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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Thursday, February 14, 2019 — 10:00 a.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Supports SB 390 SD 1, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing 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 manage waste and fresh water resources. 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 supports SB 390 SD 1, which creates a dollar-for-dollar matching program for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to be used on Hawai'i-grown produce, because it aligns with our goal to increase local food production.

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.

Through coordination between the federal government's SNAP, the State's matching funds, and our local farmers markets, various sectors are collectively coming together to address poverty, health, and local food production.

With SNAP benefits, a wider population will be able to purchase fresh, nutritious products from local farmers, which will help the farmers gain more revenue. As demand for products increase, the farmers will be incentivized to grow more local food. Increased local food production will help the state to become more self-sufficient. Hawai'i currently imports the vast majority of its foods.

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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

We believe that through collaboration, 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,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner



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TO:

The Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 14, 2019
TIME: 10am
PLACE: Conference Room 211

RE: SB390 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

We believe this program is important both as a means to support healthy eating, and as a way to support Hawaii's agricultural sector. Fruits and vegetables tend to be more expensive per calorie than less healthy foods, which makes eating healthy a challenge for those with limited food budgets. Doubling the purchasing power for SNAP users when buying local produce makes it easier to choose fruits and vegetables when shopping. Data has shown that families using this program in other states have eat more fruits and vegetables, and a greater variety of fruits and vegetables, and fewer unhealthy foods like chips and cookies. Getting more fruits and vegetables for each SNAP dollar also means that low income families will have more in their budget to spend on things like housing and healthcare.

By prioritizing local produce this program also helps Hawaii farmers, who face many challenges of their own, and incentivizes retailers to continue to stock Hawaii produce. This is an infusion of funds into our local economy and a \$1 million investment from the state can generate nearly \$3.6 million in economic activity. The grocery stores where SNAP participants can take advantage of this program provide a network of access to healthy food from around the entire state, all year round. Making sure that SNAP users have access to all our great local fruits and vegetables, and supporting our local Hawaii farmers are goals we all share. We encourage you to vote yes on this measure.



February 14, 2019

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, Committee on Ways and Means

RE: STRONG SUPPORT SB390 SD1 Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees on Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB390 SD1, which provides increased access to local produce to Hawaii's low-income families. All members of our community should have the opportunity to eat healthy foods. This bill puts more money into our local farming community, which results in more financial stability for farmers, and in turn can strengthen the local economy.

At Blue Zone Projects, we support well-being. Part of that is working to ensure that all people have access to locally grown fruits and vegetables. This measure helps the approximately 83,800 households (2018) who receive SNAP benefits to purchase more healthy foods at farmers markets by giving them a dollar per dollar match up to \$20, doubling their buying power for Hawaii grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

The million dollars requested for this program would translate into an estimated \$3.6 million statewide benefit, based on the USDA's economic multiplier. This state funding would then create a path for Hawaii to apply for federal dollars through the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives federal grant opportunities. Farmers will benefit by growing their customer base and increasing their income, which helps support our economy. Hawaii's families increase their health by eating right. Data from programs in other states have shown that families who "Double Up" eat an increased amount and more varied fruits and vegetables while consuming less chips, candy, and soda.

Currently there are SNAP incentive programs throughout the state that are making positive impacts. As Hawaii strives to become healthier, increase food security, and explore pathways to strengthen its financial well-being, programs that benefit families, farmers, and local economies need to be cultivated and broadened.

Please pass SB390 SD1 as written and "Double Up Food Bucks to result in a Triple Win for Hawaii's Families, Farmers, and Local Economy". Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peggy Mierzwa

Peggy Mierzwa
Blue Zones Project—Hawaii

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**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 14, 2019; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

RE: SUPPORTING SENATE BILL NO. 0390, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCENTIVES.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 0390, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCENTIVES.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Establish a Local Health Food Incentive Program (Program) for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) within the Department of Agriculture (DOA);
- (2) Provide a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$20 per visit, per day, for SNAP recipients who use food stamps to make purchases at a farmers' market or other SNAP direct food retailers, to be used solely for purchases of Hawaii-grown fresh fruits and vegetables at the farmers' market, farm stand, mobile market, community-supported agricultural site, grocery store, or other direct food retailer that participates in SNAP;
- (3) Requires the DOA to adopt rules necessary to administer the program so long as the DOA may consult and cooperate with private organizations to develop and implement the rules;
- (4) Appropriate \$1,000,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2019-2020, and \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2020-2021, for DOA to administer the program and provide matching funds; and
- (5) Take effect on July 1, 2019.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 0390, Senate Draft 1
Thursday, February 14, 2019; 10:00 a.m.
Page 2

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

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

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

February 12, 2019

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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



Testimony in Strong Support of SB 390 SD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Good Morning, Chairman Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and committee members,

My name is Kristin Frost Albrecht and I am the 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.

We base our opinion on our success of the nutrition incentive programs we deliver that expand affordable access to Hawaii grown produce to beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as described below.

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 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. Our DA BUX program will be implemented this spring islandwide at all KTA stores on Hawai'i Island.

We also operate DA BUX at specific farmers markets on Hawaii Island - providing a \$1 for \$1 match on Hawaii Island grown produce to SNAP customers one day of the month.

Finally, we implement our DA BUX nutrition incentive program with our DA BUS Mobile Market program that delivers Hawai'i island-grown produce to residents in our isolated rural areas within the 12 USDA designated low income/low access (formerly known as 'food deserts') that make up half of Hawai'i Island. We provide a \$1 for \$1 match on local produce to SNAP customers of DA BUS as well.

