

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

**FEBRUARY 5, 2018
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2398
RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Chairperson Gabbard, Chairperson Green and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2398, which requires the Department of Agriculture to create a farmers' market dollar-for-dollar matching program promoting the purchase of Hawaii-grown fruits and vegetables for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget and offers comments.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 2398
RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: February 5, 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 Department supports the intent of Senate Bill 2398 (S.B. 2398) to
5 establish a nutrition incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
6 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.^{1,2,3} 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
12 individuals.^{4,5} This bill would double Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
13 recipients purchasing power when they use their benefits to purchase local fruits and vegetables.

14 Nutrition incentive programs similar to the one proposed in this bill are prevalent around
15 the United States, and similar bills have been passed in six other states. Nutrition incentives are
16 often touted as a "win-win-win" for farmers, families, and local businesses. Data from these
17 interventions have shown improvements in dietary behaviors, reduction in household hunger and

1 food insecurity, and increased sales of local produce (by more than their dollar value alone).^{6,7,8}
2 In Hawaii, less than one in five adults reported eating five or more fruits and vegetables a day
3 (2015 Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System). The Department supports the intent of
4 S.B. 2398 as one component of a comprehensive approach to improve the availability and
5 accessibility of healthy foods to improve health outcomes for people in Hawaii, especially for
6 people who face greater health disparities.

7 Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

8 **Offered Amendments:** The Department defers to the DOA on their offered amendments.

9

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

² 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.

³ World Health Organization. *Healthy Diet Fact sheet N°394*. Web. Updated September 2015.

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

⁵ 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.

⁶ Fitzgerald, Katherine. *Double Up in Farmers' Markets: The Consumer Experience*. Fair Food Network, 2015.

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

⁸ Fitzgerald, Katherine. *Double Up Food Bucks and Hunger*. Fair Food Network, 2015



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LAUREL A. JOHNSTON
ACTING DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND HUMAN SERVICES
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2398

February 5, 2018

1:15 p.m.

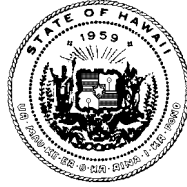
Room 224

RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Senate Bill No. 2398 establishes the Farmers' Market Matching Incentive Program (FMMIP) and special fund within the Department of Agriculture to provide a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$20 on purchases at farmers' markets for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. This bill also appropriates \$300,000 in general funds for FY 19 to be deposited into the FMMIP Special Fund.

As a matter of general policy, the Department of Budget and Finance does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. In regards to Senate Bill No. 2398, it is difficult to determine if the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



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

February 5, 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: **SB 2398 - RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Hearing: Monday, February 5, 2018, 1:15 pm
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

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

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

SNAP is 100 percent federally funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). While FNS supports healthy incentive projects, these projects run counter to SNAP "equal treatment" regulations, which specify that "no retail food store may single out SNAP participants using SNAP benefits for special treatment in any way." Farmers

markets that plan to implement a bonus incentive project must inform FNS during their initial authorization or subsequent reauthorization to participate in SNAP.

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

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

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February 2, 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: SB 2398 Relating to Creating a Farmers Market/SNAP Matching Program
Hearing Date: 02/05/18 – 1:15 pm; Conference Room 224

Thank you for this opportunity to support SB 2398.

It is my understanding that SB 2398 proposes to build on a Big Island pilot program that was launched by our local Food Basket and food retailer KTA. 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.

I think this is a program that should be encouraged, and I hope you will act favorably on SB 2398.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hbf.org; www.hbf.org

February 5, 2018

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

TESTIMONY ON SB 2398
RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Room 224
1:15 pm

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

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 SB 2398, which requires the Department of Agriculture to create a farmers' market dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

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

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

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

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



American Heart Association testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2398, “Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program”

The American Heart Association supports SB 2398.

