

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

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

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

**WRITTEN ONLY**

TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 1250, S.D. 1

**March 2, 2021  
9:30 a.m.  
Room 211 & Videoconference**

RELATING TO EMERGENCY FOOD MANAGEMENT

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 1250, S.D. 1.

S.B. No. 1250, S.D. 1, establishes the Hawai'i Emergency Food Assistance Program to be administered by the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to relieve emergency food shortages during declared state of emergencies; establishes the Hawai'i Emergency Food Assistance Program Special Fund (Special Fund) that would generate revenues through legislative appropriations, gifts, donations, and interest generated by the account; appropriates \$5,000,000 in general funds in FY 22 and FY 23 for deposit into the Special Fund; and appropriates \$5,000,000 in special funds in FY 22 and FY 23 to provide an expenditure ceiling for the Special Fund.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and

charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding S.B. No. 1250, S.D. 1, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining.

The department defers to DOA regarding program implementation and funding.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021  
9:30 A.M.  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1250 S.D. 1  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY FOOD MANAGEMENT**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1250 S.D. 1 to create the Hawaii emergency food assistance program special fund to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and appropriates moneys into the fund to feed Hawaii's needy population when a state of emergency has been declared.

The Department appreciates the intent of this measure as long it does not adversely impact priorities in our Executive budget and offers comments.

During times of economic crisis, natural disasters, or other emergencies, the number of Hawaii residents and families, particularly low-income families and the unemployed, who experience food insecurity increases dramatically, local charitable food organizations face insurmountable financial pressure on their limited budgets when called upon to respond to the increased demand for food, and local food producers are severely impacted by the loss of markets to sell their produce which have been shuttered by the crisis, particularly in the hospitality, travel, and restaurant industries.

Charitable food organizations can offer a dual solution to this dilemma by ensuring that families in need have access to enough food during these austere times, while simultaneously providing an economic lifeline for food producers. This measure seeks to achieve that outcome, upon an emergency proclamation from the governor by providing funding to charitable food organizations to purchase food directly from local food producers and distribute it to those in need to sustain their household.



The department appreciates the measure's purpose to serve the critical needs of the most vulnerable segment of our society during a declared state of emergency, while simultaneously supporting the charitable local food organizations and local food producers. The department serves as a secondary emergency support functional role to DHS as the lead agency for ESF-6 for mass care, emergency assistance, housing and human services. The department is always willing to serve when called upon and activated by HI-EMA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 257 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817  
PHONE: (808) 768-2277 • EMAIL: [resilientoahu@honolulu.gov](mailto:resilientoahu@honolulu.gov) • INTERNET: [www.resilientoahu.org](http://www.resilientoahu.org)



RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR

MATTHEW GONSER, AICP, CFM  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &  
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021, 9:30 A.M.

STATE OF HAWAII  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1250, SD1  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY FOOD MANAGEMENT**

BY,

MATTHEW GONSER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER  
OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

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

The City and County of Honolulu (City) Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR) **supports** Senate Bill 1250, SD1, which establishes a Hawai'i Emergency Food Assistance Program administered by the Department of Agriculture, appropriates funding for the program, and establishes a Hawai'i Emergency Food Assistance Special Fund.

Establishing an emergency food and storage supply strategy received broad public support during the development of the City's O'ahu Resilience Strategy,<sup>1</sup> which also noted that disaster feeding operations require the cooperative efforts of City, state, federal, and international governmental and non-governmental organizations. The twin health and economic crises of the COVID-19 pandemic have served to strengthen the City's focus on emergency food assistance, especially in light of the increased rates of both food insecurity and unemployment in our community.

SB1250, SD1 helps provide some of the funding and administrative capacity needed to realize those cooperative efforts, additionally recognizing the critical role of local food banks in times of crisis. Moreover, by including language on food grown or produced in Hawai'i, this bill also promotes the state's food self-sufficiency, ultimately

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<sup>1</sup> City and County of Honolulu, *Ola: O'ahu Resilience Strategy*, Action 16 Establish an O'ahu Food Supply and Storage Strategy, p.62, <https://resilientoahu.org/resilience-strategy>.

Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran  
SB1250, SD1  
March 2, 2021  
Page 2

helping to make our food supply more resilient to future shocks and stressors, including pandemics.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1250, SD1.



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

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**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

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TO:

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

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 2, 2021  
TIME: 9:30am  
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: SB1250 SD1 Relating to Emergency Food Management

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. Our local food banks and food pantries have done a remarkable job of managing the unprecedented increase in demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis. This measure will make sure that these organizations have the resources they need to support Hawaii residents in times of increased food insecurity due to disasters or other emergencies. As explained in the measure, organizations like food banks can help stabilize the entire food supply chain during times of crisis. Creating and funding the Hawaii emergency food assistance program is a common sense way to make sure our state is more prepared and more resilient.



