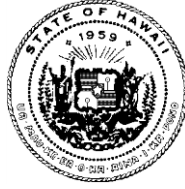


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT  
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

March 19, 2018

TO: The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2670 HD2 - RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Hearing: Monday, March 19, 2018, 1:45p.m.  
Conference Room 224, State Capitol

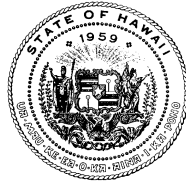
**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill. The farmers' market dollar-for-dollar matching program helps Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants' increase their purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables by doubling the value of their benefits spent at farmers markets, provide more access to healthy fruits and vegetables, support 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 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.



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 2670 HD2  
RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: March 19, 2018

Room Number: 224

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 House Bill 2670 House Draft 2 (H.B. 2670 HD2)  
5 to establish a nutrition incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition  
6 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 the 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 HD2 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.

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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.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
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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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

**MARCH 19, 2018  
1:45 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2670 HD2  
RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Chairperson Gabbard, Chairperson Green and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2670 HD2, which requires the Department of Agriculture to develop and administer a local health food incentive program promoting the purchase of fruits and vegetables for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Department supports 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 will benefit SNAP recipients who use food stamps at a farmers' market and at other direct food retailers who participate in SNAP with incentives to purchase healthy local foods.



The Department recommends mirroring the language in SB2398 SD2 regarding expansion of the farmers' market matching incentive program to include additional direct retail stores and naming the program the local health food incentive program. The benefit of a dollar-for-dollar match per visit would encourage the SNAP recipient to purchase locally grown produce and to try new fresh commodities offered by the farmers and direct food retailers.

The Department would like to note that it can administer the program without creating a special fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

March 13, 2018

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

**Re: HB 2670, HD 2 Relating to SNAP**  
**Hearing Date: 03-19-18 – 1:45 pm; Conference Room 224**

Thank you for this opportunity to support the concept behind HB 2670, HD 2.

It is my understanding that the original HB 2670 proposed 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 2, also limits purchases to fresh fruit and vegetables, but would allow a person to shop at a farmers' market or any other direct food retailer. Depending on the definition of "direct food retailer" (which does not seem to appear in the bill) this might 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 would be concerned that not all SNAP beneficiaries have easy access to a farmers' market, but defer to others whether HB 2670, HD 2, or SB 2398, SD 2, is a better approach. Perhaps the third option—all retailers and farmers' markets 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



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

SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Monday, March 19, 2018 — 1:45 p.m. — Room 224

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2670 HD 2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, Chair Green, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committees:

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 2**, 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

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*





currently imports the vast majority of its foods.

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 these committees' 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



**Testimony to the Senate Joint Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Human  
Services**

**Monday, March 19, 2018; 1:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**RE: SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 2670, HOUSE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL  
NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

Chair Gabbard, Chair Green, 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 2, 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 an unspecified amount 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 an unspecified amount of 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 2**  
**Monday, March 19, 2018; 1:45 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.

Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 1:45pm  
Conference Room 224

**Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment**

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

**Senate Committee on Human Services**

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson  
Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2670 HD 2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

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My name is Michael Robinson and I am Vice President of Government Relations and Community Affairs 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 2 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 2.



March 18, 2018

To: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Re: **Strong Support for HB2670 HD2**

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45pm room 224

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 HD2**, 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'i.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Holly Kessler, Executive Director  
Hawaii'i Public Health Association



Date: March 18, 2018

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
  
The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

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

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45pm at Conference Room 224

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **Strong Support** of HB 2670 HD2 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 18-21 be amended to:

(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 other direct food retailers that participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program shall receive a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$20 per visit to be used exclusively for purchases at a farmers' market and other direct food retailers.

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.**

HB2670 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 and does not violate interstate commerce due to market-participant exception from the law, where state and local government may act as a market participant for the purchase of locally grown foods.

**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 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, HB2670 can help to improve healthier dietary behaviors.

HB2670 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 HB2670 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).





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March 19, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2670, HD 2**  
RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Room 224  
1:45 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Green, Vice Chair Riviere, Vice Chair Chang, 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, HD 2**, 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.

