



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2632 HD1,**  
**RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY**

Before the House Committee on  
**PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS**

By

Thomas L. Travis  
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Gates and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) offers **comments** on House Bill 2632 HD1.

House Bill 2632 HD1 authorizes the Governor to issue a proclamation of pre-disaster necessity for the purpose of assisting foodbanking organizations to maintain food stocks for an emergency.

While HI-EMA appreciates the interest brought up by this measure, it would not be prudent to single out food stocks without also considering other critical issues, keeping a constant strain on all of them. These issues include water, medical support, sheltering, and electrical power to name a few. Administering foodstuffs without balancing the challenges presented by administering other critical issues could result in an improvement in disaster management of food stuffs while harming other critical disaster management areas.

Note: My comments represent HI-EMA concerns at the state emergency management level only. I would defer to the separate comment/testimonies of the county emergency management agencies, as they would be the jurisdictions impacted by this legislation at the local level.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2632 HD1.

Thomas L. Travis: [Thomas.L.Travis@hawaii.gov](mailto:Thomas.L.Travis@hawaii.gov); 808-733-4300



February 10, 2020

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Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates and members of the House Committee on Public Safety, Veterans & Military Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony *in support of* HB 2632, which authorizes the Governor to issue a proclamation of pre-disaster necessity for the purpose of assisting food banking organizations to maintain food stocks for an emergency.

Hawaii Foodbank regularly provides food to 1 in 8 Hawaii residents each year, approximately 12.5% of the state's population (almost 59,000 households). Last year, we distributed over 12 million pounds of food on Oahu (10.7 million) and Kauai (1.3 million), a majority of which is donated (89%). As a state network, Hawaii Foodbank Oahu and Kauai, Maui Food Bank and The Food Basket on Hawaii Island, distributed 16.6 million pounds of food in 2019 to those faced with food insecurity.

Since 2018, Hawaii Foodbank and its network of food banks across Hawaii has provided more than 450,350 pounds of food and supplies toward disaster relief efforts on Kauai, Hawaii Island and Oahu. This includes response to the epic April 2018 storm that affected Kauai and Oahu, the Kilauea eruption (2018), the partial government shutdown (Dec 2018-Jan 2019), and Hurricane Lane (2018). It is important to note, Hawaii Foodbank Kauai's disaster response continued post-storm for 18 months.

There are organizations that specialize in disaster response but only food banks have existing infrastructure, networks, logistical expertise and other resources already in place, that allow them to effectively respond to mass feedings in a way no one else can. We have proven experience responding to crisis, and relationships with a national network of food banks and the local food industry, and the trust of local communities that uniquely positions us to respond swiftly when disaster strikes.

Hawaii's geographic isolation is a major concern when it comes to disaster preparedness. Currently, Hawaii Foodbank purchases about 10% of its distribution supply from the Continental U.S. and it takes approximately 4-6 weeks for that food to get to Hawaii. If Honolulu Harbor is negatively affected by a disaster in any way, the impact would be felt statewide. HI-EMA estimates Hawaii has about 5-7 days of food on hand at any given moment. That fragile supply is often depleted by panic purchasing, the act of buying unusually large amount of a product in anticipation of or after a disaster or perceived disaster.

Hawaii Foodbank will respond to all events, but like all food banks, we do not have the inventory in place to respond to major disasters and sustain that response. The amount of food stored in our Mapunapuna warehouse is enough to feed the population we currently serve for 15 days. Annual funding of \$2.5 million will provide enough food and water for at least 3 days for up to 1,000 households in the event of a disaster (an estimated 3,000 people). This amount also takes into consideration the population we currently serve.

With help from the State, the network of food banks can better prepare for future disasters. Let's work together to get it done. Now is the time.

With much respect and aloha,

Ron Mizutani  
Hawaii Foodbank  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Marielle Terbio  
Hawaii Foodbank  
Director of Community Engagement & Advocacy





February 11, 2020



Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates and members of the House Committee on Public Safety, Veterans & Military Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony *in support of* HB 2632, which will help Hawaii's food bank network maintain food and water stocks for an emergency.