Feb. 26, 2021

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony *in strong support of SB 1250*, which creates the Hawaii emergency food assistance program special fund, which will be administered by the department of agriculture and appropriates moneys into the fund to feed Hawaii's needy population when a state of emergency has been declared.

Over the years, Hawaii Foodbank has built a strong reputation for stepping up to serve the community in times of need. When Hurricane Iniki devastated Kauai in 1992, our organization responded immediately by sending 1.5 million pounds of food to relief sites across the island. Our contributions to the Iniki relief efforts garnered statewide recognition - establishing Hawaii Foodbank as an important disaster response organization. More recently, Hawaii Foodbank and its network of food bank partners across Hawaii have provided nearly half a million pounds of food and supplies toward disaster relief efforts on Kauai, Hawaii Island and Oahu. This includes response to the April 2018 storm that affected Kauai and Oahu, the Kilauea eruption (2018), the partial government shutdown (Dec. 2018-Jan. 2019), and Hurricane Lane (2018). Our relief efforts on Kauai's north shore continued for more than 18 months - teaching us valuable lessons on preparedness, resilience and, ultimately, recovery.

There are organizations that specialize in disaster response but only food banks have existing infrastructure, networks, logistical expertise and other resources already in place—allowing them to effectively respond to mass feedings in a way no one else can. Since the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in March 2020, Hawaii Foodbank has distributed 24.2 million pounds of food. We have strong relationships with a national network of food banks, and the trust of local communities and proven experience responding to crisis. All of this uniquely positions us to respond swiftly and effectively when disaster strikes.

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. HI-EMA estimates Hawaii has about 5-7 days of food on hand at any given moment. The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us of the fragility of Hawaii's food system and supply chain - when that fragile supply was depleted by panic purchasing, the act of buying unusually large amount of a product in anticipation of or after a disaster or perceived disaster. Panic purchasing has subsequently led to a decrease in donations from our community partners throughout the pandemic.







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*D.K Restaurants*

Hawaii Foodbank helps provide food to 1 in 6 Hawaii residents, including 90,000 keiki. In fiscal year 2019-2020, we distributed just more than 12 million pounds of food on Oahu (10.7 million) and Kauai (1.3 million), a majority of which is donated (89 percent). The COVID-19 pandemic caused a 53 percent increase (18.3 million pounds) in food distribution last fiscal year. The reduction in food donations led us to almost double our food purchases (80 percent increase) from the previous year just to meet the needs of the community. This includes over a million dollars of local produce purchased through local farms and our partnership with the Hawaii Farm Bureau.

Hawaii's geographic isolation is a major concern when it comes to disaster preparedness. Hawaii Foodbank purchases a portion of its distribution supply from the Continental U.S. and it takes approximately 4-6 weeks for that food to get to Hawaii. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected this timeline greatly as the demands of the local and national food systems have increased the wait time up to 6 months. Thus, it is critical that we are able to source food through local channels. We recognize that supporting the local food industry is of the utmost importance, however, we encourage that the committee consider making the purchase of locally grown or produced foods a preference rather than a requirement. Our network of food banks has access to purchase non-perishable foods at low cost through our national food bank network, Feeding America. This provides us access to more vendors, as we know that food manufacturers and producers within the islands are limited. We understand and believe it is critical to support the local food industry and have always made it a priority – but we also understand that the reality is that the State is not at a point where we can fully support ourselves.

With help from the State, and by allowing both local and non-local purchases, we can all better prepare for future disasters and emergencies.

With much respect and aloha,

**Marielle Terbio**  
**Hawaii Foodbank**  
Director of Community Engagement & Advocacy

**Laura Kay Rand**  
**Hawaii Foodbank**  
Vice President & Chief Impact Officer





**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021; 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 1250, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY FOOD MANAGEMENT.**

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

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 1250, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY FOOD MANAGEMENT.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Establish the Hawaii Emergency Food Assistance Program (Program) within the Department of Agriculture, to be administered during a declared state of emergency to relieve food shortages by distributing local food to low-income and unemployed families and individuals, among others;
- (2) Create the Program Special Fund (Special Fund), and provide that monies in the Special Fund not lapse into the general fund.
- (3) Appropriate \$5,000,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2021-2022, and the same for fiscal year 2022-2023 to be deposited into the Special Fund; and
- (4) Appropriates \$5,000,000 from the Special Fund for fiscal year 2021-2022, and the same for fiscal year 2022-2023, to provide immediate relief from food shortages during the declared state of emergency.

The bill would take effect on July 1, 2021.

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 1250, Senate Draft 1**  
**Tuesday, March 2, 2021; 9:30 a.m.**  
**Page 2**

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved 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 healthcare.

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely threatened the health and welfare of our citizens, especially Hawaii's underprivileged and rural communities. With so many people unemployed, entire families are struggling to put food on the table on a consistent basis. All one needs to do is visit one of our member FQHC's food distribution events and see the line of cars stretch for miles and people wait for hours to receive some surplus food.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated the need for a program like this. Hawaii's families are struggling to survive. Accordingly, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or [eabe@hawaiiipca.net](mailto:eabe@hawaiiipca.net).



