

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**MARCH 15, 2019
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**SENATE BILL NO. 390 SD2
RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM INCENTIVES**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committees:

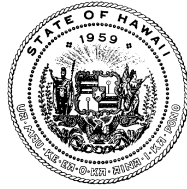
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 390 SD2 that requires the Department of Agriculture to develop and administer a local healthy food incentive dollar-for-dollar matching program promoting the purchase of Hawaii-grown fruits and vegetables by beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition 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.

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.



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.



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, SD2
RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
INCENTIVES

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD P. CREAGAN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Hearing Date: March 15, 2019

Room Number: 312

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 2 (S.B. 390,
5 SD2) 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, SD2
10 as 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.



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

March 14, 2019

TO: The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 390 HD 1 - RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCENTIVES**

Hearing: Friday, March 15, 2019, 9:00am
Conference Room 312, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill. The national double up food bucks program helps Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants increase their purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables by doubling the value of their benefits spent and keeps food dollars in the local economy. DHS defers to the Department of Agriculture as to program development and implementation issues.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill 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. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2).

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

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



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 15, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 390, SD2
RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
INCENTIVES

Room 312
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

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, SD2, 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.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Friday, March 15, 2019 — 9:00 a.m. — Room 312

Ulupono Initiative Supports SB 390 SD 2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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 2, 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



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
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Barry Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:

The Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 15, 2019
TIME: 9am
PLACE: Conference Room 312

RE: SB390 SD2 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.



HIPHI Board

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Date: March 14, 2019

To: Representative Richard Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the Agriculture Committee

Re: Strong Support for SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental
Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Hrg: March 15, 2019 at 9:00am at Conference Room 312

The Obesity Prevention Task Force of the Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Strong Support of SB390 SD2**, 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 SD2** 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).



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Friday, March 15, 2019 – 9:00 AM - Room 312

**RE: SB 390 SD2 - Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
Program Incentives – In Support**

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and Members of the
Committee:

Hawai'i Aquaculture &
Aquaponics Association

Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council

Hawai'i Farm Bureau
Federation

Hawai'i Farmers' Union
United

Hawai'i Food Industry
Association

Hawai'i Food
Manufacturers Association

Kohala Center

Land Use Research
Foundation of Hawai'i

Malama Kaua'i

Maui School Garden
Network

Ulupono Initiative

College of Tropical
Agriculture and Human
Resources - University of
Hawai'i at Manoa

The Local Food Coalition **strongly supports SB 390 SD2**, 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.

This collaborative program helps low-income residents afford more fresh, local foods by providing a one-to-one match for every dollar of SNAP benefits spent at participating locations. The goal of the program is to provide local people with limited means, access to healthy fruits and vegetables, while supporting local farmers and Hawaii's economy.

This successful incentive program has been implemented in more than 20 states and will promote healthy eating among Hawaii's low-income families.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of SB 390 SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

John Garibaldi
808-544-8319
jgaribaldi@wik.com



**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture
Friday, March 15, 2019; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

RE: SUPPORTING SENATE BILL NO. 0390, SENATE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCENTIVES.

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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 2, 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) Authorize the DOA to consult and cooperate with private organizations to develop and implement rules to administer the Program
- (4) Appropriate an unspecified amount in general funds for fiscal year 2019-2020, and the same amount for fiscal year 2020-2021, for DOA to administer the program and provide matching funds; and
- (5) Take effect on July 1, 2050.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 0390, Senate Draft 2

Friday, March 15, 2019; 9:00 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.



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair

Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

March 13, 2019

Re: SB390 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

In Strong Support

Dear Rep. Creagan, Rep. DeCoite 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



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

March 13, 2019

Committee on Agriculture

Submitted by: Richard Bettini, CEO, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB390 SD2 RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCENTIVES

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of **SB390 SD2**, 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 SD2**, 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.



March 15, 2019

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT SB390 SD2** Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB390 SD2, 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.

Based on the initial million dollars requested for this program, the money 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 SD2 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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American Heart Association testimony in SUPPORT of SB 390, SD2 “Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives”

The American Heart Association strongly supports SB 390, SD2.

The Agriculture Act of 2014 authorized the USDA to provide Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives (FINI) grants to eligible organizations to design and implement projects to increase produce purchases among low-income consumers participating in SNAP by providing incentives at point of purchase. Several Hawaii communities are currently receiving FINI grants to implement “double-bucks” programs and allow for the use of EBT payments for SNAP purchases at certain farmers’ markets and commercial retailers. SB 390, SD2 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.