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

**HB-2670-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 12:35:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
PHC HNL	Testifying for Pioneering Healthier Communities of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

**From: Pioneering Healthy Communities – Honolulu**

**Re: SB 2670 HD2**

**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 and chronic disease 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. Double Bucks type programs have emerged at Farmers Markets in Hawaii, such as those associated with the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center and the Kalihi Kokua Valley Health Center. The programs have been very popular and very successful in motivating Waianae community members to purchase more fruits and vegetables but need ongoing resources to continue. 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,**

**May Okihiro**

**Michael Broderick**

**Daniel Leung**

**Tina Tamai**

**Diane Tabangay**

**Jennifer Dang**

**Paula Adams**

**Ray L'Heureux**

**Michael Libertini**

**Stacy Evensen**

**Barbra Pleadwell**

**Daniela Kittinger**

**Joy Barua**



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

March 18, 2018

**Committee on Agriculture:** Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair; Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

**Committee on Human Services:** Senator Josh Green, Chair; Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

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

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2670 HD2 - Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2670 HD2 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 HD2, 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.

Feb. 7, 2018

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

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



**Testimony in Strong Support of HB 2690, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

Good Afternoon, Chair Mizuno and Vice Chair Kobayashi,

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  
The Food Basket Inc., Hawaii Island's Food Bank  
40 Holomua St.  
Hilo, HI 96720  
808-903-6030





**HB-2670-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:22:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:



March 19, 2018

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

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

Re: **HB 2670, HD2 – Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 224, March 19, 2018, 1:45 PM**

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**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to strongly support HB 2670, HD2, 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 your Committees vote to pass this bill.**

**HB-2670-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 1:38:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; the Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

To the Honorable Josh Green, Chair; the Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

Good afternoon. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii ("DPH"). Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2670 HD2** relating to the Department of Agriculture; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Farmers' Market Matching Incentive Program Special Fund; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in support of **HB2670 HD2** and is in favor of its passage.

**HB2670 HD2** 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)).

Given that **HB2670 HD2** 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](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889



# HAWAII APPLESEED

## CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Supporting HB 2670 HD2 – Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and on Human Services  
Scheduled for hearing at on Monday, March 19, 2018, 1:45 PM, in Conference Room 224

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Dear Chairs Gabbard and Green, Vice Chairs Riviere and Chang, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of **HB 2670 HD2**, 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.*

**HB-2670-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 10:38:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike	Testifying for 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 this bill.

**From:** [joseph@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:joseph@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Joseph Kohn MD](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 2:53:16 PM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

[www.WeAreOne.cc](http://www.WeAreOne.cc)

Sincerely,  
Joseph Kohn MD  
Wailuku, HI 96793

**HB-2670-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 10:06:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:45:00 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 2:49:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Merri Keliikuli	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident of the Waianae Coast and, I have seen first hand how this program has been especially beneficial for struggling Waianae residents. Double Up doubles the purchasing power of Hawai'i's low-income families, freeing up room in their budget for other expenditures like housing and healthcare. It allows families to try healthier foods with which their families may not be familiar without risking any of their budgeted grocery money while also allowing them access to fresh foods rather than processed foods. Additionally, this bill provides support to local farmers who can benefit from a growing customer base who can support increased local food production.

**HB-2670-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 9:31:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Scott Garris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2670-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 10:13:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Sophia Jimenez and I am a medical student at John A. Burns School of Medicine at University of Hawaii. I am writing to you in support of the bill HB2670 HD2 Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

I believe that this bill will allow for low income families to receive better access to a healthier diet. Fresh produce is important for families with low income because most of the food they are exposed to, and for which they qualify for (through SNAP) are usually low in nutritional value, calorie dense, and highly processed. The fresh produce that they are able to buy from the grocery store is expensive and from the mainland, or outside the U.S. Unsustainable, unhealthy food is all they can afford, and it is what can get them the most bang for their buck at the grocery store.

I am originally from Hilo, and the wonderful Hilo farmers market is a great part of our community, and very affordably priced. It is unfortunate to think that low income families do not have the same access to these community resources. On Oahu, it is hard to find both affordable and quality produce, especially if you come from a home that needs the SNAP program to buy your families daily meals. The fresh produce that most farmers markets provide allow the community to keep the dollar within Hawaii, supporting local farmers and growers. A step to help local farmers and local families is a step in the direction of a more self sustaining future for Hawaii.

I urge you to seriously consider helping pass bill HB2670. I hope we can stand in solidarity on this matter for the future of our state, our land, and our people.

Sincerely,

Sophia Jimenez

H.B 2670 HD2 – RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Hawaii Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

Senate Committee on Human Services

MARCH 19, 2018 – 1:45 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM 224

Dear Chair Gabbard and Green, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carah Metcalf and I first would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify in support on House Bill No. 2670 HD 2. I am currently a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, studying to be a Social Worker. In lite of a policy class I am taking, I have decided to testify.