# HAWAII APPLESEED

## CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
In Support of SB 1250 – Relating to Emergency Food Management  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 9:30 AM

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of **SB 1250**, which creates an emergency food assistance program that would authorize the purchase food from Hawai'i producers by community feeding organizations.

Hawai'i's statewide emergency food network, consisting of food banks, pantries, shelters, and commercial kitchens, is a critical system for ensuring the islands' food security during and after times of crisis. Time after time when disasters strike, these charitable organizations are called upon by authorities to respond—without compensation—taxing them beyond their usual capacity to feed our island communities.

Hawai'i would be joining more than 16 other states in having institutional support for charitable feeding programs, and one of just a handful that would dedicate this support to the purchase of local products. The way the bill is written, it would stimulate institutional purchasing of local products in the same manner as “farm to school” or “farm to state” programs, with less bureaucracy to navigate. The upside is that the emergency food network consists of non-governmental organizations that would compete for funding through a competitive procurement process.

While we understand the tight budget situation this year, it is inevitable that Covid-19 will not be the last crisis we face as a community, and when the next one comes, we will once again be in the position of struggling to feed families on the brink. Having the program in statute—even with a small appropriation—would serve as an “insurance policy” to cover future needs. The policy would kick in only upon the proclamation of a future disaster, and is a common sense safety measure.

Mahalo for your consideration of this testimony.

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*The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.*

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 4:23:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I write to you in support of SB1250 SUPPORTING THE Hawai'i Foodbank,

The outstanding and necessary work that our local Hawai'i Foodbank does on a daily basis contributes greatly in ensuring families in need get the support and food supplies needed to Feed our local community. Without such organizations taking on the burdens of our society the responsibility lays upon the shoulders of our local government that currently does not have the expertise to step up to the task.

- Food banks and food pantries have the existing infrastructure, networks, logistical expertise and other resources in place to effectively respond to mass feedings in a way that no one else can.
- Hawaii Foodbank has built a strong reputation for stepping up to serve the community in times of need, establishing it as an important disaster response organization.
- We encourage the committee to consider the purchase of local food a preference rather than a requirement.
- Overall, SB 1250 will provide critical funds to food banks to provide food to the community in a state of emergency or event of a disaster.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey Vigilla

CEO | Chef Point of View Consulting



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Tuesday March 2, 2021

TIME: 9:30a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Conference Room 211

**SB1250**

**IN SUPPORT**

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of the membership of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1260. IBEW Local 1260 represents more than 3000 members throughout the Pacific, across the Hawaiian Islands, Guam and Wake Island.

As a Union, one of our core tenets is solidarity and supporting our Union Sisters and Brothers in times of need. We also believe this value extends to our community. We feel that food security must be viewed as an essential service during times of emergency. The Food Bank, and other charitable organizations, do a fantastic job of filling this need. However, we have learned from the COVID pandemic that the need is great and can stretch their limits. Additionally, as we have seen on the mainland, natural disasters caused by climate change, are coming more frequently and with increased severity. Hawaii is not immune from similar disasters, as we have experienced events like hurricanes, tsunamis, and fires. This is where Hawaii can band together to provide protection for our residents. Food security, for our vulnerable communities during times of emergencies, should be a social safety net backed by our local government. This is the reason why we are in strong support of S.B. 1250.

We appreciate your consideration of our testimony and strongly encourage passage of S.B. 1250.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leroy Chincio  
Business Manager and Financial Secretary  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
Local 1260  
700 Bishop Street #1600  
Honolulu, HI 96813



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 — 9:30 a.m.

**Ulupono Initiative strongly supports SB 1250 SD 1, Relating to Emergency Food Management.**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

**Ulupono strongly supports SB 1250 SD 1**, which creates the Hawai'i Emergency Food Assistance Program (HEFAP) and the HEFAP Special Fund to be administered by the Department of Agriculture, and appropriates moneys into the fund to feed communities in need when a state of emergency has been declared.

Natural disasters and state emergencies have become a harsh, consistent reality to our local community. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how vulnerable our community can be, especially regarding our local economy and food system.

Because of this health and economic crisis, Hawai'i has the highest unemployment rate in the nation at 9.3% (December 2020), versus the national unemployment rate at 6.7%. Hawai'i's unemployment rate — which has been exceptionally high since the pandemic effectively shut down tourism in March — has had the worst recovery of any state in the country.<sup>i</sup>

- According to the Hawai'i Commercial Rent survey, two in three businesses were significantly impacted or closed by government restrictions in 2020. Nearly the same number do not expect to survive this year without government-funded commercial rent relief.<sup>ii</sup>
- In December 2020, visitor arrivals dropped by 75.2% compared to a year ago.<sup>iii</sup>
- According to the Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i, 65% of the state's restaurants don't expect to survive another six months.<sup>iv</sup>

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*

One of the most pressing issues to arise with local families is food insecurity. With many out of work and surviving on government unemployment support, communities have relied on the efforts of food banks and local farmers to meet their basic need to eat.