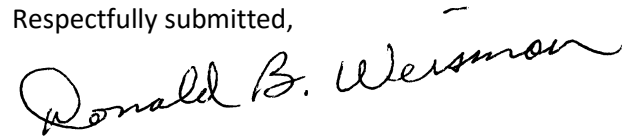
Food insecurity and poor nutrition remain problems for millions of American households. Research shows that SNAP benefits are often not adequate to last a family the entire month. A 2016 report by the Food Research and Action Center summarized the important role SNAP plays in addressing food insecurity. 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, SD2 and restore the suggested allocation of \$1,000,000 to 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



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Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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 The 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.

Even with 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 Hawai'i 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 root cause 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 Executive Officer

Marielle Terbio
Hawaii Foodbank
Director of Community Engagement & Advocacy



LATE

March 15, 2019
9:00 am
Conference Room 312

To: The Honorable Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

From: Paula Arcena, Executive Vice President, External Affairs

Re: SB390, SD2 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

AlohaCare is pleased to submit this testimony on support of SB390, SD2 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, SD2 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.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

March 15, 2019 9:00 AM Room 312

In **SUPPORT of SB 390 SD 2:** Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Incentives

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters and as a member of the Common Good Coalition, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports SB 390 SD2**, 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 and appropriates funds.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i supports efforts to keep food sustainability strong and thriving, as well as making locally-grown produce accessible for all of Hawai'i's residents. Giving "double bucks" for Hawai'i-grown produce incentivizes SNAP participants to purchase nutritious fruits and vegetables- which in turn helps local farmers and our agricultural economy, improves SNAP participants' health, and supports greater local food production into the future.

One of the Sustainable Hawai'i Initiatives is to double local food production by 2020, yet 90% of the state's food is imported and 80% of local production is exported¹. Passage of this bill would increase demand for local produce, while also improving the health of lower-income communities and encouraging sustainable agricultural practices.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 390**.

Mahalo,

Jodi Malinoski, Policy Advocate

¹ <https://mauimagazine.net/empty-isles/>



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LJ Duenas
Hawaii Director
American Diabetes Association

March 13, 2019

Rep. Richard Creagan, Chair
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture
Hawaii State House of Representatives

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 390 SD 2

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) supports SB 390 SD 2, 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 SD2 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

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 9:43:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

RE: SB390SD2

RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCENTIVES

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

Susie Chun Oakland

Joy Barua

May Okihiro

Daniel Leung

Tina Tamai

Diane Tabangay

Daniela Kittinger

Jennifer Dang

Paula Adams

Ray L'Heureux

Stacy Evensen

John Mai



LATE

ORGANIZING *for* ACTION

To: The House Committee on Agriculture
From: Brodie Lockard, Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019, 9:00 am

In support of SB390 SD2

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Committee Members—

Organizing for Action supports SB390 SD2.

Increasing access to healthy food is important anywhere, and in Hawaii, the double up food bucks program can address several other issues, without costing the State money.

A local healthy food incentive program promoting the purchase of Hawaii-grown fruits and vegetables by SNAP beneficiaries will significantly help local farmers. As it boosts local farming, it will also keep a good deal of money in the State, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions from ships hauling so much food across the ocean.

In addition, growing more food locally will contribute to our security in case of inevitable natural disasters.

Please pass SB390 SD2 and benefit Hawaii in all the ways above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard
Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action



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
House Committee on Agriculture
Scheduled for hearing at Friday, March 15, 2019, 9:00, in conference room 312

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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 eleven 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.

LATE

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 4:56:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Graham	350.org	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in favor of SB 390 SD2.

I support SB 390 SD2 because this bill would double the value of SNAP (food stamps) when used to purchase Hawaii grown produce. Giving double bucks for Hawaii-grown produce incentivizes SNAP beneficiaries to purchase nutritious fruits and vegetables- which in turn helps boost local farmers and our agricultural economy, decreases greenhouse gas emissions, improves the health of SNAP participants, and supports greater local food production into the future.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this very important bill.