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

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

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

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

The Agriculture Act of 2014 authorized the USDA to provide Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives (FINI) grants to eligible organizations to design and implement projects to increase produce purchases among low-income consumers participating in SNAP by providing incentives at point of purchase. Several Hawaii communities are currently receiving FINI grants to implement “double-bucks” programs and allow for the use of EBT payments for SNAP purchases at certain farmers’ markets and commercial retailers. **SB 2398 would supplement federal funding with state funding to expand those programs and to insure their sustainability.**

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Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.





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

The American Heart Association urges legislators to support SB 2398 and help reduce health disparities in our state by expanding access to fresh fruit and vegetables to those who might be economically challenged to afford access to those foods vital to improved health and reduced obesity.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Donald B. Weisman
Hawaii Government Relations/Communications Director

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diseases and stroke.”*

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Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.





February 4, 2018

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment & Committee on Human Services

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 Health and Human Services

Re: **Strong Support for SB2398**

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15 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 SB2398, 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 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. We strongly support SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

Holly Kessler, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Health Association

7192 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Suite A143A, PMB 226, Honolulu, HI 96825-1832
www.hawaiipublichealth.org hawaiipublichealth@gmail.com

Feb. 1, 2018

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

Committee on Human Services
Honorable Josh Green, Chair
Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

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

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Good Afternoon, Chair Gabbard, Chair Green and Vice Chair Riviere and Vice Chair Chang,

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 asks your committees to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kristin Frost Albrecht



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN SERVICES
Monday, February 5, 2018 — 1:15 p.m. — Room 224

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 2398, 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 SB 2398, 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 unhealthier 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



Date: February 3, 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 SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Conference Room 224

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **Strong Support** of SB2398, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

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

Offered amendments:

1. HIPHI requests that Page 2, lines 16-19 be amended to include other retailers in addition to farmers markets that participate in SNAP such as grocery stores and that incentive purchases be used for local fresh fruits and vegetables. HIPHI defers to HDOA on the language for this section.
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.

SB2398 is modeled after Double Up Food Bucks, a national program started by the Fair Food Network in 2009. Double Up Food Bucks provides a dollar-for-dollar match on the value of SNAP when spent on local fresh fruits and vegetables. Double Up is a win/win/win: low-income families bring home more healthy food, local farmers gain new customers and bring in more income, and more food dollars stay in the local economy. Double Up is a successful model being implemented in more than 20 states.

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

In Hawaii Island, a local pilot is already being implemented through the Food Basket's *DA BUX: Double Up Food Bucks* program. In partnership with KTA superstores, SNAP customers receive a 50% credit incentive at checkout. Since the pilot began 2017, there have already been close to 3000 individual DA BUX transactions and an average sales increase of nearly 20% on incentivized produceⁱ. 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, SB2398 can help to improve healthier dietary behaviors.

SB2398 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 SB2398 out of committee.

Mahalo,



Trish La Chica, MPA
Policy and Advocacy Director

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

Monday, February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm
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 & Government Relations

Re: Testimony in Support of SB SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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

I testify in support of SB 2398 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 which would benefit both SNAP participants and local farmers.

The Double Up Food Bucks 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. Double Up Food Bucks is an effective way to keep 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.

Hawaii Pacific Health is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the people of Hawaii. The Double Up Food Bucks Program 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 SB 2398.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting SB 2398 – Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Senate Committees on Agriculture and the Environment and on Human Services
Scheduled for hearing at 1:15 pm on Monday, February 5, 2018 in Conference Room 224

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of **SB 2398**, 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.

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.

SB-2398

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 2:50:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Saleh Azizi	HFUU Waianae Coast	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

My name is Saleh Azizi. I am currently manager at the farm hub at Kahumana Organic Farms and Cafe. I also serve as the Vice-President for Hawaii Farmers Union United, the Wai'anae Chapter, and I am a PhD candidate in Urban and Regional Planning. An important goal of this dissertation was to utilize existing economic data, interviews (farm visit), surveys, and participant observation to learn more about direct-sale farmers/operators. From the 2012 NASS/USDA agricultural census and USDA 2015 Marketing Survey of direct-sales in US, we know that a third of Hawaii's agricultural producers are 1) beginning farmers (operated less than 10 years), 2) participate in the local food economy (direct-to-customer sales) and 3) 1 & 2 has doubled over the last ten years for Hawaii. Our local food economy in Hawai'i (direct-sales by farmers to consumers, stores, and institutions) is growing proportionally faster than most other states in United States.