**KAUAI ADVISORY MEMBERS**

**Lead Representative**  
**Charlie King**  
*King Auto Center*

Hawaii Foodbank Kauai provides service to 13,000 Kauai residents, distributing more than 1.3 million pounds of food annually. As a state network, Hawaii Foodbank Oahu and Kauai, Maui Food Bank and The Food Basket on Hawaii Island, distributed 16.6 million pounds of food in 2019 to those faced with food insecurity.

**Bill Buley**  
*The Garden Island Newspaper*

**Dr. Addison Bulosan**  
*The Specific Chiropractic - Kauai*

In April 2018, Kauai was battered by a devastating rainstorm that caused massive flooding and destructive landslides, heavily affecting the Hā'ena-Wainiha communities. Thanks to our community partners such as Kauai United Way, we were able to convert a trailer into a Mobile Food Pantry and provide more than 249,000 lbs. of food and emergency supplies to north shore families through the end of 2018. The mobile pantry played a crucial role during the extended highway closure to continue to provide service to displaced families.

**Diane Keeler**  
*Walmart*

**Lesah Merritt**  
*Safeway*

**Ashley Nagaoka**  
*Hawaii News Now*

Last year, Hawaii Foodbank Kauai continued weekly food relief services to the north shore, utilizing over \$278,000 and delivering an additional 179,000 lbs. of food via the Mobile Food Pantry to about 80 north shore families. In total, Hawaii Foodbank Kauai distributed more than 400,000 lbs. of food and emergency supplies in the 20-month period of service for those affected by the flood.

**Patrick Ono**  
*Matson Navigation*

**Tim Takeshita**  
*Enterprise Holdings*

**Beth Tokioka**  
*Kauai Island Utility Cooperative*

Hawaii Foodbank Kauai's warehouse in Puhi maintains a 15-day supply of food for the population we currently serve on the Garden Island. Hawaii Foodbank Oahu and Kauai purchase about 10% of our distribution supply and the shipment period for the food we order takes approximately 4-6 weeks, depending on the food's point of origin from the Continental U.S. (2,500 miles away) to Honolulu Harbor. Additionally, shipment to Kauai or other neighbor islands takes at least an extra day or two.

**Sonia Topenio**  
*Bank of Hawaii*

**OFFICERS**

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**Jeff Moken**  
*Hawaiian Airlines*

If Honolulu Harbor was affected by a disaster, the impact would be extremely detrimental to the entire state. HI-EMA estimates that the islands have about 5-7 days of food on hand at any given moment. With notice, most people who can afford to stock up immediately do so. However, the April 2018 storm and flooding showed us that disasters do occur with little warning leaving many unprepared without food or water, and in the case of north shore Kauai, no means to obtain supplies.

**Vice Chair**  
**Christina Hause**  
*Kaiser Permanente*

**Secretary**  
**James Starshak**  
*Carlsmith Ball LLC*

With help from the State, our food bank network can better prepare for future disasters. Annual funding of \$2.5 million will provide enough food and water for at least 3 days for up to 1,000 households in the event of a disaster (an estimated 3,000 people) in addition to the population we currently serve.

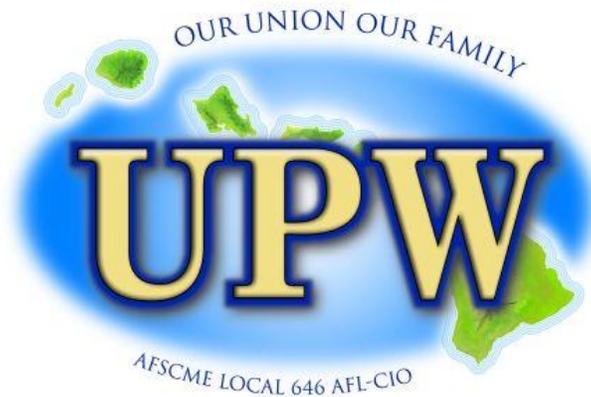
**Treasurer**  
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*First Hawaiian Bank*