Best, Janet Graham



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Executive Director,
KEY Project

Miwa Tamanaha

Deputy Director,
Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo

Date: March 13, 2019

To: Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair, Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair, and members of the Committee on Agriculture

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

Re: Support for SB390 SD2

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and Committee Members,

The Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED) supports SB390 SD2, 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 SD2 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



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Amplify the Power of Giving

March 14, 2019

To: Hawai'i State House, Committee on Agriculture

Re: S.B. 390

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair Decoite 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

Chief Executive Officer & President



1809 Bachelot Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Thursday, March 14, 2019

State of Hawaii House Committee on Agriculture
The Honorable Representative Richard Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

Hawaii State Legislature
Friday, March 15, 2019, 9:00 am
Room 312

SB 390, SD2 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives.

Good morning Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee:

Lanakila Pacific strongly supports SB 390 to establish a healthy food incentive program under the Department of Agriculture. Lanakila Pacific’s Lanakila Meals on Wheels Program is Hawaii’s largest and only island-wide home delivered meal provider for kupuna and other individuals with disabilities. Our priorities are to serve rural, low-income, non-English proficient, and otherwise vulnerable individuals. We are also a SNAP Outreach vendor and a member of the Hawaii Hunger Action Network.

The Double Up Food Bucks program has already been proven effective on a local and national level. Not only does it allow for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to receive twice the value of locally grown produce, it creates a larger market for local farmers to be able to grow for and sell to. Eating more healthy produce instead of processed, low nutrient foods is better for the health of Hawaii’s residents, and supporting our local farmers is necessary for Hawaii to be less dependent on imports and more agriculturally sustainable.

Supplemental food assistance programs have been a lifeline since their inception in the 1930s. Our kupuna, individuals with disabilities, individuals and families continue to depend on this assistance each month just to have enough to eat. Thank you for recognizing the needs of the community and the benefits for our local farmers by voting in favor of creating a State Double Up Food Bucks program.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Lau
Director, Lanakila Meals on Wheels

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March 14, 2019

To: Chair Creagan
Vice Chair DeCoite
House Committee on Agriculture

Re: **Support for SB390 SD2**

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for your dedication to our community and for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of SB390 SD2, relating to supplemental nutrition assistance program incentives.

Kaho'omiki, the Hawai'i Council of Physical Activity and Nutrition, believes in programs that support and encourage lifelong healthy lifestyles through physical activity and good nutrition and enhance the quality of life of Hawai'i residents. Along those lines, SB390 truly increases equitable access to healthy foods and can make a significant difference for 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

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*.



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

Representative Richard Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, April 13

Support for SB390 SD2

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 SD2, 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-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 6:58:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 7:51:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 7:43:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 10:57:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colleen Inouye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

Please support SB390 SD2. This bill appropriates funds which would allow SNAP beneficiaries to purchase Hawaii-grown produce.

Hunger and food insecurity remain critical problems in Hawaii. However, these problems are being superseded by the overwhelming population health disaster of obesity. In Hawaii 35,000 households are food insecure with 15,000 having very low food security. Approximately 50% of food insecure households use SNAP. Approximately 1 out of 4 adults are obese with 40% being of Native Hawaiian background. To address the problem of obesity there need to be reforms to improve the diet of these vulnerable populations. Obesity causes further chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiac disease, and cancer. The monies appropriated toward this bill will hopefully replace the increased monies you will spend on these chronic diseases in the future.

Please support and pass SB390 SD2!

Sincerely,

Colleen F Inouye MD MMM FAAPL Jefferson Univ Population Health

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 12:19:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 3:45:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordan Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of S.B. 390, SD2, which appropriates funds for a healthy food incentive program for SNAP recipients. **My name is Jordan Smith and I am resident of Hawaii (represented by House District 29 and Senate District 13) as well as a utilizer of SNAP.**

Double Up Food Bucks is a step in the right direction for equality and access for Hawaii's poorest families and a strong benefit to promoting and maintaining Hawaii's agricultural economy.

Research shows that these programs like these not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption but can actually lower healthcare costs. In addition, pilot programs in Hawaii have already channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars into the pockets of local farmers.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure. We need people like you to stand up and speak for Hawaii's most disenfranchised and allow us to thrive. We as a community cannot standby and allow wealth and access to dictate who can have access to fresh, locally grown vegetables.