These are the people that produce your fresh, local, sometimes organic, and nutritious foods- the food that is so important for people who suffer from food insecurity. The problem with the formulation of the "food dessert" phenomena is that it identifies people who suffer from food insecurity and separates them from our farmers. However, as you can read in George Kent's latest chapter on Food Security in Hawaii (in the book Food and Power in Hawai'i), the highest concentration of food insecurity are in our rural communities such as Waimanalo and Wai'anae, the communities well-known for agricultural production.

Double bucks programs corrects that problem. It recognizes that farmers need a fair price for their locally grown foods and that consumer's need affordable and nutritional foods (Read USDA FINI Prgoram Summary to further confirm this statement: https://fairfoodnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Consolidated-2015-Report_finaldigital-.pdf). In Wa'anae, Alicia Higa from WCCHC the Makeke program has operated a Double Bucks fund for years now. It has resulted in our community having access to locally grown nutritious foods, but also, and equally important, it has successfully showcased for farmers that it is a economically viable farmers market. When farmers from Wai'anae do well, they hire more people from Wai'anae, who, in turn, can make a fair income from being employed and will no longer needs nutritional assistance. The Double Bucks funds has allowed farms such as Kahumana Organic

Farms to attend and thrive at the Wai'anae Farmers Market (Makeke Wai'anae). Before the establishment of this program at the Wai'anae Farmers Market ,

In conclusion, double bucks programs allows people who suffer from malnutrition and farmers combined to make a better life for themselves. For farmers in Wai'anae, it is an investment in our rural communities that allows Kahumana to better reach our own mission of serving our community. For us as a community, it allows us to be more self-sufficient and to create the necessary resources that are needed to address our own community's needs.

Thank you, please feel free to contact me for any questions

Kind Regards

Saleh Azizi

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808 383 5224

azizi@hawaii.edu

Larry and Nanette Geller
Honolulu, HI 96817

SB2398
AEN/ HMS
Monday, February 5, 2018
1:15 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

February 4, 2018

Re: SB2398 Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

In Support

Dear Sen. Gabbard. Sen. Riviera, Sen. Green, Sen. Chang members of the Committee:

Several other states have matching programs to encourage low income recipients of the 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.

An additional benefit of increased SNAP sales at farmers' markets is that federal money remains in Hawaii and circulates in the economy. These programs increase the income for local food producers. 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. Strengthening farm income contributes to goals related to farm sustainability.

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 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?



The first matching program was likely established in 2005 in New York. The intention was to attract SNAP participants to their markets. It was successful. Nationwide, farmers' markets have steadily increased in number up to the present time.

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.

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).

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

How incentive programs work

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

Some programs provide a dollar-to-dollar match while others establish certain limits. There may be a cap to the match, for example, up to \$10 or \$20 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 matching programs to Hawaii. This bill should set the groundwork to do that.

Note: §141-(b) appears to be ambiguous and should be amended. \$20 per day? Match for produce only?

--Larry Geller
Honolulu

SB-2398

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 3:27:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alicia Higa	Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

My name is Alicia Higa and I am the Director of Health Promotion & Disease Prevention at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center. Part of my role at the health center is to develop programs that help to strengthen our community food systems, such as our 3 weekly farmers' markets and our EBT Double Bucks Program. In 2008, our health center opened its first farmers' market and was the first on the island to accept EBT for payment at a farmers' market. We have since expanded and developed our own program through private funding to incentivize EBT/SNAP purchases of fresh local fruits, vegetables, poi, honey, eggs, fish, meats and low fat dairy. As the state's leading farmers' market in EBT/SNAP sales, we are happy to report that last year we did \$137,721 in SNAP sales and doubled almost \$72,000 on locally sourced whole foods in our Waianae community (a "food desert").