During our initial 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. Our greatest success story is from Dimple Cheeks farm in Mt. View -**

Dimple Cheeks farm increased their sales 80% due to our DA BUX programs and allowed them to build 4 new green houses to expand their production.

•

Economic Development:

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

The Public Health Benefits:

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

Hunger:

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

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

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

Steve Motherwell (Big Island)

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

Mahalo!

Laura (Big Island)

We respectfully ask your committees to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kristin Frost Albrecht



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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

It is our honor and privilege to submit testimony supporting SB 390, which appropriates funds for Hawaii's Double Up Food Bucks program.

The term "food insecurity" has taken on a life of its own in the last few months in Hawaii. An increase in natural disasters and the recent partial government shutdown, has forced people who have never experienced hunger in their lives, to search for options. Loosely defined, it is the lack of access to nutritional foods, which can lead to health concerns and even malnutrition. There is no easy solution to address hunger in Hawaii but there is a program already in place, serving as a lifeline for thousands of island residents.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly referred to many of us as the Food Stamp Program, is the largest food assistance program in the country, including Hawaii. According to data from Per Center on Budget and Policies Priorities, in Fiscal Years 2017, 169,000 Hawaii residents, or 12% of Hawaii's population, were receiving benefits from SNAP. Of those, more than 63% of SNAP participants are in families with children, almost 31% are in families with members who are elderly or have disabilities and more than 51% are in working families.

Despite government benefits, there is an enormous gap when it comes to access to healthy foods and that is where the Double Up Food Bucks Program becomes vital. Double Up Food Bucks provides an additional dollar for every dollar a SNAP family spends, essentially stretching their purchasing power, increasing their financial accessibility of eating more fruits and vegetables. That alone can help alleviate financial stresses so families can focus on other expenses such as rent and childcare costs.

The healthier options also contribute to an improved diet and overall health and wellness while, lowering healthcare costs. Healthy food has proven to have positive impacts on a child's immune system, energy level, digestion and attention span.

Finally, this nutrition incentive is good for Hawaii's farmers. The Double Up Food Bucks Program has already shown it can help increase sales and our farmers' customer base by keeping food dollars within the local community. It can stimulate farm expansion in acreage and diversity. Using the USDA's economic multiplier coefficients, the \$1.6 million in SNAP at Hawaii's farmers' markets (2016) generates nearly double the economic impact, by encouraging more consumer spending at local businesses.

Hunger can be a temporary issue or it can be chronic and a result of the causes of malnutrition. It is not enough to provide families in need with food, want families to have access to a healthy variety of foods. Hawaii's Double Up Food Program is helping us change the conversation.

With much respect and aloha,

Ron Mizutani
Hawaii Foodbank
President and Chief Operating Officer

Marielle Terbio
Hawaii Foodbank
Director of Community Engagement & Advocacy





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Date: February 12, 2019

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Brent Kakesako, Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED)

Re: Support for SB390 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

The Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED) supports SB390 SD1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to create a dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) who use their benefits to purchase Hawai'i-grown produce.

HACBED Staff

Brent N. Kakesako

Executive Director

Keoki Noji

Chief Operating Officer

Athena T. Esene

Bookkeeper & Office Manager

Foley Pfalzgraf

Program Specialist

Chelsie Onaga

AmeriCorps VISTA

HACBED was established in 1992 as a nonprofit statewide intermediary to address social, economic, and environmental justice concerns through community-based economic development and asset building strategies. It advances its mission with core competencies in the areas of community and organizational capacity building, community and economic development planning, and asset policy development and advocacy. Over time, what has rung true across the different communities HACBED has been blessed to support is the importance of choice and control in the lives of families across the state to achieve their vision for genuine wealth – and within the context of food, this has been no different. The Double Up Food Bucks programs have been shown to:

- ***Reduce food insecurity.*** Double Up doubles the purchasing power of Hawai'i's low-income families, freeing up room in their budget for other expenditures like housing and healthcare.
- ***Improve dietary behaviors among low-income families.*** Evaluation data from programs in other states have shown that families eat more fruits and vegetables, eat a larger variety of fruits and vegetables, and eat fewer chips, candy, and cookies.
- ***Support farmers.*** Nutrition incentives increase sales and farm income and increase farmers' customer base.
- ***Boost the local economy.*** Double Up is an effective way to keep federal funding circulating in the 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 consumer spending at local businesses.

SB390 SD1 would provide a way to support our most vulnerable families with healthy options while supporting our local economy.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

Brent N. Kakesako
Executive Director

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LJ Duenas
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American Diabetes Association

February 12, 2019

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Legislature

IN SUPPORT OF SB 390 SD 1

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) supports SB 390 SD 1, legislation requiring the Department of Agriculture to create a dollar-for-dollar matching program that incentivizes Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to purchase locally grown nutritious fruits and vegetables.

Diabetes is an epidemic in the United States and in Hawaii. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 30 million Americans have diabetes and face its devastating consequences. An estimated 142,000 people in Hawaii, or 12% of the adult population, have diabetes. An additional 442,000 have prediabetes and are at risk for developing the disease.

Maintaining a healthy weight by consuming a diet of nutritious foods is can reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes, the most common form of the disease. As such, the ADA supports policies that remove affordability barriers to healthy foods and policies that promote strong Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs.