I urge you to pass SB390, SD2.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Jordan Smith

Honolulu, HI 96817

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 4:03:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 390 SD2. This bill would double the value of SNAP (food stamps) when used to purchase Hawai'i grown produce. Giving "double bucks" for Hawai'i-grown produce incentivizes SNAP beneficiaries to purchase nutritious fruits and vegetables- which in turn helps local farmers and our agricultural economy, improves SNAP participants' health, and supports greater local food production into the future.

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 4:16:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Reeser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 390 SD2. This bill would double the value of SNAP (food stamps) when used to purchase Hawai'i grown produce. Giving "double bucks" for Hawai'i-grown produce incentivizes SNAP beneficiaries to purchase nutritious fruits and vegetables- which in turn helps local farmers and our agricultural economy, improves SNAP participants' health, and supports greater local food production into the future.

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 4:26:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Wilcox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is important to support human nutrition, the environment, and build a more sustainable food source here in Hawaii.

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 4:43:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Fujita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB390 SD2.

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 5:04:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. It is a brilliant and creative bill to promote Hawai'i grown produce.

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 5:48:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 5:09:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 6:14:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
L.M. Holmes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 390 SD2. This bill would double the value of SNAP (food stamps) when used to purchase Hawai'i grown produce. Giving "double bucks" for Hawai'i-grown produce incentivizes SNAP beneficiaries to purchase nutritious fruits and vegetables- which in turn helps local farmers and our agricultural economy, improves SNAP participants' health, and supports greater local food production into the future. Dr. L.M. Holmes, Honolulu 96817

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 7:09:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily Garland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 390 SD2. This bill would double the value of SNAP (food stamps) when used to purchase Hawai'i grown produce. Giving "double bucks" for Hawai'i-grown produce incentivizes SNAP beneficiaries to purchase nutritious fruits and vegetables- which in turn helps local farmers and our agricultural economy, improves SNAP participants' health, and supports greater local food production into the future.

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 7:29:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 390 SD2. This bill would double the value of SNAP (food stamps) when used to purchase Hawai'i grown produce. Giving "double bucks" for Hawai'i-grown produce incentivizes SNAP beneficiaries to purchase nutritious fruits and vegetables- which in turn helps local farmers and our agricultural economy, improves SNAP participants' health, and supports greater local food production into the future.

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 8:35:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 9:52:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 11:21:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Boyne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 390 SD2. This bill would double the value of SNAP (food stamps) when used to purchase Hawaii grown produce. Giving double bucks for Hawaii-grown produce incentivizes SNAP beneficiaries to purchase nutritious fruits and vegetables- which in turn helps boost local farmers and our agricultural economy, decreases greenhouse gas emissions, improves the health of SNAP participants, and supports greater local food production into the future.

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 1:12:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB390 SD 2. We need to support the SNAP program.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 7:35:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Creagan,

Greetings from Hawaii Island. You will be hearing SB390 tomorrow. Thank you for this. This legislation will make tremendous difference in the lhealth and lives of many on our island and state. **Hawaii Island was the first county** to implement the Double Bucks initiative through The Food Basket and One Island. KTA Superstores continues to be a partner with Double Bucks and plans to make this program available in all their stores. Please ensure the passage of SB390 and that funding becomes available, once passed, to continue the great work being done on Hawaii Island.

Mahalo and blessings. Thank you for your service to our community.

Carol R. Ignacio

District 1

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 7:50:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith A Mick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha- One of the best ways to help those who need food assistance is to encourage them to eat healthy- it's good for them and good for the State as food related sickness will not be sending those folk to doctors and hospitals saving all of us money. We all need encouragement to do the right thing and by doubling the value of SNAP when buying Hawaii grown products is a win for us all.

Mahalo for your consideration. Aloha, Judy Mick, Kailua

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 7:54:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill that will encourage self-sufficiency in the islands and less dependency on imported, 'weeks old' produce. It is a very good idea to encourage local farming and better eating habits for our residents.

Date: March 14, 2019

To: The Honorable Richard P. Creagan , Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Re: **Strong Support of SB390 SD2**, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Hrg: March 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

Aloha House Committee on Agriculture,

I am writing in **strong support of SB390 DS2**, 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 Hawai'i-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 SD2** 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-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 8:36:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Jensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members:

I support SB 390 SD2. This bill would double the value of SNAP (food stamps) when used to purchase Hawaii grown produce. Giving double bucks for Hawaii-grown produce incentivizes SNAP beneficiaries to purchase nutritious fruits and vegetables- which in turn helps boost local farmers and our agricultural economy, decreases greenhouse gas emissions, improves the health of SNAP participants, and supports greater local food production into the future. Let's do all we can to rebuild an agricultural base in Hawaii for the future.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this very important bill.

