

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
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 HOUSE COMMITTEES ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND  
HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1745

**February 15, 2022**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
**Room 309 and Videoconference**

**APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT HAWAII'S FOOD BANKS**

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 1745.

H.B. No. 1745 appropriates \$2,000,000 in general funds in FY 23 to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Office of Community Services, to help Hawaii's food banks meet the significantly heightened need for food assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO  
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

JOVANIE DOMINGO DELA CRUZ  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 420  
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IN REPLY, REFER TO:  
**OCS 22.1033**

February 9, 2022

To: The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair,  
The Honorable Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair,  
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022  
Time: 11:00 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol & videoconference

From: Jovanie Domingo Dela Cruz, Executive Director  
DLIR – Office of Community Services

Re: H.B. 1745 – APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT HAWAII'S FOOD BANKS

## **I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

H.B. 1745 would appropriate \$2 million to the four food banks in the State that perform distribution services for the federal TEFAP program. The funds would be directed to the Office of Community Services (OCS), an agency attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, to administer the grant. OCS is the State administrator of the TEFAP program and thus already works with the four identified food banks.

The bill states that the funds “shall be used for general operations, including staffing, transportation, food purchase, food storage, and food distribution costs.” The bill further states that OCS would distribute the funds “pursuant to the same methodology used by The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) of the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture to determine the allocation of TEFAP foods to each of the food banks.”

## II. CURRENT LAW

Currently, there are no local appropriations that supplement TEFAP or a TEFAP-like program. Since H.B. 1745 would involve appropriation of local funds, OCS would need to implement the fiscal as well as programmatic administration of a grant under H.B. 1745 separately from administration of TEFAP, although they could operate on parallel tracks.

## III. COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED BILL

OCS is pleased to support this bill, if amended for clarification. We also appreciate the confidence that the sponsors of the bill are expressing in OCS’s abilities to administer such a grant. OCS joins the sponsors of this bill, and the four food banks, in our mutual firm belief that food insecurity is a very serious challenge in Hawaii at present, especially because of the persistence of the Covid-19 emergency.

However, there are significant differences between the manner in which TEFAP is administered and the way funding given to these food banks pursuant to H.B. 1745 would be administered. For these reasons, OCS respectfully suggests that the bill should be amended to address these differences and thereby ensure that questions do not arise in the administration of food relief pursuant to this bill.

### How TEFAP works

Under TEFAP as currently administered, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides huge quantities of canned foods, other non-perishable food products (*e.g.*, cereal), and certain frozen foods (*e.g.*, chickens) from US Mainland sources. *See list at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tefap/usda-foods-available-list-tefap>*. OCS orders these foods, in consultation with our TEFAP food banks, by “purchasing” the foods through our state account for shipment to Hawaii ports for pick-up by the food banks. The food banks then distribute these goods through their respective distribution networks to people who self-certify as income-eligible for receipt of these foods. The income limit for TEFAP is now 185% of the federal poverty limit for Hawaii as set by the Census Bureau. *See <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>*.

The cash funding that USDA provides to the State and the local non-profit food banks is for administration only. In other words, USDA does not provide funding under TEFAP for local food purchases. USDA also pays, on its own end of the transactions, for the very large costs of shipping these US Mainland foods here to Hawaii.

USDA oversees TEFAP with multiple regulations involving such matters as safety of food storage, oversight over claims of food losses and damage, other general fiscal oversight, and civil rights policies to ensure that beneficiaries are not denied or limited in their benefits due to racial, religious, or other discrimination. At the State level, OCS has the obligation to ensure that the food banks, and agencies within their respective networks, comply with these requirements.

Within Hawaii, OCS allocates the administrative funding and “food-purchasing” allocation we receive from USDA for TEFAP based on Small Area Income Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) statistics. Last month, December 2021, the Bureau published nationwide SAIPE statistics for 2020. <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2020/demo/saipe/2020-state-and-county.html>. For Hawaii, these statistics show the following mid-point estimates:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Total Population<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>People in Poverty in Area</u>	<u>% in poverty Within Area</u>	<u>County’s % of Statewide Poverty population</u>
State	1,455,271	121,182	8.9%	--
Hawaii County	200,629	24,301	12.2%	20.0%
Honolulu County	1,016,508	74,186	8.0%	61.2%
Maui County	164,754	15,690	9.5%	12.9%
Kauai County	73,298	7,005	9.9%	5.8%

OCS divides county-level TEFAP administrative funds that we receive from USDA on the basis of the SAIPE figures shown in the far-right column in the chart above. OCS holds those funds on behalf of the local non-profits for the respective counties. The non-profits submit cash requests to OCS for administrative expenses relating to TEFAP, and OCS reimburses them after review and approval.