It is imperative we take steps to improve access to nutritious foods for all but perhaps most importantly for our keiki. Studies have shown obese children and adolescents are five times more likely to face obesity in adulthood. Obesity is associated with childhood-onset of type 2 diabetes, adult onset of type 2 diabetes and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease-the largest cause of mortality among people with diabetes.

Every year, 8,000 people are diagnosed with diabetes in Hawaii. The ADA supports SB 390 SD1 to stop this epidemic by improving access to nutrition foods today and for future generations in our state.

On behalf of the American Diabetes Association and those we serve, we ask for your support of this bill.

Warmest aloha,



LJ Duenas, Hawaii Director
American Diabetes Association



21 people
are diagnosed with
diabetes every day
in Hawaii



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting SB 390 – Relating to SNAP Incentives
Senate Committees on Human Services and Agriculture and Environment
Scheduled for hearing at Wednesday, February 14, 2019, 10:00AM, in conference room 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB 390**, which would appropriate funds for a healthy food matching program for participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Over 160,000 Hawai'i residents draw down between \$460 and \$500 million in federal SNAP funds annually to purchase food. While SNAP is an important program for ensuring the food security of low-income Hawai'i households, the benefit is often still not enough to afford fresh fruits and vegetables. This results in most of these economic stimulus funds leaving the islands—right into the pockets of major mainland food companies, rather than getting channeled into our local agriculture industry. Passing this bill would be an impact investment for the State, channeling much-needed capital into local businesses and farms.

SNAP incentive programs similar to the one proposed in this bill are prevalent around the United States, and similar bills have been passed in 15 other states. The USDA estimates that every dollar in SNAP generates \$1.79 in economic activity.¹ Therefore, this \$1 million investment would result in \$3.6 million in impact, after factoring in this multiplier effect. What's more, the recent Farm Bill appropriates additional funds for SNAP incentives, which can only be unlocked through a match. Should this bill pass, Hawai'i's would greatly improve its odds of obtaining these additional funds, thereby quadrupling the State's investment.

SNAP incentives are a win for everyone—families, farmers and local businesses. There is no downside. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

¹ Hanson, Kenneth. (2010) *The Food Assistance National Input-Output Multiplier (FANIOM) Model and Stimulus Effects of SNAP*. United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Report Number 103. Available online at <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=44749>.

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-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 3:06:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bev Brody	Testifying for Get Fit Kauai	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for opportunity to submit testimony voicing **strong support of SB390 SD1** on behalf of Get Fit Kauai, the Healthy Eating Active Living Coalition of Kauai County. Double Up Food Bucks program doubles the value of federal nutrition benefits spent at participating markets and grocery stores, helping people bring home more healthy fruits and vegetables while supporting local farmers. The wins are three-fold: low-income consumers eat more healthy food, local farmers gain new customers and make more money, and more food dollars stay in the local economy.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

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

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

FEBRUARY 14, 2019
10:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 390 SD1
RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM INCENTIVES

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 390 SD1 that requires the Department of Agriculture to develop and administer a local healthy food incentive dollar-for-dollar matching program promoting the purchase of Hawaii-grown fruits and vegetables by 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 and an amendment.

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 is concerned with developing rules pursuant to Chapter 91, as we believe a permanent program should not be placed in the DOA. While the Department believes the increased sales of locally grown fruits and vegetables will increase profits for Hawaii farmers statewide, we do not have a SNAP program or a dedicated staff to support these efforts. As such, the Department requests the following amendment:



Page 3, sections (c) should read:

“The department of agriculture may consult and cooperate with private organizations to develop and implement rules to administer the local healthy food incentive program.”

The local health food incentive dollar-for-dollar matching program benefit will encourage the SNAP recipient to purchase locally grown produce and to try new fresh commodities offered by the farmers and direct food retailers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 1:19:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

RE: SB390SD1

From: Pioneering Healthy Communities – Honolulu

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

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

Making matters worse, many Hawaii residents, live at or near the poverty level and struggle to buy, prepare, and eat healthy foods. When the very high cost of living in Hawaii is considered, local residents have the 10th highest poverty rate in the Nation.

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

Numerous report on programs across the U.S. that incentivize nutritious produce purchases among SNAP recipients, such as the “Double Bucks” programs, indicate that they are an effective way to encourage more fruit and vegetable purchasing, reduce hunger and supporting healthy diets. Double Bucks programs have emerged at Farmers Markets in Hawaii, such as those associated with the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center and Kalihi Kokua Valley Health Center. The programs have been very popular and very successful in motivating community members to purchase more fruits and vegetables but need ongoing resources. We also are aware of positive economic, education, and environmental benefits for individuals, and communities, from these Double Bucks Programs.

As such, we strongly urge you to pass this Bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Michael Broderick

May Okihiro

Daniel Leung

Tina Tamai

Diane Tabangay

Daniela Kittinger

Jennifer Dang

Paula Adams

Ray L'Heureux

Michael Libertini

Stacy Evensen

Joy Barua

Susie Chun Oakland



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

February 14, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 390, SD 1
RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
INCENTIVES

Room 211
10:00 AM

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director 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 390, SD 1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to create a dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program who use their benefits to purchase Hawaii-grown produce. Appropriates funds.

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, CSA programs, grocery stores and other food retailers.

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 Hawaii farmers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

February 12, 2019

To: Chair Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: **Strong Support for SB390 SD1**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for your dedication to our community and for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of **SB390 SD1**, relating to supplemental nutrition assistance program incentives.