Sincerely,

Dale Jensen, Professional Engineer, Kailua, Oahu

In Strong Support of SB 390 SD2

To: Rep. Richard Creagan, Chair and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture
Re: Hearing on SB 390 SD2 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
March 15, 2019 Room 312
Fr: Stacy Evensen

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee. Thank you for scheduling this important measure for hearing. My family and I are in strong support of SB 390 SD2 for the following reasons:

- The type of incentive represented in SB 390 SD2 has already proven successful in multiple other jurisdictions and is a good example of a partnership between federal, state governments and local farmers to address a serious food security issue.
- The benefit to low income families is clear—greater access to more locally grown, nutritious produce that can enhance the diets of local families.
- Recent natural disasters and shipping delays continue to shine a bright light on our state’s vulnerability as it relates to food security. Giving an incentive to low income families to purchase local produce will result in farmers selling more which will further result in farmers growing more produce to meet a growing demand. This incentivized push to grow more will help achieve our food security goals.
- More food dollars will stay in Hawaii thus enhancing our state economy.

Given the challenges faced by our large number of low income families in accessing healthy foods and the food insecurity of our state today, I urge the committee to consider the long term economic and health benefits of this proposed program and vote YES to pass SB 390 SD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 11:58:41 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Severine Busquet	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha everyone:

I strongly support SB 390 SD2 which would double the value of food stamps (SNAP) when used to purchase Hawaii grown produce. Giving double bucks for Hawaii-grown produce incentivizes SNAP beneficiaries to purchase nutritious fruits and vegetables- which in turn helps boost local farmers and our agricultural economy, decreases greenhouse gas emissions, improves the health of SNAP participants, and supports greater local food production into the future.

So many reasons to support this very important bill.

Mahalo for your attention

Severine Busquet

Honolulu, Hi 96825

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 1:55:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Royce Fukuroku	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

PATTI COOK

% 64-5246 Iokua Street, Kamuela, HI 96743 - Cell: 808-937-2833

To: STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
And Committee Members

RE: SB 390 SD2 – Hearing Fri., March 15, 2019 – 9 a.m. - SUPPORT

Aloha from Waimea, Hawai'i Island –

First, my apology that this is being submitted LATE, but thank you for hearing this important bill – important to many in our Hawai'i Island community who are (1) hungry, (2) forced to sometimes choose between hunger and health, (3) struggling local farmers in need of a more secure market for their locally grown products, and – may I add another consideration: (4) challenged public school teachers and admin who already have a monumental task and to this is added kids who have a hard time focusing on learning when they are just plain hungry...or not sure what there will be to eat over a long weekend or during Spring Break when there's no breakfast and lunch provided by their school cafeteria.

This bill also would enhance USDA SNAP benefits and, we hope, encourage more to take advantage of SNAP benefits.

I work at one of Waimea's two public schools where approx. 70% of our children come from families eligible for free/reduced lunch. Further, Aloha United Way's 2017 findings for this island determined that about 55% of Hawai'i Island households are below the self-sufficiency threshold. These households Aloha United Way calls: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) or working households, meaning that they have income above the federal poverty level but not high enough to afford a basic household budget. We are not sure how these two data sets come together at our public schools, but suspect 80+% of our families in the two Waimea public schools (approx. 900 children) are seriously struggling with poverty and food insecurity.

As you know, our island community has already piloted the program SB390 proposed to work out kinks and it was found to represent what seems to be an affordable win-win-win-win. May I please urge you to expedite passage of this bill with sufficient financial support to allow it to be launched as soon as possible to benefit families as well as our farmers.

Mahalo,

Patti Cook

decoite2 - Sara

From: Amanda Ellis <amandaellisnz@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 5:32 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: SB762 HD1 testimony in support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Committee members

I am writing in support of the recommendations of the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group as detailed in [DC149](#): the Final Report on a Coordinated Framework of Support for Preschool Through Post-Secondary (P-20) Agriculture Education in Hawai'i pursuant to S.R. No. 80 (2015).