**President & CEO**  
**Ron Mizutani**  
*Hawaii Foodbank*

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Wes Perreira  
Hawaii Foodbank Kauai  
Director





THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
The Thirtieth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2020

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, February 12, 2020  
TIME OF HEARING: 10:00 AM  
PLACE OF HEARING: State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Conference Room 430

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2632 HD1 RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,  
State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW),  
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 13,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

HB2632 HD1 Authorizes the Governor to issue a proclamation of pre-disaster necessity for the purpose of assisting food banking organizations to maintain food stocks for an emergency. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050.

The UPW supports the provisions of HB2632 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
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TO:  
Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs  
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 12, 2020  
TIME: 10am  
PLACE: Conference Room 430

RE: HB2632 Relating to Food Security

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.

HFIA is in support of this measure. Ensuring that Hawaii residents have access to food during a disaster is a top priority in emergency management in our state. The Honolulu Department of Emergency Management recommends that everyone have two a two weeks supply of food on hand to be prepared for a disaster. However, many people don't maintain that food supply and for families that are food insecure on a daily basis creating a two-week stockpile is simply not feasible. The fact is, when disaster strikes many Hawaii residents will rely on food donations and it makes sense to plan ahead for that eventuality. We encourage you to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

*Amplify the Power of Giving*

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair

Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

**HB2632 RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY**

TESTIMONY BY

MICAH A. KĀNE

CEO & President

Hawai'i Community Foundation

Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 10:00 am

State Capitol, Room 430

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Chair Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair Cedric Asuega Gates and members of the House Committee on Public Safety, Veterans & Military Affairs.

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Public Safety, Veterans & Military Affairs:

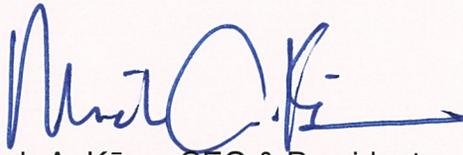
The Hawaii Community Foundation is pleased to provide testimony in support of HB 2632, which authorizes the Governor to issue a proclamation of pre-disaster necessity to provide funding to food-banking organizations to maintain a minimum stock of food to meet demand in an emergency or disaster situation.

The Foundation was directly involved in responding to community needs after the 2018 floods on the North Shore of Kauai, Hurricane Lane and the Kilauea eruption on Hawaii Island. Many organizations and agencies responded to these disasters, but only the food banks and pantries were tasked with feeding people. In many cases responding to these emergencies depleted the food resources they had on hand for community members who struggle daily with food insecurity.

Our experience with these disasters also revealed the critical importance of the trust and long-standing relationships that food banks and pantries have with their communities. They knew how and where to reach people, and very often facilitated the disaster response activities of larger organizations that had come from outside of the community and didn't know how to engage or best serve the community.

We know our community will be faced with more natural disasters and emergencies and that the food bank network will be there to respond, as a result we strongly urge the Committee to vote in favor of HB 2632. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Micah A. Kane", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Micah A. Kāne, CEO & President  
Hawai'i Community Foundation



# HAWAII APPLESEED

## CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
In Support of HB 2632 – Relating to Food Security  
House Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs  
Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 10:00 AM, conference room 430

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Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB 2632**, which authorizes the Governor to issue a proclamation of pre-disaster necessity for the purpose of assisting foodbanking organizations to maintain food stocks for an emergency.

Hawai'i's statewide food bank network is a critical system for ensuring the islands' food security during and after a natural disaster. Many organizations respond to disasters, however, only food banks and pantries have the existing structure, networks and logistical expertise to effectively respond to emergency food needs.

While it is important that we continue to encourage Hawai'i households to keep a 14-day emergency food supply, this is not sufficient in the event of a major disaster, where the loss of access to Honolulu Harbor would delay food shipments beyond the current 4-6 weeks it currently takes for food to arrive from the continental U.S.