**Adapting H.B. 1745 for TEFAP-like administration**

H.B. 1745 does not address a few characteristics of TEFAP in the above description, and it would be important to anticipate these issues and decide them in the next iteration of this bill. These matters include the following:

1. Does the Legislature expect the grant under this bill to be divided among the counties pursuant to the SAIPE formula?
2. What percentage of the funds received by the local agencies may be used for administration, rather than food purchases? OCS suggests that a figure of between 10% and 20% would be appropriate for administration, with the remainder being for food.
3. Will the funds used by the local agencies for administration be subject to the same standards of approval and fiscal review as in TEFAP?

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<sup>1</sup> The total resident population figures are from the 2020 census: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state/hawaii-population-change-between-census-decade.html>

4. This program would put administrative obligations on OCS – OCS will be responsible for reporting, monitoring, review and approval of program and fiscal documents, etc. For these reasons, OCS respectfully requests that a small portion of the appropriation be designated for OCS because of these increased obligations.
5. Will there be any limitations on the types of foods that the local agencies may purchase with the food funds portion of the grant? Will it be a requirement to purchase locally grown fresh foods? This would be a major departure from the TEFAP model which does not use local foods.
6. Since the Legislature is identifying in the bill the private non-profit organizations that it expects OCS to work with, OCS requests that a provision be inserted in the bill to exempt contracts executed under this grant from the procurement requirements of HRS Chapter 103F. Such an exemption will ensure that we can contract with the agencies right away and put the money to use much earlier than would be the situation if we had to go through procurement.

We look forward to helping in any way that we reasonably can. We are always available to answer any questions and/or clarify our comments on this bill. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.



Date: February 15, 2022

To: The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
The Honorable Stacelynn KM Eli, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

From: Peggy Mierzwa, Community & Government Relations, AlohaCare

RE: **HB1745** Relating to Food Assistance

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT of HB1745**. This measure would appropriate funding to cover operating expenses of Hawai'i Foodbank, Maui Food Bank, Hawai'i Foodbank-Kauai, and the Food Basket.

Founded in 1994, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. We are the only Hawai'i health plan that exclusively serves Medicaid patients. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for 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 Hawai'i.

When people lose everything, the food banks play a critical role in their lives. HB1745 will create a Hawai'i emergency food assistance program and fund Hawai'i's food banks so they can continue to meet an essential need of the community. Through the pandemic, the volume of food distribution more than double from prior to the pandemic. The need for food has not diminished although funding from the federal and philanthropic has declined.

Nourished people are healthy people, and without health, our communities fall apart. We appreciate the Legislature's intent to ensure that Hawai'i's food security systems are supported to meet the nutritional needs of Hawai'i's families, including children, seniors, and low-income communities. Recent health and economic events devastated people, families and communities. This funding will help to bring food security to those still in need.

HB1745 ultimately supports Hawai'i residents facing hunger. Mahalo for this opportunity to **support HB1745** and our communities.

1357 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1250, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Call: 973-0712 • Toll-free: 1-877-973-0712 • Fax: 808-973-0726 • [www.AlohaCare.org](http://www.AlohaCare.org)



February 10, 2022

Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
Representative Stacelynn K. M. Eli, Vice Chair  
Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

**RE: Testimony in support of HB 1745, Appropriating Funds to Support Hawaii's Food Banks**

Dear Chairs Ichiyama and Yamane, Vice Chairs Eli and Tam, and Committee Members,

As the President and CEO of Hawaii Foodbank, **I am writing in strong support of HB 1745**, which would appropriate critical funds to address food insecurity in our State.