Hawaii has a unique opportunity to use place based Aina education to advance multiple goals - to help our children understand the opportunities to productively steward the land

- to eat healthily and combat diabetes and obesity
- to learn about climate change in situ
- to support the state's aspirations for increased food security and self-sufficiency

It is essential to have A P-20 Agriculture Education Coordinator who will focus on infusing agriculture education into pre-service and in-service teacher development programs for all levels (P-20) in order to produce a greater number of teachers, students, and citizens with an awareness of and interest in agriculture.

Yours sincerely
Amanda Ellis

Amanda ELLIS
Executive Director Hawaii & Asia-Pacific
ASU Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability
PH: [+18084764504](tel:+18084764504) |
Sustainability.asu.edu
Sent from my I-Phone

decoite2 - Sara

From: Carol Ignacio <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2019 7:24 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In STRONG SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to SNAP Incentives

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
HEARING: Friday, March 15, 2019, 9:00AM
PLACE: Conference room 312
FROM: Carol Ignacio
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite , and members of the Committee:

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.

These programs are a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. Local fruits and vegetables are often only affordable to the more affluent residents of Hawaii, putting both low-income families AND local farmers at a disadvantage. SB 390 would channel existing federal funds into local agriculture and businesses that would have normally been spent on food shipped from the mainland.

Research shows that these programs are effective. They not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but can actually lower healthcare costs. In addition, pilot programs in Hawaii have already channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars into the pockets of local farmers.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

decoite2 - Sara

From: Gary Loscocco <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 4:26 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In STRONG SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to SNAP Incentives

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
HEARING: Friday, March 15, 2019, 9:00AM
PLACE: Conference room 312
FROM: Gary Loscocco
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

As a senior, retired member of the Honolulu community (and having resided here for 5 1.2 years and with no intention to ever leave), i firmly support the Double Up initiative.

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

These programs are a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. Local fruits and vegetables are often only affordable to the more affluent residents of Hawaii, putting both low-income families AND local farmers at a disadvantage. SB 390 would channel existing federal funds into local agriculture and businesses that would have normally been spent on food shipped from the mainland.

Research shows that these programs are effective. They not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but can actually lower healthcare costs. In addition, pilot programs in Hawaii have already channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars into the pockets of local farmers.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

decoite2 - Sara

From: Hunter Heavilin <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 4:22 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In STRONG SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to SNAP Incentives

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
HEARING: Friday, March 15, 2019, 9:00AM
PLACE: Conference room 312
FROM: Hunter Heavilin
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite , and members of the Committee:

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.

These programs are a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. Local fruits and vegetables are often only affordable to the more affluent residents of Hawaii, putting both low-income families AND local farmers at a disadvantage. SB 390 would channel existing federal funds into local agriculture and businesses that would have normally been spent on food shipped from the mainland.

Research shows that these programs are effective. They not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but can actually lower healthcare costs. In addition, pilot programs in Hawaii have already channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars into the pockets of local farmers.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

decoite2 - Sara

From: jill Amaral <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 5:22 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In STRONG SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to SNAP Incentives

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
HEARING: Friday, March 15, 2019, 9:00AM
PLACE: Conference room 312
FROM: jill Amaral
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite , and members of the Committee:

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.

These programs are a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. Local fruits and vegetables are often only affordable to the more affluent residents of Hawaii, putting both low-income families AND local farmers at a disadvantage. SB 390 would channel existing federal funds into local agriculture and businesses that would have normally been spent on food shipped from the mainland.

Research shows that these programs are effective. They not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but can actually lower healthcare costs. In addition, pilot programs in Hawaii have already channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars into the pockets of local farmers.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

decoite2 - Sara

From: Joyce Kotaki <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 3:52 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In STRONG SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to SNAP Incentives

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
HEARING: Friday, March 15, 2019, 9:00AM
PLACE: Conference room 312
FROM: Joyce Kotaki
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite , and members of the Committee:

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.

These programs are a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. Local fruits and vegetables are often only affordable to the more affluent residents of Hawaii, putting both low-income families AND local farmers at a disadvantage. SB 390 would channel existing federal funds into local agriculture and businesses that would have normally been spent on food shipped from the mainland.

Research shows that these programs are effective. They not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but can actually lower healthcare costs. In addition, pilot programs in Hawaii have already channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars into the pockets of local farmers.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

decoite2 - Sara

From: Liza Franzoni <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 3:35 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In STRONG SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to SNAP Incentives

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
HEARING: Friday, March 15, 2019, 9:00AM
PLACE: Conference room 312
FROM: Liza Franzoni
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite , and members of the Committee:

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.