Furthermore, for the nearly half of Hawai'i residents who are considered "Asset-Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed" (ALICE), keeping an always-fresh 14-day supply of food is simply not feasible. More than one in ten Hawai'i residents is currently considered "food insecure,"<sup>i</sup> meaning they can't afford healthy food on a consistent daily basis, let alone a two-week contingency supply.

Annual funding of 2.5 million dollars would be like an "insurance policy"—one that we hope we never need to use, but that we could very well regret not purchasing. The policy would kick in only upon the proclamation of a pre-disaster necessity, and is a common sense safety measure.

Mahalo for your consideration of this testimony. Please pass HB 2632.

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<sup>i</sup> Feeding America (2017). Map the Meal Gap. Figures available online at <https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2017/overall/hawaii>



Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Public Safety, Veterans & Military Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony *in support of* HB 2632, which authorizes the Governor to issue a proclamation to help Hawaii's food bank network prepare to serve the community in the event of a disaster by providing funding to purchase food and water before an event occurs.

The **Hawai'i Hunger Action Network** is a statewide partnership of anti-hunger institutions and advocates whose mission is to ensure all people in Hawai'i have enough food and water to live healthy, dignified and productive lives. Many of our organizations were actively involved in responding to the historic floods on the North Shore of Kauai in 2018, and Hurricane Lane and the Kilauea Volcano eruption on Hawai'i Island. We experienced first-hand the importance of local food banks and pantries in responding to community needs during these emergencies. Without their trusted relationships and networks in the community the impact of these disasters on those affected would have been far worse. Other government and nonprofit agencies also responded to these disasters, but the sole responsibility for feeding people affected by these disasters rested with Hawai'i's food banks and pantries.

With help from the State, the statewide food bank network can better prepare for future disasters. Pre-disaster preparation is vital; food shipments take an average of 4-6 weeks from the Continental U.S. and the loss of access to Honolulu Harbor is possible in a disaster, which would further delay food shipments. Annual funding of 2.5 million dollars will provide enough food and water for at least 3 days for up to 1,000 households (3,000 people) in the event of a disaster, in addition to the people the food bank network already serves. Many organizations respond to disasters, however, only food banks and pantries have the existing structure, networks and logistical expertise to effectively respond to emergency food needs.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

**Members of the Hawai'i Hunger Action Network**

Kristen Frost Albrecht, The Food Basket Inc., Hawai'i Island's Food Bank

Rona Fukumoto, Lanakila Pacific

Carol Ignacio, Community Leader, Hawai'i Island

Brent Kakesako, Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development

Daniela Kittinger & Gavin Thornton, Hawai'i Appleseed

Daniel Leung, Kapiolani Community College, Culinary Arts Department

Pi'ikea Miller & Chris vanBergeijk, Hawai'i Community Foundation

Ron Mizutani & Laura-Kay Rand, Hawai'i Foodbank

Sharon Kaiulani Odom, Kokua Kalihi Valley

Tina Porras-Jones, Parents and Children Together

Tina Tamai, Hawaii Good Food Alliance

Rich Yust, Maui Food Bank

**HB-2632-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 1:11:40 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/12/2020 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeffrey K. Vigilla	Chef Point of View	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno & Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2632.

As a member of Hawaii's community and being in the Food & Beverage industry for well over 40 years & an Executive Chef for over 20 years. I've always thought of myself as one who serves the community locally as well as globally. Growing up here in Hawaii (Hilo) I was taught to be kind, compassionate, caring and to give more than I would receive. This was instilled in me by my grandparents Randolph & Adeline Ahuna. I believe that our island communities share these very same values. We have an opportunity to support those who could and would be affected by natural, man made, economical or other disasters that hit the very heart of our island communities.

By having the right measures and plans in place we are able to help, assist and lessen the burdens to those in need. We are stronger as a community than ever before due to our spirit to give and serve each other.

I fully support HB 2632 giving us the opportunity to do exactly as we were taught growing up here in Hawaii.