Food insecurity is a grave issue in Hawai'i. **One in six Hawai'i residents will struggle with hunger this year, including 82,000 children.** That's approximately one in four keiki who may go to bed hungry, or whose parents or grandparents will choose to go without so that their keiki can eat. **Hawai'i has the second highest rate of child food insecurity in the United States.**

Imagine having to make the choice between buying food for your family or other crucial needs, such as electricity, childcare or medicine. Due to our high cost of living, many hardworking residents are forced to do this on a regular basis. **No one should be in the position to have to make a choice to go hungry.**

**The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing economic difficulties for many families and presented new challenges for others who found themselves struggling to put food on the table for the first time.** And, food prices have increased significantly during COVID. Grocery prices have gone up 15% in the last two years, and some foods are much more expensive than they were before— the cost of meats, fish, poultry and eggs have risen by 32%. Earlier in the pandemic, many households were kept afloat by unemployment benefits, federal child tax credits, and CARES Act funds, but continued federal pandemic aid is uncertain.

Meanwhile, at Hawaii Foodbank, **we are still serving 50% more people in 2021 than we did in 2019.** Last year, we distributed 23 million pounds of food on O'ahu and 2 million pounds of food on Kaua'i, providing food for more than 20 million meals—about **twice as much food as prior to the pandemic.** We have been able to meet the increased need due to a major increase in federal funds and philanthropy; however, we need support from the State to continue to meet the needs of our community and ensure no-one in our State goes hungry. Already, federal commodity distributions to Hawai'i have decreased substantially over the past year, and philanthropic support, while still higher than before the pandemic, has declined as well.

**HB 1745 will provide crucial operational support to Hawai'i's food banks and ensure we can continue to provide healthy, nutritious food to those we serve.** Mahalo for your consideration.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Marvin". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Amy Marvin

President and CEO, Hawaii Foodbank





**To: Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness  
Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness**

**Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 am**

**Re: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1745**

**From: Heather Lusk, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center**

Dear Chair Yamane, Chair Ichiyama and members of HHH and PDP,

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) strongly supports HB 1745 which would increase the amount of funds available for Hawaii's food banks. Food insecurity was already one of Hawaii's biggest challenges prior to the COVID-19 epidemic and it is now reaching a crisis.

HHHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

During 2020 and 2021, HHHRC partnered with the Hawaii Food Bank on food drops around the island and helps disseminate more than 500,000 pounds of food to thousands of families and saw first hand how desperate our families are to get healthy and fresh foods that they otherwise could not afford. We need our foodbanks to not only rely on donations but to get the resources they need so adequately address food insecurity in the islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Heather Lusk, Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center



February 3, 2022

The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
The Honorable Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Re: HB 1745 – Relating to Appropriating Funds to Support Hawaii’s Food Banks

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Eli, Vice Chair Tam, and Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1745, which appropriates funds to help Hawaii’s food banks meet the significantly heightened need for food assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

HMSA supports the efforts of Hawaii’s food banks to address food insecurity in the community. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly increased food insecurity in Hawaii and has highlighted the growing challenge that families in our community face. As the Chair of the Hawaii Foodbank board of directors I’ve been able to see the issue up closes and the concerning future in which food insecurity will be an ongoing challenge for years to come.

Therefore, we applaud the legislature’s efforts to appropriate funds to support Hawaii’s food banks to meet the needs of Hawaii residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1745.

Sincerely,

David R. Herndon  
Executive Vice President  
Chief Business Operations Officer

**HB-1745**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:10:46 PM

Testimony for PDP on 2/15/2022 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
"Phil" Augustus Acosta	Aloha Harvest	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Harvest is in strong support of this bill. We also co-signed on a written testimony through the Hawaii Hunger Action Network.

**HB-1745**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 4:10:07 PM

Testimony for PDP on 2/15/2022 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mark Harbison	Maui Food Bank	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

I am the Board Chair of Maui Food Bank.

A recent study commissioned by the Hawaii State Department of Health reveals that people living in Maui County are at serious risk for having one of the highest rates of food insecurity in the state. Of those who benefit from the Maui food Bank—65% have an income below the official poverty guidelines, 37% are working households. Almost 50% of the people we serve are single moms and one in five children in Maui County is currently at risk of going hungry. This is a 62% increase in the last decade.

Hunger affects low-income families and individuals, as well as people who live in extreme poverty. People who suffer from hunger are confronted with constant shame, worry and insecurity about how they are going to feed themselves and their families. Hunger impairs a child’s ability to learn, grow and stay healthy. Among the elderly, it exacerbates chronic health problems and speeds the onset of degenerative diseases. In every age group hunger impedes people from having healthy and productive lives.