These programs are a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. Local fruits and vegetables are often only affordable to the more affluent residents of Hawaii, putting both low-income families AND local farmers at a disadvantage. SB 390 would channel existing federal funds into local agriculture and businesses that would have normally been spent on food shipped from the mainland.

Research shows that these programs are effective. They not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but can actually lower healthcare costs. In addition, pilot programs in Hawaii have already channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars into the pockets of local farmers.

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. 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.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

decoite2 - Sara

From: Phil Becker <aikaneplantation@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 4:17 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 752, SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Creagan, Chair Woodson, Vice Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committees,

I support SB 752, SD 1, which makes an appropriation to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources for research and prevention of the spread of ornamental ginger pathogens.

The unknown spread of the virus and the fungi has devastated many farmers on Windward side of Oahu, forcing farmers to grow other types of ornamental flowers and slowing down their operations. Research funding is necessary for growers and researchers to continue their efforts in finding a solution and the cause of the decline.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Mahalo!

decoite2 - Sara

From: Richard Yust <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2019 8:43 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In STRONG SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to SNAP Incentives

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
HEARING: Friday, March 15, 2019, 9:00AM
PLACE: Conference room 312
FROM: Richard Yust
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite , and members of the Committee:

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. 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. 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.

These programs are a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. Local fruits and vegetables are often only affordable to the more affluent residents of Hawaii, putting both low-income families AND local farmers at a disadvantage. SB 390 would channel existing federal funds into local agriculture and businesses that would have normally been spent on food shipped from the mainland.

Research shows that these programs are effective. They not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but can actually lower healthcare costs. In addition, pilot programs in Hawaii have already channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars into the pockets of local farmers.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

decoite2 - Sara

From: Sassie Keaulana <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 4:28 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In STRONG SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to SNAP Incentives

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
HEARING: Friday, March 15, 2019, 9:00AM
PLACE: Conference room 312
FROM: Sassie Keaulana
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite , and members of the Committee:

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.

These programs are a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. Local fruits and vegetables are often only affordable to the more affluent residents of Hawaii, putting both low-income families AND local farmers at a disadvantage. SB 390 would channel existing federal funds into local agriculture and businesses that would have normally been spent on food shipped from the mainland.

Research shows that these programs are effective. They not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but can actually lower healthcare costs. In addition, pilot programs in Hawaii have already channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars into the pockets of local farmers.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

LATE

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: March 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of SB390 SD2, 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 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Fleck
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: March 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am a medical student and I strongly support SB549, which promotes healthy beverage options by making the default beverage offered in restaurants with children's meals a healthy drink.

Sugary drinks are a major cause of diabetes mellitus type II and many other chronic diseases. By promoting sugary drinks early in life, it creates an incentive for calorie over-consumption throughout life. I advise that we start kids off right by promoting healthy beverages while they are young.

This bill will help support families by providing more healthy choices for kids. Instead of getting a sugary drink by default, the meal will come with water or milk. Sugary drinks are the single largest source of added sugars in our kids' diets, making up half of all sugars consumed. Soda and fruit punch are already too high in sugar for kids, yet it is usually the default beverage served with children's meals. Consuming just one sugary drink a day significantly increases a child's risk to type 2 diabetes, becoming overweight, and developing tooth decay. It is never too early for children to practice healthy eating habits such as eating well and exercising regularly. Food establishments are an ideal venue for children to practice these healthy habits and to make it easy for families to make the healthy choice.

Our keiki are sweet enough. This is a step in the right direction to support parents' efforts to protect their children's health. I strongly support SB549 and respectfully ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,
Jason Huynh
Honolulu, HI 96814

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: March 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of SB390 SD2, 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 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

www.WeAreOne.cc

Mahalo,
Joseph Kohn MD
Wailuku, HI 96793

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: March 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

Aloha Honorable Senators, I am writing in strong support of SB390 SD2, 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).

This program helps provide fresh, home-grown produce to Hawaii's poorest of the poor, and helps support agriculture by boosting the sales of Hawaii's farmers. The availability of low-cost fresh produce can help break the habit and convenience of eating canned foods that often contain preservatives and excess fat, especially in the canned meats.