Kaho'omiki, the Hawai'i Council on Physical Activity and Nutrition, is a local non-profit organization that supports and encourages lifelong healthy lifestyles through physical activity and good nutrition. Along those lines, SB390 SD1 truly increases equitable access to healthy foods and can make a significant difference for the health and well-being of many families.

In Hawai'i and across the country, access to fresh fruits and vegetables can be a major financial challenge, preventing many low-income families from incorporating these foods into their diets. We also know that diet-related diseases are disproportionately higher in low-income communities. Through both the USDA guidelines and multiple studies, fresh fruits and vegetables have extensive health benefits; fruits and vegetables supply dietary fiber, vitamins, minerals, and phytochemicals that function as antioxidants, phytoestrogens, and anti-inflammatory agents.^{1,2}

Kaho'omiki believes the double up food bucks incentive program can significantly remove major barriers to fresh fruits and vegetables and can support our families, our farmers, and the economy.

Twenty four states have already established double up incentive programs, and in these states, SNAP recipients have increased their spending towards local agriculture by 70%, while supporting thousands of farmers.³

I urge you to support this important piece of legislation that can have a significant positive impact on some of our most vulnerable populations. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Colby Takeda
President, Kaho'omiki

¹ Slavin, J. L. & Lloyd, B. (2012). Health benefits of fruits and vegetables. *Advanced Nutrition*, 3(4).

² USDA and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, 2010. 7th ed. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office; 2010.

³ Fair Food Network. (2018). *Double Up Food Bucks National Overview*.



SB390
WAM
Thursday, February 14, 2019
10:00 a.m.
Room 211

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

February 13, 2019

Re: SB390 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

In Strong Support

Dear Sen. Dela Cruz, Sen. Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee:

This bill is needed to qualify Hawaii for federal matching funds from the USDA

Several other states have successful “double bucks” incentive programs to encourage low income recipients of federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to purchase healthy locally-grown produce. This bill is intended to create the framework for a statewide matching program in Hawaii that would potentially also attract federal funds.

Encouraging the purchase of healthy fruits and vegetables is an intervention that is understood to **reduce the incidence and social cost of obesity and diseases such as diabetes**. Once shoppers become familiar with using the range of fresh produce available they will rely less on highly processed sugar- and salt-laden prepared food.

How incentive programs work

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

Some programs provide a dollar-for-dollar match while others establish limits.

The possibility of private or federal grants is very real because the USDA is actively supporting these matching programs.



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).

In 2017 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. The stated purpose of the FINI grant was to incentivize low-income shoppers to spend their SNAP benefits on locally-grown fruits, vegetables and nuts at farmers markets. Another objective was to encourage SNAP recipients to become life-long produce consumers. Clearly, forming the habit of shopping for fresh produce and cooking it at home will have a positive impact on health.

This bill establishes the groundwork for Hawaii to qualify for these grants.

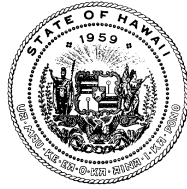
The health and economic benefits are clear

Providing a dollar-for-dollar match of SNAP benefits when used to purchase locally-grown produce has been shown here and in other states to be effective in several ways: **besides encouraging healthy eating, it benefits low-income households who may have to choose between buying good food, paying rent or paying medical costs.**

An additional benefit of increased SNAP sales for locally-grown produce is that **federal money remains in Hawaii and circulates in the economy.** SNAP and incentive programs increase the income of local food producers—especially at farmers markets.

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

Larry Geller, Project Co-Director
Nanette Geller, Project Co-Director
GreenWheel Food Hub
Honolulu



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. 390 SD1
RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 14, 2019 10:00 a.m. Room Number: 211

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 priorities set forth
3 in the Executive Biennium Budget Request.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports Senate Bill 390 Senate Draft 1 (S.B. 390
5 SD1) to establish a nutrition incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition
6 Assistance Program (SNAP).

7 Major health authorities (including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Centers for
8 Disease Control, and the World Health Organization) recommend increasing fruit and vegetable
9 intake as a means to prevent chronic disease and improve overall health.^{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

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.

1 individuals.^{4,5} This bill would double the SNAP recipients’ purchasing power when they use
2 their benefits to purchase local fruits and vegetables.

3 Nutrition incentive programs similar to the one proposed in this bill are prevalent around
4 the United States, and similar bills have been passed in twenty states. Nutrition incentives are
5 often touted as a “win-win-win” for farmers, families, and local businesses. Data from these
6 interventions have shown improvements in dietary behaviors, reduction in household hunger and
7 food insecurity, and increased sales of local produce (by more than their dollar value alone).^{6,7,8}
8 In Hawaii, less than one in five adults reported eating five or more fruits and vegetables a day
9 (2015 Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System). The Department supports S.B. 390 SD1 as
10 one component of a comprehensive approach to improve the availability and accessibility of
11 healthy foods to improve health outcomes for people in Hawaii, especially for those who face
12 greater health disparities.

13 Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

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.



MA`O ORGANIC FARMS

a non-profit `aina-based project of the Wai`anae Community Re-Development Corporation

P.O. Box 441, Wai`anae, Hawai`i 96792 • Tel/Fax. 808-696-5569

info@maoorganicfarms.org • www.maoorganicfarms.org

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Wednesday, February 13

Support for SB390 SD1

MA`O Organic Farms is a social enterprise in Wai`anae, O`ahu committed to reconnecting young people to their heritage to build a future of mā`ona (plenty) through college-career pathways, community-based social entrepreneurship, production-oriented organic farming, and the daily practice of aloha `āina (caring for the land/that which feeds).