There is a growing need for children from low income families in Maui County to have access to safe and nutritious food. The Maui Food Bank provides safe and nutritious food to anyone in Maui County who is at risk of going hungry. Of those people served—40% are children and youth.

For many of Maui’s kids, when school is out, hunger begins. Kids who are on the free and reduced priced breakfast and lunch program at school might only eat one meal on the weekend when school is not in session.

Aloha Backpack Buddies program provides kids in need with a backpack containing six healthy meals for the weekend when school is not in session. Aloha Backpack Buddies is in 24 schools on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai and will provide over 90,000 meals throughout the school year.

Maui Food Bank distributes around 250 million pounds of food each year to insecure families on Maui, and much more than that during the worst of the Covid-19 disaster in 2019-20. During the

worst of the crisis, we responded to County of Maui emergency funding by radically expanding our warehousing and distribution channels while maintaining strict product and inventory controls and protecting our staff from potential infection situations. Throughout, we maintained our commitment to reaching the most people possible, and maintained our Four-Star rating on Charity Navigator.

The Maui Food Bank is proud of the work of Executive Director Richard Yust and Development Director Marlene Rice, in fact with all of our executive staff, accounting, and operations staff. We hope that you will give favorable consideration to our budget request.

**HB-1745**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 5:04:49 PM

Testimony for PDP on 2/15/2022 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Megan Fox	Malama Kaua'i	Support	No

Comments:

Food banks are incredible partners in addressing hunger and food access in our communities, creating a backbone of logistics and transportation expertise. We appreciate their support and partnership and believe they are worthy of investment to support our island's food needs.



February 9, 2022

The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
The Honorable Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

**House Bill 1745 – Appropriating Funds to Support Hawaii’s Food Banks**

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Eli, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1745. HAHP is a statewide partnership of Hawaii’s health plans and affiliated organizations to improve the health of Hawaii’s communities together. The vast majority of Hawaii residents receive their health coverage through a health plan associated with one of our organizations.

HAHP supports this measure to appropriate funds to assist Hawaii’s food banks. Access to food is an important aspect of keeping our community healthy. The COVID-19 pandemic greatly exacerbated food insecurity in Hawaii, and it is anticipated that increased need will remain elevated in years to come. Therefore, HAHP supports this measure to assist Hawaii’s food banks in addressing food insecurity for the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for allowing us to provide testimony in **support** of HB 1745.

Sincerely,

HAHP Public Policy Committee

cc: HAHP Board Members

[hahp.org](http://hahp.org) | 818 Keeaumoku St., Honolulu, HI 96814 | [info@hahp.org](mailto:info@hahp.org)

AlohaCare | HMAA | HMSA | Humana | HWMG | Kaiser Permanente | MDX Hawaii | Ohana Health Plan | UHA Health Insurance | UnitedHealthcare



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

**Testimony to the House Committees on Pandemic Disaster Preparedness and  
Health, Human Services, and Homelessness**

Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Stacelynn Eli, Vice Chair  
Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

**RE: House Bill 1745: Appropriating Funds to Support Hawaii's Food Banks**

**Submitted by the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center**

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center strongly supports HB 1745 to allocate funding aiding Hawaii food banks to continue their collective relief and assistance efforts in providing a multilateral service that unites the community and resources in the fight to reduce food insecurity in the state of Hawaii.

Prior to the Pandemic, Hawaii's food banks were essential to meet the state's food security needs. The Pandemic brought unprecedented impact to the health, economy, and safety of Hawaiian residents, which easily quadrupled the food insecurity of residents, especially in rural and lower income communities.

Hawaii's food bank systems are a coordinated, respected network with a deep reach into communities, especially the most vulnerable. The food bank's system runs deep into the fabric of providing relief and working on a level of established trust that HB 1745 can ensure continues for future security risks (i.e. COVID-19 pandemic) that may exacerbate the already unsettling consequences of being unable to feed a population, an issue placing Hawai'i as the state with the second highest rate of child food insecurity in the nation.