Throughout the US, food banks have turned to local sources to meet community needs. Food banks on each island have done the same, providing a lifeline to local communities and supporting farmers who lose customers every day as more restaurants close and hotels remain empty.

There are many important conversations and relationships that have been built in the last year, solidifying the connection between local farmers and ranchers and community feeding. This bill seeks to create a mechanism in which local feeding can be supported by local producers, supplying fresh, nutritious products to the community during any emergency.

We recognize that you face many difficult decisions this year to balance the budget in the midst of this economic crisis, but we hope that this support for local agriculture and those suffering from hunger in our community can be considered. While this measure does include general fund appropriations, we hope that this committee, and all future committees, will consider the establishment of this program, with or without any general funds, as this formally creates a process to support any future emergency feeding with local products from Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2021/01/15/breaking-news/survey-finds-most-hawaii-businesses-still-struggling-to-make-rent/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/01/new-wave-of-federal-stimulus-money-is-hitting-hawaii/>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.hawaiiitourismauthority.org/media/6395/december-2020-visitor-statistics-press-release-final.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/01/new-wave-of-federal-stimulus-money-is-hitting-hawaii/>





# ALOHACARE

Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021

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

From: Peggy Mierzwa, Senior Public Policy Analyst, External Affairs

RE: **SB1250 SD1 Support Relating to Emergency Food Management**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of **SB1250 SD1**. When people lose everything, the food banks play a critical role in their lives. This measure would help to support supplying food to people through Hawaii's foodbanks in the event of natural disasters, health crisis or other emergency.

Founded in 1994, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving 73,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care, including access to housing and food security, to build a stronger, healthier Hawaii.

SB1250 SD1 will create a Hawaii emergency food assistance program and fund Hawaii's food banks to purchase, store and transport locally grown and produced foods. On Oahu, the demand for food assistance in May 2020 was 260% higher than it was the previous year.<sup>i</sup> Food banks are a critical life line, ensuring our community members are fed. They help to sustain the food security system. This measure will help to support our local farmers and local economy by keeping money in the state.

We appreciate the Legislature's intent to ensure that Hawaii's food security systems are supported to meet the nutritional needs of Hawaii's families, including children, seniors, and low income communities. Recent health and economic events devastated people, families, health, and our economy. This measure will help to create more resiliency in these areas.

SB1250 SD1 is an important measure that supports Hawaii residents facing hunger, food banks needing to supply the food, and the farmers and producers needing to sell their goods. It will keep money in our economy, creating health and financial resilience. Please support the health our communities by passing SB1250 SD1.

Mahalo for this opportunity to **support SB1250** and our communities.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/08/the-tremendous-cost-of-feeding-the-hungry-in-hawaii/>



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

March 2, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 1250, SD1**  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY FOOD MANAGEMENT

Conference Room 211  
9:30 AM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 1250, SD1**, which creates the Hawai'i emergency food assistance program special fund to be administered by the department of agriculture and appropriates moneys into the fund to feed Hawai'i's needy population when a state of emergency has been declared.

The COVID-10 Pandemic saw the State of Hawai'i's unemployment rates climb astronomically – over 244,000 unemployment claims since March 1, 2020. Much of Hawai'i's workforce is in the tourism and retail industries, arguably the hardest-hit businesses since the COVID-19 crisis began. Families that had relied on free or discounted meals at schools or work, still need to eat. Non-profit organizations that provide community meals and produce realize that demand is outweighing their supply. Food banks and non-profits struggled and continue to struggle to feed Hawai'i families on a massive scale – especially those most impacted by this crisis — all while their normal sources of funds and donations are diminished. This has resulted in a lot more residents in need of food.

In response to the COVID-19 health crisis and in line with its ongoing efforts to ensure Hawai'i's food assistance system remains resilient, the Hawai'i Farm Bureau, with support from the Ulupono Initiative, created the Farm to Non-Profit Program (F2NP). The BRIDGES (Big Island Rural Agricultural Industries, Distribution, and Growing Enterprises Strategies) Program, our Hawai'i Island F2P program was developed with Councilmember Tim Richards and supported by the County of Hawai'i. The Hawai'i Farm

Bureau also partnered with the Hawai'i Foodbank to create the Farm to Foodbank Program, which connects local producers that have lost markets and revenue sources due to COVID-19 with the Hawai'i Foodbank to meet the increased demands of feeding Hawai'i's communities economically impacted by the pandemic. The F2NP, BRIDGES, and Farm to Foodbank Programs partners with philanthropic entities, non-profit organizations, the State, and County governments to purchase produce from Hawai'i farmers and ranchers to bolster and sustain local food growers and supply and distribution chain to meet the needs with fresh, locally grown food as the people of Hawai'i unite to overcome the novel coronavirus.