I am humbly asking for your support on SB2398. By supporting a statewide initiative to incentivize SNAP purchases on fresh locally sourced whole foods, you will leverage Federal dollars to move our State towards being food secure, create a healthier population and create a stronger economy for our farmers and local food producers. This program is a WIN-WIN and will end up saving our state a lot of money that will otherwise go to treating this population for the health disparities they suffer due to poor eating habits.

Mahalo in advace for your consideration!

Aloha,

Alicia Higa

SB-2398

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 3:13:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesse Lipman	Kokua Kalihi Valley	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Jesse Lipman. I am the Food Programs Coordinator for Kokua Kalihi Valley's (KKV) Roots Food Program. 6 years ago under my direction KKV began a pilot "double bucks" SNAP incentive program for the Kalihi Valley People's Open Market to increase the access of fresh local produce for low income residents while expanding the customer base for farmers and vendors of local fruits and vegetables coming to our neighborhood farmers markets. Since then, we have expanded our double bucks program through limited grant funding to a second farmers market as well as our KKV food program mobile markets. By increasing the value of people's SNAP dollars we have witnessed a growing number of Kalihi families buying healthy local produce and improving their diets. In 2017 we had 1,547 customers use double bucks in Kalihi putting a combination of \$49,237 of SNAP monies and incentives into the pockets of local healthy food producers who made the effort to bring fresh food into our low income community.

These incentive programs work for people trying to eat more healthy, for the health care providers working to prevent disease through better nutrition, and for the farmers who want to find a financially viable way to serve lower income shoppers. The only challenge is that those of us doing double bucks work rely on limited year to year grant funding. If the state creates a budget to support double bucks incentives the opportunities for health care providers, community organizations and food vendors and retailers to collaborate and expand access to healthy food for our low income neighbors is greatly strengthened. A culture of seeing SNAP benefits as a means of supplying your family with healthy food, instead of the cheapest food, will emerge. We have seen that grow in Kalihi Valley and we hope to watch it spread around the state. Thank you for considering this bill. Please support healthy food access for those on the tightest budgets. The benefits will be both immediate and long term as we eat healthier and reduce the prevalence of diet related illness, while supporting our local farm economy.

SB-2398

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 3:04:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Honorable Senators,

Please approve SB 2398 that will fund the SNAP Double Bucks Incentive program. Thank you for your support. This is important legislation. Kindly see the attachment. Mahalo

SB-2398

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 2:33:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Betsy Cole		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2398

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 3:33:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lindsey whitcomb		Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for your time, senators. I would like to voice my support for this measure, as the benefits are multi-faceted; fresh produce is vital to the nutritional health of both children & adults. Children are disproportionately higher (numerically) recipients of SNAP benefits & studies have shown that nutritional deficiencies have more marked effects in children. Fruits & vegetables begin to lose nutritional value the moment they are harvested; the sooner the food reaches the consumer, the higher nutritional impact it will be able to have. Additionally, support for local farmers is necessary in order to gain better food independence throughout our islands. Allowing SNAP benefits to be utilized at farmer's markets have beneficial effects to both parties & will increase demand for local agriculture, which will also in time help create a shift towards increasing our overall ag production throughout the island chain.

