tanya Gabriel](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 5:21:22 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Tanya Gabriel  
Kihei, HI 96753

**From:** [katbumatay@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:katbumatay@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Katherine Bumatay](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 5:06:02 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Bumatay  
Keaau, HI 96749



**From:** [harmonee@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:harmonee@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Harmonee Williams](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 4:32:53 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

On Molokai, we would implement Double Bucks through our Mobile Market, which buys produce directly from local farmers and sells it directly to local consumers. We have over 64% of our population receiving SNAP, which means this bill could impact MOST of our population - both consumers and producers - in a positive way. Healthy lifestyles. Healthy economy.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Harmonee Williams  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

**From:** [barbrick@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:barbrick@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Barbara Nosaka](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 4:24:33 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Nosaka  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [maren.anka@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:maren.anka@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Maren Anka](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 4:17:17 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

Aloha and mahalo for taking the time to read this. I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). We need more fresh produce in our diets-not less!

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Maren Anka  
Makawao, HI 96768

**From:** [mgoldsworthy@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:mgoldsworthy@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Mary Goldsworthy](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 4:14:02 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Mary Goldsworthy  
Tampa, FL 33617

**From:** [kellar@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:kellar@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Michael Kellar](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 4:07:09 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Michael Kellar  
Honolulu, HI 96821

**From:** [aborrego@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:aborrego@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Alyson Borrego](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 3:52:21 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Alyson Borrego  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**From:** [cindy\\_artemis13@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:cindy_artemis13@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Cynthia Chow](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 3:50:02 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Chow  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**From:** [kbraun2000@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:kbraun2000@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Kathryn Braun](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 3:36:26 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

I am professor and director of Public Health at the University of Hawai'i, testifying as an individual. Research shows that individuals who consume 5 or more fruits and vegetables are better able to control their weight than individuals who do not have a diet high in produce. Obesity is a leading cause of chronic disease, and these diseases can lead to absenteeism from school and work, as well as long-term disability and morbidity. Thus, obesity is very costly in the long run because of high costs of care needed by people who are obese. The Double Bucks program will help low-income families increase the number of fruits and vegetables they eat and thus help control obesity. This program also has benefits for local farmers.

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Braun  
Honolulu, HI 96813



**From:** [mgagen@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:mgagen@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Marilyn Gagen](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 3:22:18 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Gagen  
Kamuela, HI 96743

**From:** [patriciablair@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:patriciablair@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Patricia Blair](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 3:33:22 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Blair  
Kailua, HI 96734

**From:** [dgkahalas@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:dgkahalas@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Tyler Ralston](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 3:19:48 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Tyler Ralston  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**From:** [keikidoc1998@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:keikidoc1998@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Jenny Welham](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 3:09:36 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Jenny Welham  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**From:** [hbonmaui@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:hbonmaui@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Helen Barrow](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 3:08:14 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Yay !! What a wonderful way to help people get the healthy food they want at an affordable price. Also this is great that it supports our local farmers!

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Helen Barrow  
Makawao, HI 96768

**From:** [cvoss12@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:cvoss12@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Courtney Berlin](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 2:55:52 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Courtney Berlin  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

**From:** [eldavis@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:eldavis@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Elise Dela Cruz-Talbert](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 2:42:51 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Elise Dela Cruz-Talbert  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**From:** [melanie@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:melanie@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Melanie Sumida](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2018 2:51:15 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Melanie Sumida  
Honolulu, HI 96816



**From:** [vyontz@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:vyontz@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Valerie Yontz](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 1:28:22 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308  
Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Valerie J Yontz, RN, MPH, PhD  
[vyontz@hawaii.edu](mailto:vyontz@hawaii.edu)

Sincerely,  
Valerie Yontz  
Kailua, HI 96734

**From:** [jfernandez.rx@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:jfernandez.rx@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [JACK FERNANDEZ](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 12:52:16 PM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

I especially feel this will benefit our local small business owners as well as ensuring that the SNAP benefits are being used for healthy items and not being abused or diverted.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
JACK FERNANDEZ  
Honolulu, HI 96826

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Wil Okabe  
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow  
Deputy Managing Director

## County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 26, 2018

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**LATE**

Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Finance  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

**Re: HB 2670, HD 1 Relating to SNAP**  
**Hearing Date: 02/27/18 – 12:00 pm; House Conference Room 308**

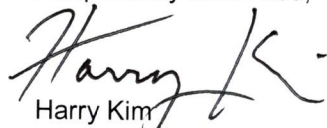
Thank you for this opportunity to support HB2670, HD 1.

It is my understanding that HB 2670, HD 1 proposes to build on a Big Island pilot program that was launched by food retailer KTA and our local Food Basket. By providing funds that can only be used to purchase locally-grown produce, food stamp recipients are incentivized to buy healthy fruits and vegetables; local farmers gain new customers and make more money; and more food dollars stay in the local economy.