I am a full-time student, having to support myself. I am in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and have seen the benefits of such a program in my own life. However, it is difficult to try and find the cheapest option when also trying to maintain a healthy balanced diet. The way it stands I have to pay out of my own pocket if I want to treat myself to groceries from farmer market's. However, due to the long list of expenses, that is a very rare occasion. I believe that being able to choose the cheaper, and healthier option that supports local farmers should be obtainable for those on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

I respectfully ask for your support of House Bill 2670 HD2: Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Carah Metcalf

**April Lum**  
Kapolei, HI 96707

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Josh, Green, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing: Monday, March 19, 2018  
1:45PM  
Conference Room 224

From: April Lum

RE: In support of HB2670, HD2

Aloha,

My name is April Lum. My husband and I have been resource caregivers (foster parents) for over 7 years and have seen firsthand how low-income families lack of healthier meal choices can greatly impact their children's eating behaviors. The first child we were placed with was almost four years old. This child could not speak much and could not identify any letters, numbers, or colors. However, shortly after being placed in our home, while driving, we heard a little voice from the backseat scream with excitement "McDonalds!" and "Burger King!" and "Taco Bell!" as we drove by.

America's childhood obesity rates continue to grow and a large part of that is the fast food industry's targeted marketing towards children. Without access to healthy and affordable options, families and children, turn to cheap and convenient alternatives.

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can go a long way in improving healthy options for Hawaii's families. I thank you for hearing this bill and strongly support its passage.

Date: March 17, 2018

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: **SUPPORT for HB2670 HD2**, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

Respected Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Human Services,

I am writing in strong **SUPPORT of HB2670 HD2** 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 HD2** and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD  
Keaau, HI

**HB-2670-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 8:31:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill which will help our keiki have better diets, and better health!



**HB-2670-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 10:03:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

With food costs so much higher in Hawai'i than on the mainland, many Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients often spend their money on low-priced, unhealthy options.

Poor food choices are associated with obesity, heart disease and other chronic diseases.

This bill would give families more dollars to spend at farmers' markets if they choose to spend them on healthy fruits and vegetables, reducing food insecurity and improving dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families.

I support this measure.

H.B. 2670 HD2 - RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Hawaii Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Hawaii Committee on Human Services

MARCH 19, 2018 - 1:45PM

CONFERENCE ROOM 224

Dear Chair Gabbard and Green, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Hsu and I first would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify in **support** on House Bill No. 2670 HD2. Creating a farmers' market dollar-for-dollar matching program to SNAP dollars would greatly improve the lives of low-income families. They will have the ability to bring home healthy food at a cheaper price and help stimulate the local economy at the same time by attracting more customers to the farmers' market.

Sales at these markets will directly go back into the pockets of local farmers. In the current status quo, whenever someone utilizes SNAP to buy food from big chains like Walmart or Safeway, the money does not precisely stay within the local community. Although they are helping sustain the business, majority of money is not cycled back, but rather sent to big corporations. Aside from the economic benefits, creating a dollar-for-dollar program also provides immense benefits to the health of low income families as they will be able to access more affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables.

With the high cost of living, it is important that Hawai'i starts to pave their way to sustainability and increase their ability to produce quality produce. The Sustainable Hawaii Initiative brought forward by Governor David Ige has a benchmark, hoping to double local food production by 2020. This measure will help Hawai'i reach that goal by supporting local farmers.

I respectfully ask for your support of House Bill No. 2670 HD2: Relating to the supplemental nutrition assistance program. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

**HB-2670-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 1:47:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill which would increase the purchasing power by our MEDICAID population. An increase to the money put on an EBT card for nutritious foods would help our most needy and vulnerable people in Hawaii. It is a great strategy, and great public relations between our legislature and anyone using an EBT card.

Please pass HB2670.

**From:** [aborrego@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:aborrego@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Alyson Borrego](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 10:35:18 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Alyson Borrego  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**From:** [mgagen@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:mgagen@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Marilyn Gagen](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Sunday, March 18, 2018 2:19:33 PM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Gagen  
Kamuela, HI 96743

**From:** [tsukikenn@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:tsukikenn@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Ken Nakamura](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Sunday, March 18, 2018 12:47:20 PM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Ken Nakamura  
Mililani, HI 96789

**From:** [cheryllt@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:cheryllt@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Cheryll Aldridge](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Sunday, March 18, 2018 11:05:51 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Cheryll Aldridge  
Honolulu, HI 96821

**From:** [yogardenhawaii@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:yogardenhawaii@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Kelly Stern](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Sunday, March 18, 2018 8:41:03 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Stern  
Waimanalo, HI 96795



**From:** [michellek303@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:michellek303@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Michelle Kwock](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 9:27:11 PM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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.