We strongly support SB390 SD1, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives, which would create a dollar-for-dollar matching program for SNAP beneficiaries who use their benefits to purchase Hawai`i-grown produce. This model, also known as 'Double Up Bucks' doubles the participant's purchasing power—so \$10 of benefits would be worth \$20 of produce—and doubles the income for farmers. Designating state funds for Double Up Bucks also opens up matching federal funds, effectively quadrupling the state's investment for local farmers. These initiatives encourage healthier diets while also amplifying the multiplier effect of SNAP in the local economy.

In food insecure communities, including Wai`anae, the lack of financial and physical access to fresh health food contributes to poor nutrition. Compounded by high levels of stress and depression, low levels of physical activity, and health care disparities, this leads to high levels of obesity and preventable diseases that undermine individuals and the community, contributing to inter-generational cycles of ill-health and poverty. Improving access to fresh healthy food is vital to shifting this trend, and to building community health and well-being.

Though MA`O Organic Farms is located in Wai`anae, the majority of our produce is sold at markets in the more affluent communities of Honolulu and Kailua. Fortunately, the introduction of the Double Up Bucks program at the Wai`anae farmer's market has contributed significantly to the steady increase in our sales at this market, from \$23,500 in 2013 to \$35,000 in 2018. Based on our experience, growing the Double Up Bucks program will enable community members to purchase more fresh produce in Wai`anae and other food insecure communities throughout Hawai`i. Not only will this improve the community's physical health, it will also contribute to the flourishing of Hawai`i's farms and the development of a vibrant, diverse local economy.

We urge the committee to pass SB390 SD1. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 9:58:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III	Testifying for Hawaii County Council	Support	No

Comments:

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 9:28:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsie Cajka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill and the opportunity to pur healthy, locally sources foods into people's diets across Hawaii. Healthy food choices are essential for all income levels and this bill helps those in need.

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 8:25:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol R. Ignacio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Legislators,

Double Bucks is a win-win for everyone including our farmers. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo.

Carol R. Ignacio

District 1 Hawaii Island

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 9:55:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Silvan Shawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB30 and Double Up Hawai'i. Programs like Da Bux and SNAP Match have proven to have a threefold benefit for the community. This bill supports not only the people who need access to healthy food most but also support local agriculture and the economy.

Sincerely,

Silvan Shawe

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 10:08:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 12:33:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaimana Brummel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 1:34:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirstin Kahaloa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha WAM!

This bill helps our community live longer and healthier lives by making locally grown food more affordable to those that qualify for SNAP. It also helps our agricultural industry and businesses that sell locally grown products. Please pass this bill. It is so important for our state.

Kirstin Kahaloa, Resident, Senate District 3

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 2:27:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laksmi M Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 2:53:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carissa Holley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the Double Up Bucks program. Access to healthy food should be a high priority in government assistance programs. The volatile limited resource populations are at highest risk for chronic illness. Food is medicine and our tax payer dollars should be used to reward healthy options, and incentivise healthy choices.

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 4:42:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Double Up Food Bucks, which provides additional incentives for SNAP families, is a **triple win** for families, farmers, and the local economy:

- Helps low-income families on SNAP bring home healthy and nutritious food.
- Allows local farmers to gain new customers and bring in more income.
- More food dollars stay in the local economy.

Date: February 12, 2019

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: **Strong Support of SB390 SD1**, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Hrg: February 14, 2019 at 10:00 AM in Capitol Room 211

Aloha Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I am writing in **strong support of SB390 DS1**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to create a dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to purchase Hawaii-grown produce and appropriates funds.

This matching incentive program, sometimes called "Double Up Food Bucks", is a win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawai'i's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is good for Hawai'i's families, farmers, and the local economy.

I **strongly support SB390 SD1** and respectfully ask you to pass this bill out of committee.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Kea'au, HI

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 7:04:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cristeta Ancog	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of S.B. 390, which appropriates funds for a healthy food incentive program for SNAP recipients.

The program would give those on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh, local fruits and vegetables, doubling the purchasing power of SNAP users, and channeling federal funds into the pockets of local farmers.

I am a pediatrician with over 29 years of experience taking care of keiki in Hawaii, most of it on the Waianae Coast.

There are many families who struggle to buy fresh fruit and vegetables. These families want to eat healthier. Research shows that such programs not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but can actually lower healthcare costs. Nutrition incentives increase sales and farm income by increasing local farmers' customer base, effectively keeping federal funding circulating in our local economy.

These programs are a win-win for everyone, and an investment for the State. Thank you for your consideration of this measure

Cristeta Ancog M.D.

Diplomate, American Board of Pediatrics

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 11:29:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frank Genadio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Ways and Means Committee Chair Donovan Dela Cruz

Ways and Means Committee Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran

From: Viola E. Genadio

Subject: Senate Bill 390, CD1, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

Program Incentives

Date: February 14, 2019

I am writing to support SB390, CD1, to improve 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).

The matching incentive program, called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Maintaining a healthy weight by consuming a diet of nutritious foods can reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes, the most common form of the disease.

All of the people in Hawaii should have access to locally grown fruits and vegetables. Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390, CD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Viola E. Genadio, APRN, CDE

92-1370 Kikaha Street

Kapolei, HI 96707

(808) 672-9170

2/13/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD1, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hrg: February 14, 2019 at 10:00 AM in Capitol Room 211

Aloha,

I am testifying in support of SB390 SD1, because it is a measure that meets many of the State's pre-existing goals: supporting local farmers, addressing poverty and supporting low-income families, and general sustainability.