SB-2398

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 8:48:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Ampolos		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2398

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 9:06:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Lehmann		Support	No

Comments:

SB 2398 RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

My name is Carolyn Ma, I am a pharmacist and an administrator for an academic professional college (Dean for the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) at UH Hilo). The mission of the DKICP addresses the health and wellness of our citizens. Although our focus is on pharmaceutical sciences, pharmacy and medication therapy management, our responsibility as health care professionals and patient advocates must include education and support of healthy diets and foods as a companion to medication management, especially in chronic disease management. In diseases of metabolic disorder (pre-diabetes, metabolic syndrome and diabetes) and cardiovascular diseases (hypertension, hyperlipidemia and hypercholesteremia) increasing intake of fresh foods and vegetables and may lead to better weight management, improved disease control and eventual discontinuation of chronic medications.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify in strong support of this bill.

SB-2398

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 9:30:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William J De Lude	Hawaiian Citizen	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Comittee Members, Mahalo for allow me to testify in FAVOR of **SB-2398**. It is my belief that this will benefit many who are on **S.N.A.P.**! Not only will they be able to purchase Locally Grown fresh fruits and vegetables to feed their 'ohana, but, they will be helping Hawaii farmers continue to grow!

Mahalo again, William J De Lude

SB-2398

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 11:13:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
C. Azelski		Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB2398. This program will help Hawai'i families eat healthier, support local agriculture, and keep money in the local economy. Thank you.

SB-2398

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 11:07:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT AND
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Monday, February 5, 2018
1:15 p.m.**

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2398, RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

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

Good afternoon. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No.

2398, relating to the farmer's market dollar-for-dollar matching program for those in the SNAP Program. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 2398 and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. 2398, is in alignment 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 states 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 Senate Bill No. 2398 creates a farmer's market dollar-for-dollar matching program for those in the SNAP Program, it is the position of the OCC Legislative 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, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

Date: February 4, 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 Health and Human Services

Re: **SUPPORT for SB2398**, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

Aloha Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Health and Human Resources,

I am writing in strong **SUPPORT of SB2398** 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.

Healthy 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 unhealthful 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 SB2398** and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo nui for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Keaau, HI

SB-2398

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 11:35:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benjamin Kilinski		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2398

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 12:21:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike	Community First	Support	No

Comments:

Community First strongly supports this bill. As a community based non-profit in East Hawaii on Hawaii Island, we are committed to changing the idea of healthcare from treating disease to caring for health. This is a great program which makes it easier to eat healthy and supports local farmers in the process, a win-win-win for the community.

From: eldavis@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Elise Dela Cruz -Talbert](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2018 1:21:06 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Elise Dela Cruz -Talbert



From: ljk.kimura@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Lisa Kimura](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 3:07:13 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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).

In my role as executive director of Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, I have seen the impact that availability and access to fresh produce has on someone's health outcomes, and I support any effort to make nutritious food more accessible, particularly to low-income families.

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 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Lisa Kimura



From: angelina@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Angelina Mercado](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 11:54:15 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

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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 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Angelina Mercado



From: barbrick@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Barbara Nosaka](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 10:59:00 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Barbara Nosaka



From: bbrody1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Bev Brody](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 10:50:04 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Bev Brody



From: mnprhawaii@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Cassandra Kugler](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 5:51:49 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Cassandra Kugler



From: cricketlachica@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Christopher La Chica](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2018 2:24:42 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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.

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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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Christopher La Chica



From: cyd.hoffeld@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Cyd L Hoffeld](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 10:02:58 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Cyd L Hoffeld



From: daoyagi10@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Davin Aoyagi](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 11:09:02 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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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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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Davin Aoyagi



From: ddella@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Denise Della](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2018 12:31:46 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Denise Della



From: eveteeterbalin@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Eve Teeter-Balin](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 4:08:55 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Eve Teeter-Balin



From: fnadiaz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Francesca Diaz](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 3:19:21 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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).

Aloha, I am a student attending UH West in the Sustainable Community Food Systems program. I have learned and studied about the correlations between food security, nutrition and how they affect health, performance, emotional well being, and the overall outcome of a child into adulthood.

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.