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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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Kwock  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**From:** [singlepayerhawaii@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:singlepayerhawaii@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Dennis Miller](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:40:31 PM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Dennis Miller  
Honolulu, HI 96815

**From:** [lauraramirez87@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:lauraramirez87@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Laura Ramirez](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:11:48 PM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Laura Ramirez  
Kapaa, HI 96746

**From:** [nihipalim001@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:nihipalim001@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Michele Nihipali](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:05:49 PM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Michele Nihipali  
Hauula, HI 96717

**From:** [normandgorby@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:normandgorby@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Normand Dufresne](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:00:32 PM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Normand Dufresne  
Pahoa, HI 96778

**From:** [dshaw@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:dshaw@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Diana M Shaw](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 5:00:23 PM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Diana M Shaw  
Lanai City, HI 96763

**From:** [kcruz4@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:kcruz4@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Kathleen Cruz](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 2:20:08 PM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Cruz  
Honolulu, HI 96817

**From:** [thejasonhuynh@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:thejasonhuynh@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Jason Huynh](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 2:18:00 PM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 studied nutrition and public health at UC Berkeley. I believe that this bill will be a win-win in encouraging and investing in healthy eating for those on SNAP as well as investing in or local agriculture. The benefits of this program can be found in California's matching farmers market programs.

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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Jason Huynh  
Honolulu, HI 96814



**From:** [weeklyupdate@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:weeklyupdate@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Cristeta Ancog](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 1:58:31 PM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Cristeta Ancog  
Aiea, HI 96701

**From:** [dgkahalas@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:dgkahalas@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Tyler Ralston](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 1:54:25 PM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Tyler Ralston  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**From:** [kbraun2000@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:kbraun2000@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Kathryn Braun](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 12:55:02 PM

---

Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Braun  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**From:** [romeroh@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:romeroh@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Haleigh Romero](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 11:56:07 AM

---

Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Haleigh Romero  
Kailua, HI 96734

**From:** [shay.chanhodges@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:shay.chanhodges@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Shay Chan Hodges](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 11:43:03 AM

---

Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Shay Chan Hodges  
Haiku, HI 96708

**From:** [marniehoney@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:marniehoney@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Marnie Honeycutt](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 10:43:19 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Marnie Honeycutt  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [patriciablair@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:patriciablair@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Patricia Blair](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 10:38:20 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Blair  
Kailua, HI 96734

**From:** [snharris@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:snharris@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Stephen Harris](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 10:11:45 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Harris  
Honolulu, HI 96816



**From:** [eldavis@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:eldavis@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Elise Dela Cruz -Talbert](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 9:27:46 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Elise Dela Cruz -Talbert  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**From:** [jackieburke13@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:jackieburke13@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Jackie Burke](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 9:12:26 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Jackie Burke  
Honolulu, HI 96819

**From:** [barbrick@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:barbrick@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Barbara Nosaka](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 9:02:02 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Nosaka  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [imrusalon@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:imrusalon@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Chris Cayton](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:53:11 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Chris Cayton  
Haiku, HI 96708

**From:** [berniefreitas71@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:berniefreitas71@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Bernadette Freitas](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:51:26 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Bernadette Freitas  
Pahala, HI 96777

**From:** [haley.hildebrand@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:haley.hildebrand@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Haley Hildebrand](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:44:24 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Haley Hildebrand  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

**From:** [worldmk007@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:worldmk007@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Michael Kellar](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:40:14 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Michael Kellar  
Honolulu, HI 96821

**From:** [carolr.ignacio@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:carolr.ignacio@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Carol Ignacio](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:37:19 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Carol R. Ignacio

Sincerely,  
Carol Ignacio  
Paauilo, HI 96776



**From:** [selene.legare@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:selene.legare@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Selene LeGare](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:31:58 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Selene LeGare  
Kahului, HI 96732

**From:** [jbutel@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:jbutel@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Jean Butel](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:26:11 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Jean Butel  
Honolulu, HI 96815