As the social services director at the Towers at Kuhio Park, formerly part of Kuhio Park Terrace, with a population of 3,000 that includes close to 1,000 youth under the age of 18, I see the benefits of the Double Bucks program each week at our Farmer's Market. I heard a teenager say, "I've never eaten anything green before," as he reluctantly tried in on a taco. When he went for a second helping there was no question, the healthy bibb lettuce was included. This scenario happens all the time as residents of all ages can find traditional produce like breadfruit and taro along side fruits and vegetables they may never had tried but now enjoy. The cost saving is a key factor in their purchases. One breadfruit now cost around \$5.00 and this could be by a whole case of preservative-filled ramen. Not to knock ramen, but fresh produce is a critical part of good health.

I would say that Double Bucks is a quadruple win for Hawaii -- it's good the families, farmers, the local economy, and can help save on health care cost. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Anni Peterson
Honolulu, HI 96817

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: March 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

This is a no brainer; either support healthy foods as prevention or don't support this measure and pay higher health care costs!

I am writing in strong support of SB390 SD2, 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 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Suzanne Fields
Haiku, HI 96708

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: March 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

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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 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Patricia Blair
Kailua, HI 96734

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: March 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Michele Nihipali
Hauula, HI 96717

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

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Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Seri Niimi-Burch
Honokaa, HI 96727

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

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Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Bryan Mih
Honolulu, HI 96822

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: March 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Michael Kellar
Honolulu, HI 96821

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
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Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Midgieann Wright
Honolulu, HI 96814

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

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Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Shani Gacayan
Paauilo, HI 96776

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
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Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: March 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Stephanie Austin
Haiku, HI 96708

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
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Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Michael deYcaza
Honolulu, HI 96815

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: March 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Doris Matsunaga
Aiea, HI 96701

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Michelle Kwock
Honolulu, HI 96813

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: March 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Mae Kyono
Honolulu, HI 96826

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Marilyn Gagen
Kamuela, HI 96743

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: March 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Christine Fukui
Honolulu, HI 96821

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

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The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Michelle Gray
Honolulu, HI 96825

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Bev Brody
Kilauea, HI 96754

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: March 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Sheryl Keliipio
Kapaa, HI 96746

3/14/2019

Strong Support of SB390 SD2, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

To the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support SB390 SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,
Lauren Loor
Kahului, HI 96732

LATE

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 4:33:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 390 SD2. This bill would double the value of SNAP (food stamps) when used to purchase Hawai'i grown produce. Giving "double bucks" for Hawai'i-grown produce incentivizes SNAP beneficiaries to purchase nutritious fruits and vegetables- which in turn helps local farmers and our agricultural economy, improves SNAP participants' health, and supports greater local food production into the future.

LATE

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 4:31:05 PM
Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James McCay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support for SB390 SD2.

Health is wealth and thank you for these efforts. Great to see Blue Zones supporting, and this cannot help but help local ag.

MAHALO & Malama Pono!
James McCay
HNL 96815

LATE

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 11:42:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT. This bill would double the value of SNAP (food stamps) when used to purchase Hawai'i-grown produce. Giving "double bucks" for Hawai'i-grown produce incentivizes SNAP beneficiaries to purchase nutritious fruits and vegetables grown locally (and not arriving here through the use of petroleum)- which in turn helps local farmers and our agricultural economy, improves SNAP participants' health, reduces our reliance on imported and gas-guzzling food, and supports greater local food production into the future.

LATE

SB-390-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2019 7:18:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jeffrey alameida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support SB 390

This Bill will increase access to fresh produce and provide additional revenue opportunities for local growers, while improving food security for all of Hawaii's residents.

Mahalo,

AGRtestimony

From: Lisa DeSantis <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2019 10:03 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In STRONG SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to SNAP Incentives

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
HEARING: Friday, March 15, 2019, 9:00AM
PLACE: Conference room 312
FROM: Lisa DeSantis
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite , and members of the Committee:

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.

These programs are a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. Local fruits and vegetables are often only affordable to the more affluent residents of Hawaii, putting both low-income families AND local farmers at a disadvantage. SB 390 would channel existing federal funds into local agriculture and businesses that would have normally been spent on food shipped from the mainland.

Research shows that these programs are effective. They not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but can actually lower healthcare costs. In addition, pilot programs in Hawaii have already channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars into the pockets of local farmers.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.