The Waianae Coast is one of the very vulnerable communities that has been lifted by the Hawaii food bank and their emergency feeding. Our Health Promotion Program partners with the food bank system as well as local vendors to increase the outreach and food insecurity assistance to a population that is already struggling to acquire such basic resources daily. Because of our partnerships and the long-standing efforts of Hawaii's food bank system, programs such as ours have been able to distribute over 5 million pounds of food since the onset of the pandemic in spring 2020. We cannot lose the food banks support for our community. The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center is committed in its partnership with the Hawaii food bank to address the food insecurity needs of our Waianae Coast communities.

**We ask the Committees to support HB 1745 as a vital lifeline to our vulnerable citizens throughout Hawaii. Mahalo.**





Testimony of  
Jonathan Ching  
Government Relations Director

Before:  
House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness  
The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
The Honorable Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness  
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

February 15, 2022  
11:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference

**Re: HB 1745, Relating to Food Assistance**

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1745, which appropriate funds to enable Hawaii's food banks administering The Emergency Food Assistance Program to continue to meet the food security needs of the people of Hawaii during this time of unprecedented need due to the disturbances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS HB 1745.**

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i is Hawai'i's largest integrated health system that provides care and coverage for approximately 265,000 members. Each day, more than 4,400 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group physicians and providers come to work at Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i to care for our members at our 20 medical facilities, including Moanalua Medical Center, providing high-quality care for our members and delivering on our commitment to improve the health of the 1.4 million people living in the communities we serve.

We know that food insecurity increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The four Hawai'i food banks administering The Emergency Food Assistance Program served a critical role for many families facing food insecurities due to job loss and other reasons related to the pandemic and were able to meet the State's increased need for food during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic due to a major increase in federal funds and philanthropy. However, with consistent federal funds, via American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), ending these food banks will struggle to continue to meet the needs of our local residents who need this help.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i supports policies that ensure all Hawaii residents have access to affordable, high-quality health care. Further, Kaiser Permanente supports “whole-person care,” including the provision of access to services and resources that address beneficiaries’ physical health, mental health and social needs. Food security means that all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy lifestyle. To this end, in 2021 Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i invested \$322,000 in grants to community-based organizations to improve food security in Hawaii by increasing availability of emergency food distributions and improving participation in federal food programs such as SNAP. We also carried out our own SNAP campaign to at-risk members. In additions, some of our investments leveraged matching funds for the Double Bucks and TEFAP programs. These grants went on to support programs that increased food security for pregnant and postpartum mothers in low-income, underserved communities. Finally, Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i distributed nearly 450,000 pounds of food to furloughed and displaced hotel workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We support HB 1745 because it will provide necessary funding to enable Hawai‘i’s food banks administering The Emergency Food Assistance Program to continue to meet the food security needs of the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



**Testimony to the House Joint Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness and Health, Human Services, and Homelessness  
Thursday, February 15, 2022; 11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1745, APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT HAWAII FOOD BANKS.**

Chair Ichiyama, Chair Yamane, and Members of the Joint 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** House Bill No. 1745, APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT HAWAII FOOD BANKS.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live 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 bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate \$2,000,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2022-2023 to fund the operating expenses of Hawaii Foodbank, Inc.; Maui Food Bank, Inc.; Hawaii Foodbank, Inc.'s Kauai Branch; and The Food Basket, Inc., for staffing, transportation, food purchase, food storage, and food distribution. The bill would further require the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Office of Community Services to allocate the sums among the four food banks by utilizing the priorities system set forth in Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations Section 251.4(h), which is used to determine the distribution of food from the Emergency Food Assistance Program.

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 and underemployed, 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 and people wait to receive some surplus food. It is shocking yet uplifting to see that people do care for their fellow citizens.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 1745**  
**Thursday, February 15, 2022; 11:00 a.m.**  
**Page 2**

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated the need for the Foodbank, its branches, and the Food Basket. This bill would provide desperately needed resources to ensure that the Foodbank, its branches, and the Food Basket will continue to be able to meet the needs of our struggling families.

On a technical note, we observe that this bill might be in conflict with Chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and could be construed as a private bill. Because of this, the HPCA strongly urges this committee to consult with the Majority Attorney for clarification on legal check.

