

From: vyontz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Valerie Yontz](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 10:16:02 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
Dear Committee Members,

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,

Valerie J Yontz, PhD


Sincerely,
Valerie Yontz


SB-2398

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:40:04 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2398

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:53:23 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
May Okihiro		Support	No

Comments:

From: tita@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Charity Mauiola](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 10:53:58 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

Aloha, 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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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,
Charity Mauiola



From: [Chelsea Takahashi](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for Double Bucks Bill (SB 2398)
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 10:55:57 AM

Aloha,

I support the Double Bucks Bill (SB 2398). I am submitting testimony for the hearing today, Feb 5 which I will be unable to attend. I manage a Double Bucks program here on the Big Island and have seen first hand the gratitude and need for the program. Last year, I distributed over \$19,000 in Double Bucks incentives during a 5-month pilot period at select sites. We operated at four farmers markets, two KTA Super Stores locations, and our community-supported agriculture program that sold subscriptions for weekly produce bags. It has created a habit of shopping for local produce among SNAP-EBT cardholders, as many of our sites only offered incentives during a specific period once a month. Incentive periods also increased local farmers' sales. Double Bucks can be a great stimulus for the local agricultural industry while making local produce more affordable for our low-income residents.

--

Chelsea Takahashi
SNAP Incentives Coordinator
The Food Basket, Hawai'i Island's Food Bank
40 Holomua St.
Hilo, HI 96720
Office Phone [\(808\) 933-6030](tel:(808)933-6030)
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Phone Fax [\(808\) 934-0701](tel:(808)934-0701)

SB-2398

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:02:40 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker		Support	No

Comments:

From: harmonee@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Harmonee Williams](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB2398, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 12:39:52 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,
Harmonee Williams
Kaunakakai, HI 96748