HFB's Farm to Foodbank, F2NP, and BRIDGES programs has purchased nearly 100,000 lbs of produce and proteins every week. Through its food distribution programs which include the Farm to Nonprofit Program, Farm to Foodbank, and BRIDGES Program which started on April 11, 2020, the Hawai'i Farm Bureau has effectively leveraged over \$4 million to purchase locally grown and produced food for 371,581 Hawai'i residents.

Hawai'i is located approximately 2,506 miles from the continental United States. About 85-90% of Hawai'i's food is imported which makes it particularly vulnerable to natural disasters and global pandemic events that might disrupt shipping and the food supply. Creating a Hawai'i emergency food assistance program that will provide funds to Hawai'i's foodbanks, non-profit and community feeding programs that provide community meals during emergencies is a win-win for everyone, as it will keep Hawai'i's farmers farming while also providing nutritional food to those who need it most. More than ever, the State of Hawai'i needs to assure local food production to meet the needs of the hundreds of thousands of Hawai'i families affected by this emergency and future emergencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



## HIPHI Board

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Kaiser Permanente

Date: March 1, 2021

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee

Re: Support for SB 1250, SD1, Relating to Emergency Food  
Management

Hrg: March 2, 2021 at 9:30 AM via videoconference

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The Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>i</sup> is in **support of SB 1250, SD1**, which creates the Hawai'i emergency food assistance program and special fund to distribute local food to individuals and families emergencies.

This program will provide much-needed support to local food banks during times of emergency, while also feeding hungry families and supporting the local agricultural industry. The pandemic has created a paradox where food producers saw a decrease in revenue as tourism industry-dependent hotels and restaurants closed, while food banks faced unprecedented demand from the thousands of unemployed workers. Studies have found that a lack of food security is associated with diet-related chronic disease such as diabetes and high blood pressure<sup>ii</sup>. Supporting local agriculture also aligns with the renewed calls to increase local food production and decrease Hawai'i's dependence on imported goods for a more sustainable and resilient food system.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB 1250, SD1**.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Yamauchi'.

Jessica Yamauchi  
Executive Director

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<sup>i</sup> 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.

<sup>ii</sup> Seligman, H. K., Laraia, B. A., & Kushel, M. B. (2010). Food insecurity is associated with chronic disease among low-income NHANES participants. *The Journal of nutrition*, 140(2), 304-310. doi:10.3945/jn.109.112573



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

**LATE**

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

From: Micah Kāne, Chief Executive Officer & President  
Hawai'i Community Foundation

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1250 SD1 Relating to Emergency Food Management

Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Place: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

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

My name is Micah Kāne, President & CEO of the Hawai'i Community Foundation. I am submitting this testimony in SUPPORT of SB1250 SD1 that creates the Hawaii Emergency Food Assistance Program, that upon emergency proclamation by the governor or mayor would appropriate money to fund food banks to purchase, store and distribute food that is grown or produced in Hawaii.

The Hawaii Community Foundation was directly involved in responding 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 need. 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 did not know how to engage or best serve the community. The strength of this network was further shown throughout the COVID pandemic last year. We know our community will be faced with more natural disasters and emergencies and that the food bank network will be there to respond.

We suggest that your committee consider making the purchase of food grown or produced in Hawaii a priority instead of a mandate. As we have seen from past emergencies, including the COVID pandemic, it is not always possible to acquire Hawaii produced or grown foods to meet the immediate needs created by an emergency. We certainly agree with the intent to help our local agricultural industry to

the extent possible. However, we would not want to risk being able to provide needed food in an emergency due to a mandated limitation.

As we at the Hawaii Community Foundation work to bring the philanthropic community as a collaborative partner to the efforts of government, the private sector, healthcare and others who continue to serve those in need, we are supportive of measures like this. These collective efforts are necessary to help accelerate the recovery of our communities impacted by emergency situations.

We strongly support SB1250 SD1, and look forward to further discussion on the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 10:22:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this important preparation for the next emergency situation.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 2:07:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
I. Robert Nehmad	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

- Food banks and food pantries have the existing infrastructure, networks, logistical expertise and other resources in place to effectively respond to mass feedings in a way that no one else can.
- Hawaii Foodbank has built a strong reputation for stepping up to serve the community in times of need, establishing it as an important disaster response organization.
- We encourage the committee to consider the purchase of local food a preference rather than a requirement.
- Overall, SB 1250 will provide critical funds to food banks to provide food to the community in a state of emergency or event of a disaster.



**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 2:20:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anne Chamness	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Local foodbanks and pantries have the existing structure and procedures to immediately respond to any type of emergency. They also have the relationships with the community to effectively facilitate communication and collaboration.

Hawaii Foodbank is well-known for their commitment to their mission, for acting responsibly, for treating people with care and fairness.