Mahalo,
Doora Shin
Honolulu, HI 96822

2/12/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD1, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hrg: February 14, 2019 at 10:00 AM in Capitol Room 211

I am writing in strong support of SB390 SD1, 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, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Fleck
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

2/13/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD1, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hrg: February 14, 2019 at 10:00 AM in Capitol Room 211

Aloha and Mabuhay,

I am writing in strong support of SB390 SD1, 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, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Respectfully,
Jeny Bissell, RN
Kihei, HI 96753

2/12/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD1, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hrg: February 14, 2019 at 10:00 AM in Capitol Room 211

I am a medical student at the University of Hawaii JABSOM program. I support this program because it makes so much sense to support fruit and vegetable intake for low-income families and individuals. It also make so much sense to support our local agriculture economy. Therefore, I am writing in strong support of SB390 SD1, 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, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Jason Huynh
Honolulu, HI 96814

2/12/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD1, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hrg: February 14, 2019 at 10:00 AM in Capitol Room 211

This legislation will personally affect how I get nutrition. I believe our local soils are not as burned out as soil on the mainland. Thus I like to purchase local produce whenever I can. Also, food produced here is fresher much fresher than anything flown/shipped in. I would appreciate your support of the SB390 SD1.

I am writing in strong support of SB390 SD1, 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, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Ellen Train
Mountain View, HI 96771

2/12/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD1, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hrg: February 14, 2019 at 10:00 AM in Capitol Room 211

Hawaii is the perfect state and location to continue to be a national and global leader in sustainability, food security and food sovereignty. This bill will benefit local farmers, local families, and the local economy. Hawaii is the leader in innovation, adaptation, and implementing solutions for change. This will increase health outcomes continuing to prove that Hawaii is the healthiest state in the nation, aware and cares about the people, and will promote local agriculture, food production, nutritious food, and boost the economy. I am in full support of Hawaii continuing to be the change we wish to see!

Mahalo,
Melody Halzel
Honolulu, HI 96822

2/13/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD1, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hrg: February 14, 2019 at 10:00 AM in Capitol Room 211

I write to strong support SB390 SD1, a bill which improves access to and encourages consumption of locally-grown fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is likely to increase the amount of fresh produce my young patients are eating, reducing the junk food and juice/soda consumption that is driving high levels of obesity and diabetes in our community. Many of my patients' parents are farmers, orchardists, and grocery worker, so the benefit is compounded, as money stays on our island. This bill makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee. support SB390 SD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Michael Treece
Pahoa, HI 96778

2/12/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD1, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hrg: February 14, 2019 at 10:00 AM in Capitol Room 211

I am writing in strong support of SB390 SD1, 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, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Mark Levin
Honolulu, HI 96822

2/12/2019

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Mahalo,
Michele Nihipali
Hauula, HI 96717

2/12/2019

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Mahalo,
Camille Chong
Honolulu, HI 96826

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Mahalo,
Bryan Mih
Honolulu, HI 96822

2/13/2019

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Mahalo,
Shay Chan Hodges
Haiku, HI 96708

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Mahalo,
Anne Scharnhorst
Wailuku, HI 96732

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Mahalo,
Patricia Blair
Kailua, HI 96734

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Mahalo,
John Ishoda
Honolulu, HI 96817

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Mahalo,
Paul Ho
Honolulu, HI 96814

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Mahalo,
Diane Neubert
N San Juan, CA 95960

2/12/2019

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Mahalo,
Aprilei Ramirez
Kaneohe, HI 96744

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Mahalo,
Allison Seales
Honolulu, HI 96817

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Mahalo,
Lee Buenconsejo-Lum
Kaneohe, HI 96744

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Mahalo,
Ronald Kuriki
Honolulu, HI 96816

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Mahalo,
Michelle Gray
Honolulu, HI 96825

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Mahalo,
Tenaya Jackman
Honolulu, HI 96815

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Mahalo,
Bev Brody
Kilauea, HI 96754

2/12/2019

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Mahalo,
Michael Kellar
Honolulu, HI 96821

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Mahalo,
Melody Halzel
Honolulu, HI 96822

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Mahalo,
Haleigh Romero
Kaneohe, HI 96744

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Mahalo,
Kaliko Amona
Haleiwa, HI 96712

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Mahalo,
Shayda Marciel
Lihue, HI 96766

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Mahalo,
Alex Miller
Honolulu, HI 96826

2/13/2019

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Mahalo,
Diane Fitzsimmons
Waialua, HI 96791



SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 10:18:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danicole Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a volunteer with Aloha Harvest, I have seen how the Double Up Food Bucks program has helped our most vulnerable communities while helping us achieve food security for the state. I support SB 390 for the following reasons:

- **Reduce food insecurity.** Double Up doubles the purchasing power of Hawai'i's low-income families, freeing up room in their budget for other expenditures like housing and healthcare.

- **Improve dietary behaviors among low-income families.** Data shows that participants in Double Up eat more fruits and vegetables, eat a larger variety of fruits and vegetables, and eat fewer chips, candy, and cookies.

- **Support farmers.** Double Up increases sales and farm income and increase farmers' customer base. Pilot programs in Hawaii have already channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars to local farmers.

- **Boost the local economy.** Double Up is an effective way to keep federal funding circulating in the local economy. A \$1 million investment on behalf of the State would generate nearly \$3.6 million in economic activity.