Best Regards,

Jeffrey K. Vigilla, Hawaiian Island Citizen

**HB-2632-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:52:06 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/12/2020 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It would be really nice if we empowered locally grown food to become products in our food banks. In doing so, we would also lower our assistance margins by leaps and bounds. Projected success time might be ten years out but we have to start somewhere. Things in Hawai'i really need to change, and not for the betterment of corporations to bank off of impoverished locals.

**HB-2632-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 2:26:27 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/12/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Legislative Representative,

I support this bill. As a retired public safety employee, I saw several attempts to go ahead with a build of a new facility.. I sat on several exploratory committees of how a new facility would look and what we need. These were for a possible facility on Big Island (Kings Bay); on Maui (next to the National Guard Center in the middle of the cane plantation); on Oahu (rebuilding OCCC and adding a new site to HCF); and Oahu again with a new facility at WCF by partnering with housing developer to build up the appropriate infrastructure to make and 900 bed facility. And lastly, I heard several times the idea of purchasing the FDC, as we lease most of the cells there any ways because the Feds have never filled that location. Being that we have over-crowding at HCF and OCCC often, it would be to the state's advantage to get something. Additionally, keeping close to 1800 inmates on the mainland because we lack facilities to house is a poor excuse for taking care of our own problems. Please note when we send the offenders to the mainland, we only teach them to be worse. They see what offenders are like from the mainland and they get prideful and decide we can be worse than them. (Gang affiliations cause this behavior.) If we can stop the migration of inmates to off islands, we would make rehabilitation more effective and workable. Too often though many have the mentality and personality of how offenders are on the mainland. This makes the job for the ACOs, Case Managers, Counselors, Nurses, Cooks, Parole Officers, Workline Supervisors, etc. that much more difficult in the long run. We want to stop the recidivism. Buying FDC is not the curall, but it defintely helps to reduce the problem.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Fukuzawa, SAS-5 Retired

**HB-2632-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 9:52:35 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/12/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a resident of Kauai and a member of the Board of the Hawaii Foodbank, I urge to pass this bill. These monies will allow the community to be prepared before disasters strike. It is figured that these monies will provide for 3days of food supplies for 1,000 households (3,000 individuals). I have lived through Hurricane Iniki and know what it's like to all of a sudden be cut off from supplies of food and water. I've seen from the Foodbank's perspective what it's like to scramble for supplies with the 2018 floods in Haena.

Obviously this isn't just for Kauai, it's for the whole State, these are just the first hand examples I can site to you to urge your favorable consideration.

Mahalo.

**LATE**

**HB-2632-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 1:17:56 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/12/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:



**LATE**

TO: Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair  
Rep. Dale T. Kobayashi  
Rep. Takashi Ohno  
Rep. Sam Satoru Kong  
Rep. Bob McDermott  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto

From: Michael Miller, Tiki's Grill & Bar      Date: February 11, 2020

Subj: RE: HB 2632 Relating to Food Security

We are in support of HB 2632 Relating to Food Security.

We do agree with Mr. Thomas L. Travis - Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) and his testimony in saying that many other critical issues need to be addressed during an emergency, as well his assertion that strain may put on other resources.

Ultimately, we feel that the Hawaii Foodbank is the best group to handle the challenges that come from being able to manage the \$2.5 million, or 22,1800 meals, that is being discussed.

We agree with the Hawaii Foodbank's assertion that *"There are organizations that specialize in disaster response but only food banks have existing infrastructure, networks, logistical expertise and other resources already in place, that allow them to effectively respond to mass feedings in a way no one else can. We have proven experience responding to crisis, and relationships with a **national network of food banks and the local food industry, and the trust of local communities** that uniquely positions us to respond swiftly when disaster strikes."*

They also take pains to ensure that sure the food goes to those who need it before the food stores expire.

Please vote yes to move HB 2632 forward.

Mahalo,  
Michael Miller / Director of Operations ---- michaelm@tikisgrill.com