Please make it a preference, not a requirement to purchase local food. Although we want to support local businesses, the goal is to distribute massive amounts of food at the lowest cost possible, thus being able to endure future distributions.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 2:28:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephen L Tschudi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Esteemed Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Our local food banks are the most experienced in delivering nutritional relief to our hungry 'ohana. Of these, Hawaii Foodbank is the most reputable and has the most experience. In the current pandemic, Hawaii Foodbank and its donors have mitigated suffering on a vast scale. Recognizing the value HFB brings, local residents have stepped up to strongly support HFB. But as a community, we should solidify our support through legislative means.

In order to provide effective relief when Hawai'i residents suffer hunger, while local food purchases are preferred, HFB needs to have the flexibility to purchase from whatever sources will meet the need. Please support SB 1250 with flexible provisions for sourcing foodstuffs (with, of course, a preference for local sourcing).

Your 'ohana thanks you!

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 3:07:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jody Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this measure to address emergency food management! It's a great idea which supports both local food production and local residents in need of food. I already support our Hawaii Foodbank via donations and this will further help them to stabilize our emergency food supplies.

SB 1250 will appropriate funds so food banks across Hawaii can purchase, store, and transport locally grown or produced food in times of emergency.

- Food banks and food pantries have the existing infrastructure, networks, logistical expertise and other resources in place to effectively respond to mass feedings in a way that no one else can.
- Hawaii Foodbank has built a strong reputation for stepping up to serve the community in times of need, establishing it as an important disaster response organization.
- We encourage the committee to consider the purchase of local food a preference rather than a requirement.
- Overall, SB 1250 will provide critical funds to food banks to provide food to the community in a state of emergency or event of a disaster.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 3:30:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Joseph Collins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii Foodbank has gone above and beyond during the pandemic. This bill is a no-brainer to help them continue their mission, and support local food production.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 4:39:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Catherine Schultz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB1250 as an essential necessity to helping Hawaii during times of emergency. I can testify as a donor and volunteer with my 12 year old son at Hawaii Food Bank, and as a person who's household income depends upon the health and sustainability of local food businesses.

Food banks and food pantries have the existing infrastructure, networks, logistical expertise and other resources to effectively respond to mass feedings in a way that no one else can. I believe that it is more important to utilize and buoy preexisting avenues rather than to create new ones.

Hawaii Foodbank has built a strong reputation for stepping up to serve the community in times of need, establishing it as an important disaster response organization. Their understating of food insecurity trauma and empathy are exemplary models of offering not only sustenance but also maintaining food integrity and client dignity.

Although the wellbeing of my family is directly related to the health of local food business, I do believe that the committee should consider the purchase of local food a first option preference rather than a requirement.

Overall, SB1250 will provide critical funds to provide food to the community in a state of emergency.

Thank you for you kind consideration and support of our community's systems that offer hunger relief.

Catherine Schultz

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 6:59:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Allegra Giacchino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Hawaii resident I strongly support SB1250 SD1 and hope you will as well. During a declared state of emergency, the need for food assistance can increase drastically and rapidly, food supply chains can become disrupted, resulting in many vulnerable families in our communities left hungry. Let's be better prepared for these situations with the help of SB1250 SD1.

Thank you for looking out for the people of Hawaii.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 7:24:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Food banks and food pantries have the existing infrastructure, networks, logistical expertise and other resources in place to effectively respond to mass feedings in a way that no one else can.
- Hawaii Foodbank has built a strong reputation for stepping up to serve the community in times of need, establishing it as an important disaster response organization.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 8:52:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ana Trovinger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Food banks and food pantries have the existing infrastructure, networks, logistical expertise and other resources in place to effectively respond to mass feedings in a way that no one else can.

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Hawaii Foodbank has built a strong reputation for stepping up to serve the community in times of need, establishing it as an important disaster response organization.

I encourage the committee to consider the purchase of local food a preference rather than a requirement.

Overall, SB 1250 will provide critical funds to food banks to provide food to the community in a state of emergency or event of a disaster.



**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 11:42:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Food banks and food pantries have the existing infrastructure, networks, logistical expertise and other resources in place to effectively respond to mass feedings in a way that no one else can.

Hawaii Foodbank has built a strong reputation for stepping up to serve the community in times of need, establishing it as an important disaster response organization.

We encourage the committee to consider the purchase of local food a preference rather than a requirement.

Overall, SB 1250 will provide critical funds to food banks to provide food to the community in a state of emergency or event of a disaster. Thanks for supporting this bill.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 9:33:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB1250. It will help foodbanks and local farmers. A win/win situation!

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:12:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carl Nakao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Food banks and food pantries have the existing infrastructure, networks, logistical expertise and other resources in place to effectively respond to mass feedings in a way that no one else can.

Hawaii Foodbank has built a strong reputation for stepping up to serve the community in times of need, establishing it as an important disaster response organization.

We encourage the committee to consider the purchase of local food a preference rather than a requirement.