**With these technical suggestions, the HPCA strongly 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.



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**RANDY PERREIRA**, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness  
Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 15, 2022

H.B. 1745 – APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
TO SUPPORT HAWAII'S FOOD BANKS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose of H.B. 1745 which appropriates funds for the operating expenses of the four Hawaii food banks in each of our counties.

The COVID-19 worldwide pandemic continues to exacerbate economic inequality, reveal large scale disparities between the haves and have-nots, and stress our local non-profit safety net providers. Data shows that one in six Hawaii residents currently faces food insecurity, including more than 82,000 children. Passage of this measure will ensure that the food banks on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii have sufficient funds to continue to meet the food security needs of our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.B. 1745.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director



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

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES &  
HOMELESSNESS

Tuesday, February 15, 2022 — 11:00 a.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports HB 1745, Appropriating Funds to Support Hawai'i's Food Banks.**

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Chair Yamane, and Members of the Committees:

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 the 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 supports HB 1745**, which appropriates funds to help meet the significantly heightened need for food assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the last two years, one of the most pressing issues for many local families has been 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.

Federal monies injected into Hawai'i through county initiatives helped to support a local farm-to-food bank effort, in which food banks were able to purchase local products for distribution to needy communities. This effort was a win-win-win, in that local farmers had a market to sell their products when hotels and restaurants shuttered their doors, local families received fresh and nutritious food products made locally island-wide, and food banks that were struggling to purchase shelf-stable food due to nationwide shortages were rescued by Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers who provided local food to their communities.

The Farm-to-Food Bank efforts across the state led to many important foundational relationships between local farmers, ranchers and community feeding organizations that helped struggling communities cope with the social and economic consequences of the COVID pandemic. Unfortunately, natural disasters, food supply chain disruptions, and state emergencies have become a harsh, consistent reality for our local communities. Food banks across the State will need support to meet these food security challenges.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



**TO:** Chairs Ichiyama and Yamane, Vice Chairs Eli and Tam, and Members of the House Committees on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness and Health, Human Services and Homelessness

**FROM:** Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

**DATE/LOCATION:** February 15, 2022; 11:00 a.m., Conference Room 309/Video Conference

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1745 RELATING TO APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT HAWAII'S FOODBANKS**

**We support HB 1745 which appropriates funds to help Hawaii's food banks meet the significantly heightened need for food assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

The landscape of our economy has changed, exacerbated by the stressors of the global pandemic, to negatively impact the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our society. It has a direct tie to increased financial instability, housing instability, food instability, health instability, increased crime and substance abuse, and strained social, emotional and mental well-being. These impacts have long-lasting and multi-generational consequences and impacts our ability to create healthy and thriving communities. Supporting children and families strengthens the fabric of our entire community. Food is a necessity and we encourage support of our local foodbanks.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to under-resourced families. Assisting more than 17,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 20 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community strengthening programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 1745**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.



**HB-1745**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:52:54 PM

Testimony for PDP on 2/15/2022 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Charlie King	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thanks you for considering this funding measure. I have been associated with the HI Foodbank Kauai Branch for over a decade and I have been associated with one of their agencies that distribute food. I can say that without the food available at the Foodbank, many agencies would not be able to continue. Most have a large enough challenge keeping their own doors open that any further stress of having to fully fund their feeding efforts would put them under. On the Foodbank side, your monetary support will allow the Foodbank to distribute to the agencies at the absolute lowest cost. The need for food should be evident from the long lines which, I'm sure, you've all seen.

Again, thank you for considering this bill, I urge you to pass it.



# THE FOOD BASKET

HAWAI'I ISLAND'S FOOD BANK

February 13, 2022

To: The Honorable Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Stacelynn K. M. Eli, Vice Chair  
Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness

The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Adrea K. Tam, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness

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

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1745, Relating to appropriating funds to support Hawaii's Food Banks

Aloha, Chair Ichiyama, Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Eli, and Vice Chair Tam,

My name is Kristin Frost Albrecht, and I am the Executive Director of The Food Basket Inc., Hawai'i Island's Food Bank. Our mission is to "End hunger in Hawaii County". We strongly support this bill.

The impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic have heightened the issues of food insecurity and hunger in our state to new levels. Due to the economic impacts of the pandemic on Hawai'i Island, our food banks in Kona and Hilo have faced the highest need in our thirty-three-year history, with record numbers of residents needing our services for the first time in their lives. In 2020, we served nearly six times more individuals than we served pre-pandemic. Although the economy is improving, but we are still serving three times more than we served pre-pandemic as our residents' grapple with the long-term impacts of pandemic unemployment, illness, and the rising costs of rent, groceries, gas, and utilities.

Due to ongoing breaks in the supply chain, the need remains high and is forecast to remain high for the next couple of years; federal commodities are falling; and philanthropy, while still higher than pre-pandemic levels, is much reduced over the height of the pandemic. The State's food banks need support to continue to ensure no-one goes hungry.

We respectfully ask your committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kristin Frost Albrecht  
Executive Director, The Food Basket Inc., Hawai'i Island's Food Bank

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

KRISTIN FROST  
ALBRECHT

BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS

ANN EBESUNO  
BOARD CHAIR

WARREN LEE  
VICE CHAIR

DENNIS LIN  
TREASURER

JULIA ZEE  
SECRETARY

STEPHEN UEDA

JASMIN  
KIERNAN

MARK  
KRZYZANOWSKI

SAMANTHA  
COLLINS

WWW.HAWAIIFOODBASKET.ORG

Administration and East Hawaii Warehouse  
40 Holomua Street, Hilo, HI 96720  
808-933-6030 Phone | 808-934-0701 Fax

West Hawaii Warehouse  
73-4161 ULU Wini Place, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
808-322-1418 Phone | 808-322-7373 Fax





February 11, 2022

Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
Representative Stacelynn K. M. Eli, Vice Chair  
Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

**RE: Testimony in support of HB 1745, Appropriating Funds to Support Hawai'i's Food Banks**

Dear Chairs Ichiyama and Yamane, Vice Chairs Eli and Tam, and Committee Members,

As the Director of the Hawai'i Foodbank Kaua'i, **I am writing in strong support of HB 1745**, which would appropriate critical funds to address food insecurity in our State.

Food insecurity is a grave issue on the Garden Island. **One in six residents will struggle with hunger this year, including 4,700 children.** Many of those keiki will experience going to bed hungry, or whose parents or grandparents will choose to go without so that their keiki can eat. As one of four counties in Hawai'i, we are saddened that our state **has the second highest rate of child food insecurity in the United States.**

Imagine having to make the choice between buying food for your family or other crucial needs, such as electricity, childcare or medicine. Due to our high cost of living, many hardworking residents are forced to do this on a regular basis. **No one should be in the position to have to make a choice to go hungry.**

**The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing economic difficulties for many families and presented new challenges for others who found themselves struggling to put food on the table for the first time.** And, food prices have increased significantly during COVID. Grocery prices have gone up 15% in the last two years, and some foods are much more expensive than they were before— the cost of meats, fish, poultry and eggs have risen by 32%. Earlier in the pandemic, many households were kept afloat by unemployment benefits, federal child tax credits, and CARES Act funds, but continued federal pandemic aid is uncertain.

Meanwhile, at Hawai'i Foodbank Kaua'i, **we are still serving 50% more people in 2021 than we did in 2019.** Last year, we distributed nearly 2 million pounds of food on Kaua'i, providing food for more than 1.6 million meals—a significant increase from prior to the pandemic. We have been able to meet the increased need due to a major increase in federal funds and philanthropy; however, we need support from the State to continue to meet the needs of our community and ensure no-one in our State goes hungry. Already, federal commodity distributions to Hawai'i have decreased substantially over the past year, and philanthropic support, while still higher than before the pandemic, has declined as well.

**HB 1745 will provide crucial operational support to Hawai'i's food banks and ensure we can continue to provide healthy, nutritious food to those we serve. Mahalo for your consideration.**

Mahalo Nui,



Wes Perreira

Director, Hawai'i Foodbank Kaua'i



House of Representatives  
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2022

**Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness**

Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair

Representative Stacelyn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair

**Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness**

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 11:00AM  
Conference Room 309 and Videoconference

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB1745 – APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT HAWAII’S FOOD BANKS**

Chairs Ichiyama and Yamane, Vice Chairs Eli and Tam, and Members of the Committees:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents 1,500 members in the private sector.