**From:** [mmg2b@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:mmg2b@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Michelle Gray](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:26:09 AM

---

Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Gray  
Honolulu, HI 96825

**From:** [tinaclothier@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:tinaclothier@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Tina Clothier](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:21:42 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Tina Clothier  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

**From:** [kmedeiros@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:kmedeiros@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Kendra Medeiros](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:18:35 AM

---

Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Kendra Medeiros  
Lanai City, HI 96763

**From:** [winstonwelch@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:winstonwelch@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Winston Welch](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:12:02 AM

---

Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Winston Welch  
Sacramento, CA 95815

**HB-2670-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 4:48:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gaudy Amaya	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**HB-2670-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 6:07:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Natalie Landis	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of this bill. Access to fresh, healthy food is a human right.



**Larry and Nanette Geller**  
Honolulu, HI 96817

HB2670  
AEN/HMS  
Monday, March 19, 2018  
1:45 p.m.  
Room 224

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND  
ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

March 18, 2018

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

**In Strong Support—with suggested amendments**

Dear Sen. Gabbard, Sen. Riviere, Sen. Green, Sen. Chang 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.

Below are three amendments we suggest.

- Page 2 line 19 replace “purchases” with “purchases of Hawaii-grown fruits and vegetables” to be consistent with the language on page 2 lines 7-8.
- Change page 2 line 20 to require that the Department of Agriculture establish a **minimum** limit per SNAP account. This way it can be increased at their discretion without new legislation.
- On page 3 line 12, the bill references DOA consulting with private organizations. That should be private or government organizations.

We recommend that this program initially be limited to direct farmer-to-consumer programs, i.e., farmers' markets, farm stands and CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture). This is the most common model for SNAP-doubling incentive programs and will have the greatest benefit to farmers as well as consumers.

## 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.

Chain

local \$

Locally-owned

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 are more likely to also buy 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”).

## 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).

## How incentive programs work

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

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



**From:** [tenayajackman@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:tenayajackman@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Tenaya Jackman](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2018 9:12:45 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Tenaya Jackman  
Honolulu, HI 96815

**From:** [bbrody1@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:bbrody1@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Bev Brody](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2018 9:11:02 AM

---

Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Bev Brody  
Kilauea, HI 96754

**From:** [bmih@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:bmih@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Bryan Mih](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Sunday, March 18, 2018 9:57:36 PM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Bryan Mih  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [chablis@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:chablis@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Chablis Palmero](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2018 8:20:29 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224  
Aloha kakou!

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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. Keeping it local is major support!! Plus, it is a great way to kick start this generation on a healthy trend so it continues on in a way that will benefit our children's children!!

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Chablis Palmero  
Puunene, HI 96784



**From:** [tita@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:tita@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Charity Kaiwi](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2018 9:09:58 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Charity Kaiwi  
Makawao, HI 96768



**From:** [lbong@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:lbong@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Linda Bong](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2018 7:28:03 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

It is a well known fact that eating healthier reduces health issues that include diabetes, heart disease, obesity, inflammation and high blood pressure.

Sincerely,  
Linda Bong  
Captain Cook, HI 96704

**From:** [dream@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:dream@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Martha Yamada](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Sunday, March 18, 2018 9:04:22 PM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD2, 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).

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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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Martha Yamada  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [mrahmer@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:mrahmer@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Mealani Rahmer](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2018 6:57:51 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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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 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Mealani Rahmer  
Pahoa, HI 96778

**From:** [nspock@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:nspock@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Ruhiyyih Spock](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2018 8:01:54 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Ruhiyyih Spock  
Makawao, HI 96768

**From:** [scstensrud@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:scstensrud@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Scott Stensrud](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Sunday, March 18, 2018 8:02:48 PM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Scott Stensrud  
Kapolei, HI 96707

**From:** [sniimiburch@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:sniimiburch@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Seri Niimi-Burch](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2018 8:07:52 AM

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Seri Niimi-Burch  
Honokaa, HI 96727

**From:** [kai2183@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:kai2183@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Shani Gacayan](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Sunday, March 18, 2018 9:11:21 PM

---

Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Shani Gacayan  
Paauilo, HI 96776

**From:** [wanya.ogata@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:wanya.ogata@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Wanya Ogata](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support of HB2670 HD2, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
**Date:** Sunday, March 18, 2018 9:17:01 PM

---

Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Hrg: March 19, 2018 at 1:45PM at Conference Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Wanya Ogata  
Mililani, HI 96789