Much of the low income families wish to purchase healthier options, but cannot afford to do so because of the price for those groceries. It turn they buy what they can and stretch those things out. 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. I strongly support SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Francesca Diaz

Sincerely,
Francesca Diaz



From: keikidoc1998@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jenny Welham](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2018 3:06:42 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Jenny Welham



From: crismel.juan@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Crismel Juan](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2018 8:28:35 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Crismel Juan



From: kbraun2000@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Kathryn Braun](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 11:21:10 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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. In this role, I have reviewed research on farmers-market incentive programs, and have learned that they work well to increase fruit and vegetable consumption among low-income adults and children. Eating more produce helps to reduce obesity. Obesity is quickly becoming the leading cause of morbidity and mortality among Americans! Passing this bill will improve the health of the people of Hawai'i and reduce obesity-related health care costs for the state.

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 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Braun



From: kathybecklin@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Kathy Becklin](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2018 2:47:15 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Kathy Becklin



From: lbucon@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Lee Buenconsejo-Lum](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2018 9:40:06 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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.

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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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Lee Buenconsejo-Lum



From: lisakehr@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Lisa Kehl](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2018 8:06:35 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Lisa Kehl



From: morenochow@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [MARIA MORENO-CHOW](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 12:51:20 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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.

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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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
MARIA MORENO-CHOW



From: mgagen@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Marilyn Gagen](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 2:18:07 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Gagen



From: maylingchung@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Mayling Chung](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 1:58:59 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Mayling Chung



From: kellar@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Michael Kellar](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 4:22:00 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Michael Kellar



From: mmg2b@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Michelle Gray](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 11:04:17 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Michelle Gray



From: michellek303@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Michelle Kwock](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2018 11:25:44 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Michelle Kwock



From: nikaelabusekrus@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Nikaela Busekrus](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 10:52:56 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Nikaela Busekrus



From: patriciablair@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Patricia Blair](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 12:56:09 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Patricia Blair



From: pualei.kaohelaulii@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Pualei Kaohelaulii](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 11:48:34 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Pualei Kaohelaulii



From: shay.chanhodges@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Shay Chan Hodges](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 3:31:40 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Shay Chan Hodges



From: snharris@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Stephen Harris](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2018 8:38:39 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Stephen Harris



From: mauimindfulness@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Tanya Gabriel](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 1:13:39 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Tanya Gabriel



From: dgkahalas@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Tyler Ralston](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 2:38:54 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Tyler Ralston



From: bmih@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Bryan Mih](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2018 11:15:41 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Bryan Mih



From: keawe9@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Keawe Kaholokula](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 7:29:19 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol 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 SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Keawe Kaholokula



From: kelsie.cajka@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Kelsie Cajka](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 8:20:15 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224


I am writing in strong support of SB2398 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 is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Thank you for considering my testimony!

Kelsie Cajka

Sincerely,
Kelsie Cajka



From: normandgorby@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Normand Dufresne](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2018 5:56:03 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol 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 SB2398 if there are safeguards to purchasing only healthy foods and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Normand Dufresne



From: sonyaniess@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Sonya Niess](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 7:13:53 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Sonya Niess



From: suzmaui@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Suzanne Fields](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 8:12:34 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

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Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Fields



From: candee.rillon@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Candee Rillon](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 9:01:11 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 Health and Human Services

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 1:15pm at Capitol Room 224

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Candee Rillon



SB-2398

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:26:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cherie Andrade	Blue Zones Project-Koolaupoko	Support	No

Comments:

I, Cherie Andrade, Community Program Manager for Blue Zones Project-Koolaupoko, fully support SB2398. At Blue Zones Project we work towards helping to make our community happier and healthier so that we can all, keiki to kupuna, live longer, better. Having access to locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables allows families to purchase, twice as much, healthy items for their family at their local farmer's market. Mahalo!

From: tenayajackman@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Tenaya Jackman](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 9:17:10 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

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The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Tenaya Jackman



From: john.s.ishoda@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [John Ishoda](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 9:12:57 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

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A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support SB2398 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
John Ishoda