Overall, SB 1250 will provide critical funds to food banks to provide food to the community in a state of emergency or event of a disaster.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:12:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Linda Bess	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Food banks and food pantries have the existing infrastructure, networks, logistical expertise and other resources in place to effectively respond to mass feedings in a way that no one else can.
- Hawaii Foodbank has built a strong reputation for stepping up to serve the community in times of need, establishing it as an important disaster response organization.
- I encourage the committee to consider the purchase of local food a preference rather than a requirement.
- Overall, SB 1250 will provide critical funds to food banks to provide food to the community in a state of emergency or event of a disaster

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:33:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gloria Gorter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Good bank and pantries have existing networks. Please buy local food first. Doing so helps everyone from farmer to consumer.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 1:45:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alana Reis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as a means for local food production, storage and transportation to be utilized during emergency times, to alleviate crisis hunger.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:51:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

Planning for disasters just makes good common sense. We see all too clearly what happens when we are not ready.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 4:31:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cynthia Shea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a volunteer with the Hawaii Food Bank. I decided to Volunteer last May 2020 when I had the time after losing my job due to Covid. My husband and I have done our part with our church, IHS and now the Hawaii Food Bank. It brings tears to my eyes whenever we do big events like the stadium. NO ONE in Hawaii or this country should go without food. It is a basic human right to have food to live. I have never seen such a well organized team as the leaders and staff and volunteers as I have seen and worked with at the Hawaii Food Bank events. They are equiped to handle the needs of our people. The leader, Ron Mizutani is the most caring leader I have ever met. I could go on and on. I support SB1250D1. Please pass this bill. They know what to do with the much needed funds. Thank you, God Bless and Aloha, Thomas and Cynthia Shea-Waialua



**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 7:33:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm from Papakāleia, O'ahu currently residing in Māhili. I'm writing in support of SB1250 because this bill supports those that suffer high food insecurity in emergency situations, as well as those that provide the essential service of cultivating locally grown and sourced foods.

This bill also ensures confidence for farmers who have lost business due to emergency restrictions, and will keep the allocated funds within Hawaii's economy.

Support this bill.

me ke aloha 'Āina,

Nanea Lo

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 7:46:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,]

Please protect our vulnerable residents!

Support this bill to create the Hawaii emergency food assistance program special fund to feed Hawaii's needy population when a state of emergency has been declared.

mahalo,

Cory Harden

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 7:19:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Vivien Lee and Charlie Reppun	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In the future we will be experiencing more climate emergencies, and getting food to people is critical, especially local food. A disaster on the mainland, like wildfires, freezing temperatures means Hawaii will have a harder time importing food. Local farmers, and organizations like the Food Bank, must have more funding.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:35:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:18:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sydney Millerd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sydney Millerd and I am writing to express support for SB1250. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen the level of household rise very quickly as many lost their sources of income. I have been volunteering for food distributions during the pandemic and it breaks my heart to see so many families have to line up just to receive food. When speaking with them, you hear how hard times are for them right now and they express that the food distributions are the only form of assistance they are receiving because they do not qualify for other forms of aid. As a student of the University of Hawaii - West Oahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems program, I understand that we must improve our food system so people do not have to struggle like this, especially during times of emergencies.

Further, as a 22-year old soon-to-be college graduate, I look to our legislative leaders to make the right choices now to create a brighter future for Hawaii for my fellow youth and me to live in. In this brighter future for Hawaii, no one should have to go hungry and this bill can help to ensure that.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 4:18:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Glenn Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB1250 to provide a safety net of food for our community. This measure also gives local farmers, ranchers, and fishermen another market for their fresh foods.

It is apparent that the State cannot provide the food distribution infrastructure to respond in emergencies. The State must form public/private partnerships by supporting such organizations as Hawaii Food bank.

Thank you. Glenn Ching

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 6:08:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Jahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I am writing to express to the WAM committee that I fully support SB1250. Mahalo.

Me ke aloha,

Brian "loane" Jahn

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 9:26:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keke Manera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**I'm writing to you in regards to senate Bill 1250. I am in full support and hopefully you will be too. We need that "just in case" better than plan B for both emergencies/disasters. Supporting farmers and people in need is important. Mahalo**



**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:15:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bobbi Mothes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! Please support SB 1250 to keep food banks and food pantries operating to help Hawaii residents in need. The existing food banks already have the infrastructure and networks available to respond to this unprecedented crisis. It would be a good use of taxpayer funds to support the food banks and food pantries that have so effectively been providing help already during this trying time.

I personally have benefitted from the local food banks on more than one occasion, and I was very grateful to have this resource available. Having the food banks also be able to support local agriculture is a big plus, and can help Hawaii agriculture for the long-term. But local food should be preferred, not required, as the need is great.

Thank you for your time.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:37:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 1250 SD 1, which creates an emergency food assistance program that would authorize the purchase food from Hawai'i producers by community feeding organizations.

Since we are well aware that the current pandemic is not the last crisis Hawai'i will be facing, we must support proactive measures such as SB 1250 SD 1 to ensure there is a system in place to address food scarcity and distribution issues.