HIPHI Board

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McCorriston Miller Mukai
MacKinnon LLP

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
John A. Burns School of
Medicine, Native Hawaiian
Research Office

En Young, MBA
Sansei, Lanai

Date: February 13, 2019

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran Vice Chair
Members of the Ways and Means Committee

Re: Strong Support for SB390 SD1, Relating to Supplemental
Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Hrg: February 14, 2019 at 10:00am at Conference Room 211

The Obesity Prevention Task Force of the Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Strong Support of SB390 SD1**, which creates a matching incentive program for the beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

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

SB390 is modeled after Double Up Food Bucks, a national program started by the Fair Food Network in 2009. Double Up Food Bucks provides a dollar-for-dollar match on the value of SNAP when spent on local fresh fruits and vegetables. Double Up is a win/win/win: low-income families bring home more healthy food, local farmers gain new customers and bring in more income, and more food dollars stay in the local economy. Double Up is a successful model being implemented in more than 20 states and does not violate interstate commerce due to market-participant exception from the law, where state and local government may act as a market participant for the purchase of locally grown foods.

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

In Hawaii Island, a local pilot program was 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. The four-month pilot in East Hawaii has brought in \$40,000 of sales of Big Island produce with \$20,000 of federal nutrition dollars going back into our local economy. Individual *DA BUX* transactions have brought in an average sales increase of nearly 20% on incentivized produceⁱⁱ with little to no advertising. *DA BUX* was offered one week per month in the Big Island. 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. As of December 2018, there were 161,550 individuals or 82,806 households 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, SB390 can help to improve healthier dietary behaviors.

SB390 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 SB390 SD1** out of committee.

Mahalo,



Trish La Chica, MPA
Policy and Advocacy Director

ⁱ Created by the legislature in 2012, the Obesity Prevention Task Force is comprised of over 60 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.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

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



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Amplify the Power of Giving

LATE

February 13, 2019

To: Hawai'i State Senate, Committee on Ways and Means

Re: S.B. 390

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

In 2016 the Hawai'i Community Foundation commissioned a study of the "State of Hunger" in our State. The findings were appalling: nearly 1 in 7 residents are at-risk of going hungry including more than 20% of our keiki and 10% of seniors. In response HCF organized funding from 9 private donors and foundations to fund a 3-year effort to help reduce hunger in our community.

Over the past year, 13 organizations calling themselves the *Hawai'i Hunger Action Network*: (Blue Zones, Good Food Alliance, Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development, Hawai'i Appleseed, Hawai'i Community Foundation, Hawai'i Foodbank, Hawai'i Food Basket, Kapi'olani Community College, Kōkua Kalihi Valley, Lanakila Pacific, Maui Food Bank, Parents & Children Together and Sustainable Moloka'i) have been meeting to identify the most effective ways to ensure that all people in Hawai'i have enough food to live healthy, dignified and productive lives.

In terms of resources for quality food and nutrition for low-income individuals and families, *Double Up Food Bucks programs* have been shown to:

- **Reduce food insecurity.** Doubles the purchasing power of Hawai'i's low-income families, freeing up room in their budget for other expenditures like housing and healthcare.
- **Improve dietary behaviors among low-income families.** Evaluation data from programs in other states have shown that families eat more fruits and vegetables, eat a larger variety of fruits and vegetables, and eat fewer chips, candy, and cookies.
- **Support farmers.** Nutrition incentives increase sales and farm income and increase farmers' customer base.
- **Boost the local economy.** Is an effective way to keep federal funding circulating in the 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 consumer spending at local businesses.

On behalf of HCF and our partners at the Hawai'i Hunger Action Networks I wholeheartedly support S.B. 390.

Sincerely,

Micah A. Kāne
CEO & President

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 11:16:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Autumn Ness	Testifying for Hawai'i Center for Food Safety	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 11:06:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe Wat	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Double up bucks programming is probably the most effective use of government money in improving public health outcomes, increasing food availability, and supporting local farms and food independence.

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 12:48:44 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

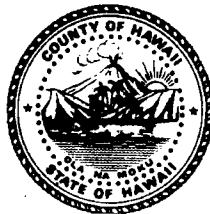
Strongly Support

Double Up Food Bucks, which provides additional incentives for SNAP families, is a **triple win** for families, farmers, and the local economy:

- Helps low-income families on SNAP bring home healthy and nutritious food.
- Allows local farmers to gain new customers and bring in more income.
- More food dollars stay in the local economy.

www.WeAreOne.cc

Harry Kim
Mayor



LATE

Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 13, 2019

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 390, SD1 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Please accept this testimony in support of the Double Bucks initiative, SB 390.

On Hawai'i Island, the Food Basket and One Island (West Hawai'i) applied for, and were awarded, \$500K each for four years. The funding is for SNAP recipients to purchase local fruits and vegetables, thereby encouraging them to make healthier choices.

I'm told that the \$500K was for four years – total. The Food Basket is close to using up most of that grant.

In addition, there has been so much success with Double Bucks, the entire state now wants to start up this kind of program. For Hawai'i County, we need funding to continue and expand the initiative.

The 2018 Farm Bill increased funding for the federal grant program called the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive. There is \$250 million available over 5 years, starting this year. Other states that have appropriated matching funds have received this funding, so there is a strong chance Hawai'i would qualify for additional funds from this program if SB 390 passes. There is no limit, but national partners have suggested that \$1M is achievable.