The Senate companion bill, SB 2398, SD 1, also limits purchases to fresh fruit and vegetables, but would seem to somewhat dilute the "local" aspect of the program by allowing the purchase at institutions that may be acquiring their produce from overseas suppliers. I am not sure that is a positive amendment, but at least the food stamp users would still be seeing nutritional benefits. Or perhaps it is possible to open the program to all retailers but limit the use of the bonus stamps to local produce only, rather than all "fresh" produce regardless of source.

I defer to others whether HB 2670, HD 1, or SB 2398, SD 1, is a better approach. Perhaps the third option—all retailers participate but only local produce qualifies—would be even better. In any case, I think this is a program that should be encouraged, and I hope you will act favorably on this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Harry Kim  
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

**LATE**

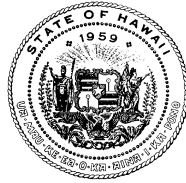
**HB-2670-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 3:18:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cory Chun	American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network	Support	No

Comments:



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**LATE**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 2670 HD1  
RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 27, 2018

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the Department of Agriculture  
2 (DOA) regarding the implementation and fiscal impacts of this bill, and to the Governor's  
3 Supplemental Budget Request for appropriations priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** The DOH supports the intent of House Bill 2670 House Draft 1 (H.B.  
5 2670 HD1) to establish a nutrition incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental  
6 Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

7 Major health authorities (including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Centers for  
8 Disease Control, and the World Health Organization) recommend increasing fruit and vegetable  
9 intake as a means to prevent chronic disease and improve overall health.<sup>1,2,3</sup> However, access to  
10 fresh produce for income-limited individuals can be difficult and is one of the reasons why they  
11 often have poorer diets and higher rates of chronic disease than middle class and wealthy

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture. *2015 – 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. December 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Strategies to Prevent Obesity and Other Chronic Diseases: The CDC Guide to Strategies to Increase the Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables*. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2011.

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization. *Healthy Diet Fact Sheet N°394*. Web. Updated September 2015.

1 individuals.<sup>4,5</sup> This bill would double Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)  
2 recipients purchasing power when they use their benefits to purchase local fruits and vegetables.

3 Nutrition incentive programs similar to the one proposed in this bill are prevalent around  
4 the United States, and similar bills have been passed in six other states. Nutrition incentives are  
5 often touted as a “win-win-win” for farmers, families, and local businesses. Data from these  
6 interventions have shown improvements in dietary behaviors, reduction in household hunger and  
7 food insecurity, and increased sales of local produce (by more than their dollar value alone).<sup>6,7,8</sup>  
8 In Hawaii, less than one in five adults reported eating five or more fruits and vegetables a day  
9 (2015 Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System). The DOH supports H.B. 2670 HD1 as one  
10 component of a comprehensive approach to improve the availability and accessibility of healthy  
11 foods to improve health outcomes for people in Hawaii, especially for people who face greater  
12 health disparities.

13 Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

14

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<sup>4</sup> Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Hawaii State Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2016.

<sup>5</sup> Simmet, Anja et al. *The Dietary Quality of Food Pantry Users: A Systematic Review of Existing Literature*. Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Volume 117, Issue 4, 563 – 576.

<sup>6</sup> Fitzgerald, Katherine. *Double Up in Farmers’ Markets: The Consumer Experience*. Fair Food Network, 2015.

<sup>7</sup> Mann, J., et al. *Economics of healthy food incentives at Michigan farmers markets: Study highlights*. Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems, 2017.

<sup>8</sup> Fitzgerald, Katherine. *Double Up Food Bucks and Hunger*. Fair Food Network, 2015.

**LATE**

February 27, 2018

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

From: Mandy Finlay, Director of Public Policy  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **HB 2670, HD1 – Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308, February 27, 2018, 12:00 PM**

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**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to strongly support HB 2670, HD1, which creates a dollar-for-dollar matching program for the supplemental nutrition assistance program at farmer's markets.**

This measure would help low-income families to make healthier choices with their meals. In Hawaii, more than one in four kindergartners are overweight or obese. As a state, we spend an estimated \$470 million annually on obesity-related medical costs. Hawaii's children also have one of the highest rates of dental caries (cavities) in the nation, double the national average. These figures underscore the need to improve access to healthy food and beverages to ensure that the children of Hawaii can make healthy choices to prevent obesity and dental decay.

Hawaii has the highest food costs in the nation and fresh, locally-grown produce is often more costly than processed foods. By creating double the value of SNAP benefits when purchasing fresh produce at the farmer's market, this measure would make healthy food a more affordable option and help to alleviate the negative health outcomes associated with poverty, leading to healthier keiki.

**For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee vote to pass this bill.**

**LATE**

**From:** [mkyono@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:mkyono@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Mae Kyono](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:01:36 AM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Mae Kyono  
Honolulu, HI 96826



**LATE**

**From:** [john.s.ishoda@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:john.s.ishoda@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [John Ishoda](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:56:21 AM

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Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
John Ishoda  
Honolulu, HI 96817