There is already institutional support for programs such as this in several states-let's join them in supporting organizations that support our community.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 6:57:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Wang	Testifying for Feeding Hawai'i Together	Support	No

Comments:

As a board member of [Feeding Hawaii Together](#), who annually provides food to a total of 4,000+ households on Oahu, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1250. Thank you for addressing the urgent issue of food insecurity in Hawai'i. At Feeding Hawaii Together, our 500+ volunteers have distributed an average 157,852 pounds of food to over 13,043 individuals every month. The importance of this bill cannot be underestimated. May we offer minor wording adjustments to the bill:

- Add "non-profit" to all naming of the various types of agencies outlined in the bill.
- Paragraph: 127A-A: sections (b), and (c), please consider these revisions:
  - (b) " Funds shall be made available to non-profit food banks and its affiliated non-profit distribution pantries located in the State"
  - (c) " Non-profit Food banks and its affiliated non-profit distribution pantries shall use funds to purchase, store, transport, food grown or produced in Hawai'i to be distributed to recipients free of charge"

Food banks and food pantries have the existing infrastructure, networks, logistical expertise and other resources in place to effectively respond to mass feedings in a way that no one else can.

We encourage the committee to consider the purchase of local food a preference rather than a requirement. Food distribution of food donations provided by many local businesses is just as crucial as the purchasing of the food itself. Furthermore, while critical to getting food out to the individuals & households who need it most, food pantries are often overlooked as a critical piece of the infrastructure and puzzle. By updating the language to include "non-profits," so many crucial non-profits who support our at-risk and underserved communities will have access to funds to further help their mission/goals to address our food insecurity issues, including food distribution, food education and food accessibility.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in favor of this bill.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:04:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Kang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a board member of [Feeding Hawaii Together](#), who annually provides food to a total of 4,000+ households on Oahu, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1250. Thank you for addressing the urgent issue of food insecurity in Hawai'i. At Feeding Hawaii Together, our 500+ volunteers have distributed an average 157,852 pounds of food to over 13,043 individuals every month. The importance of this bill cannot be underestimated. May we offer minor wording adjustments to the bill:

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Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in favor of this bill.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:39:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennine Sullivan	Testifying for The Pantry by Feeding Hawaii Together	Support	No

Comments:

As the Executive Director of [Feeding Hawaii Together](#), who annually provides food to a total of 24,000+ households on Oahu, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1250. Thank you for addressing the urgent issue of food insecurity in Hawai'i. At Feeding Hawaii Together, our 500+ volunteers have distributed an average 157,852 pounds of food to over 13,043 individuals every month. The importance of this bill cannot be underestimated. May we offer minor wording adjustments to the bill:

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Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in favor of this bill.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:52:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JOYCE TIMPSON	Testifying for Feeding Hawaii Together	Support	No

Comments:

As a board member of [Feeding Hawaii Together](#), who annually provides food to a total of 24,000+ households on Oahu, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1250. Thank you for addressing the urgent issue of food insecurity in Hawai'i. At Feeding Hawaii Together, our 500+ volunteers have distributed an average 157,852 pounds of food to over 13,043 individuals every month. The importance of this bill cannot be underestimated. May we offer minor wording adjustments to the bill:

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Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in favor of this bill.

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:21:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hunter Heavilin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

SB1250 is a critical step to support communities during trying times. I strongly support this bill but ask for more consideration of where the fund is housed and the how it is administered.

The HDOA plays only a minor role in emergency food administration. DLIR already administers federal funds for various social safety net programs, including those that focus on local food procurement. Please consider housing this fund within a department that is better integrated with the emergency feeding infrastructure of the state.

Mahalo,

Hunter Heavilin

**LATE**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to SUPPORT SB1250 SD1. This bill greatly impacts the money that is reinvested into our local economy and works towards a hunger-free Hawai'i.

We recognize the following within this testimony:

- Food banks and food pantries have the existing infrastructure, networks, logistical expertise and other resources in place to effectively respond to mass feedings in a way that no one else can.
- Hawaii Foodbank has built a strong reputation for stepping up to serve the community in times of need, establishing it as an important disaster response organization.
- We encourage the committee to consider the purchase of local food a preference rather than a requirement.

Overall, SB 1250 will provide critical funds to food banks to provide food to the community in a state of emergency or event of a disaster.

Me ka mahalo,



Brittney K. B. Hedlund



**LATE**

**SB-1250-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 12:19:01 AM  
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In full support of S.B. 1250. As an emergency management official, its important to support such organizations that are an integral part of feeding and supporting our island community during emergencies for the following reasons:

- Food banks and food pantries have the existing infrastructure, networks, logistical expertise and other resources in place to effectively respond to mass feedings in a way that no one else can.
- Hawaii Foodbank has built a strong reputation for stepping up to serve the community in times of need, establishing it as an important disaster response organization.
- Encourage the committee to consider the purchase of local food a preference rather than a requirement.
- Overall, SB 1250 will provide critical funds to food banks to provide food to the community in a state of emergency or event of a disaster.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.