Double Bucks is a win-win for SNAP recipients, farmers, markets, and our communities. We hope you will give it a favorable vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2019 7:58:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



February 13, 2019

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Decision Making: Feb 14, 2019; 10:00am, Rm 211

Submitted by: Richard Bettini, President & CEO

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB390 SD1 RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCENTIVES

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of **SB390 SD1**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to create a farmers market dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

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

To improve access to healthier foods, in 2008, WCCHC held the first Makeke Farmers Market in Waianae. *The primary purpose of the Mākeke Markets is to help cultivate a community that is healthy in mind, body and spirit by providing vibrant gathering places for the community, local food producers and Hawaiian cultural practitioners.* Since then, the Market has expanded to three locations along the Waianae Coast, serving about 2,000 people each week. The Makeke Markets were one of the first in the State to enable a SNAP recipient to use their EBT cards to purchase produce and other nutritious foods. In 2018, the Market did over \$158,000 in SNAP sales (the highest in the State) and doubled over \$90,000 of that amount on fresh locally sourced foods, like fruits, vegetables, poi, meats, fish and dairy.

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

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

As such, we strongly support **SB390 SD1**, which will expand and sustain incentive-based produce purchasing programs for SNAP recipients, among our most vulnerable families in Hawaii.

Thank you for allowing us to provide this testimony.



LATE

Chairman of the Board
Mark Yamakawa

President
Kahealani Rivera, MD

Board Members
Rick Bruno, MD, FACEP
Brandt Farias
Mimi Harris
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Glen Kaneshige
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**American Heart Association testimony in SUPPORT of SB 390
“Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives”**

The American Heart Association strongly supports SB 390.

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. HB 262 would supplement federal funding with state funding to expand those programs and to insure their sustainability.

“Double-bucks” programs match SNAP dollars spent on fresh fruits and vegetables with a financial benefit to local growers and food retailers. Low-income families bring home more healthy food, area farmers gain new customers and make more money, and more food dollars stay in the local economy. Food markets participating in the program would see increases in fresh produce sales. In addition, state supplemental funding would be potentially matched by federal funding adding yet another benefit to Hawaii’s investment in these important programs.

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

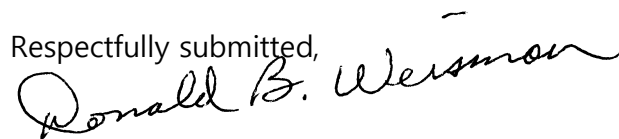
million Americans struggling through underemployment and low or stagnant wages. The majority of benefits go to households with children, older adults or those with disabilities.

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 incentives provided through "double-up" programs can help to change that.

The American Heart Association urges legislators to support SB 390 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". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the name.

Donald B. Weisman

Hawaii Government Relations/Communications Director

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 9:55:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helmut Klauer	Testifying for A'a Li'i Farm	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2019 7:42:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Genevieve N Neumann	Testifying for Lokoea Farms	Support	No

Comments:

February 14, 2019
10:00 am
Conference Room 211

To: The Honorable Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

From: Paula Arcena, Executive Vice President, External Affairs

Re: SB390, SD1 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

AlohaCare is pleased to submit this testimony on support of SB390, SD1 which proposes to require the Department of Agriculture to create a dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program who use their benefits to purchase Hawaii-grown produce and appropriate funds.

Double Up Food Bucks, which provides additional incentives for SNAP families, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy:

1. Helps low-income families on SNAP bring home healthy and nutritious food.
2. Allows local farmers to gain new customers and bring in more income.
3. More food dollars stay in the local economy.

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, SB390, SD1 can help to improve healthier dietary behaviors.

AlohaCare is a local, non-profit health plan founded in 1994 by Hawaii's Community Health Centers. We serve over 70,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members. We are the third largest health plan in Hawaii. We partner with nearly 3,500 physicians, specialists and providers in the care of our members. We have over 260 employees who work on Oahu, the Big Island, Maui and Kauai.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2019 7:53:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suellen Barton	Testifying for Maui Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 9:08:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maureen Datta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am vice president and co-owner of Adaptations, Inc., a regional food hub in Kealahou, Kona, which oversees the consolidation of the harvests from about 70 big island family farms and distributes the produce to more than 86 restaurants, 11 local processors, 14 retail stores, 3 schools and 125 families through our CSA, Fresh Feast. My husband Tane and I live in Honaunau on a seven acre diversified farm, which has been certified organic since the early 1980s. Our CSA accepts SNAP/ebt payments. We have been redeeming Double Value Coupons and Veggie Rx double value coupons in cooperation with One Island Same Canoe non-profit who has a grant of federal funds. This program reinvigorated our families using SNAP for payment. We handle 100% Hawaii grown produce. This incentive works for families, patients and farmers. Please pass this legislation to improve our islands health and economy.

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 9:09:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith Ranney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 9:14:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 9:51:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Jana Bogs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 10:51:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taylor Cunningham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This will help local farmers, their families, and every citizen of Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 11:03:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support local farmers and healthier meals for Hawaii's people by passing SB390 SD1.

Mahalo,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 11:48:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raphiell Nolin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2019 6:18:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2019 6:42:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vanessa Jansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2019 6:44:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jo Kimm	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2019 8:48:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2019 8:53:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jody Mountain	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2019 9:12:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
hugh johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-390-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2019 9:40:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nami Nielipinski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. This is Nami Nielipinski of Keaau, East Hawaii. I strongly support this bill. It would not only help the recipients' nutrition but increase local production. Thank you!