UPW **supports** HB1745, which appropriates funds to help Hawaii’s food banks meet the significantly heightened need for food assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It’s important that we continue to support the Hawaii Food Bank and its mission to address food insecurity. The ongoing COVID pandemic only intensified this need, resulting in the amount of food distributed by the food banks to more than double the volume from years prior to the pandemic. Continued funding will help to ensure that these vital services and support for our community remains available across our State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Liz Ho

Administrator

**UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS**  
**AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO**





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)

February 15, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER RELIEF  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1745**  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT HAWAII'S FOOD BANKS

Room 309 & Videoconference  
11:00 AM

Aloha Chairs Ichitama and Yamane, Vice-Chairs Eli and Tam, and Members of the Committees:

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

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1745**, which appropriates funds to help Hawaii's food banks meet the significantly heightened need for food assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Coronavirus Pandemic has disrupted Hawai'i's local food systems and caused many local producers to lose their local markets. Many catered to tourism, large-scale events, hotels, restaurants, cruise ships, farmers' markets, and school lunch programs, which were non-existent during Hawai'i's shutdown.

Like small businesses around the state, without open and consistent markets, local farmers and ranchers will decrease food production levels and will likely downsize and/or go out of business. To help address the state's food security during the pandemic, Hawai'i's Foodbanks partnered with local food producers to ensure that farmers and ranchers could survive.

After urgent health issues, feeding our community is the most critical challenge we face in the continuing coronavirus pandemic. With no clear end to the crisis within sight, we are already seeing the attention of leaders from around the world shift as food producer markets contract and transportation networks are shaken to their core.

At the onset of the pandemic, the Hawai'i Farm Bureau partnered with Hawai'i's Foodbank to provide local agricultural produce and proteins for their food assistance programs. This partnership provided nearly \$300,000 of locally grown, high-quality, nutritious produce to our communities in need. We were also a food partner at the Foodbank's mass food distributions which provided locally grown produce for over 50,000 families. As an organization that aggregates and distributes food, the Hawai'i Foodbank staff brought valuable logistical insight to these events. The combined efforts of the Hawai'i Foodbank, the Hawai'i Farm Bureau, and other partner organizations allowed tens of thousands of families to have access to food during unprecedented times. This win-win partnership connected local producers that lost markets and revenue sources due to COVID-19 with the Hawai'i Foodbank to meet the increased demands of feeding Hawaii's communities.

The dedicated funding for the emergency food assistance program will provide funds to the Hawai'i's foodbanks that support non-profit and community feeding programs by providing community meals during emergencies. This also will help 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.



**HB-1745**

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 10:38:38 PM

Testimony for PDP on 2/15/2022 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Stephen Ueda	The Food Basket Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Ichiyama, Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Eli, and Vice Chair Tam,

My name is Stephen Ueda and I serve on the board of The Food Basket Inc., Hawai`i Island's Food Bank. Our mission is to "End hunger in Hawaii County". I strongly support this bill.

The impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic have heightened the issues of food insecurity and hunger in our state to new levels. Due to the economic impacts of the pandemic on Hawai`i Island, our food banks in Kona and Hilo have faced the highest need in our thirty-three-year history, with record numbers of residents needing our services for the first time in their lives.

Although the economy is improving, we are still serving three times more than we served pre-pandemic as our residents' grapple with the long-term impacts of pandemic unemployment, illness, and the rising costs of rent, groceries, gas, and utilities.

Due to ongoing breaks in the supply chain, the need remains high and is forecast to remain high for the next couple of years; federal commodities are falling; and philanthropy, while still higher than pre-pandemic levels, is much reduced from the height of the pandemic. Our food bank needs support to continue to ensure no-one goes hungry.

I respectfully ask your committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Stephen Ueda

February 13, 2022

To: The Honorable Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Stacelynn K. M. Eli, Vice Chair  
Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness

The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Adrea K. Tam, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness

From: Dennis Lin

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1745, Relating to appropriating funds to support Hawaii's Food Banks

Aloha, Chair Ichiyama, Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Eli, and Vice Chair Tam,

My name is Dennis Lin and I serve on the board of The Food Basket Inc., Hawai'i Island's Food Bank. Our mission is to "End hunger in Hawaii County". I strongly support this bill.

The impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic have heightened the issues of food insecurity and hunger in our state to new levels. Due to the economic impacts of the pandemic on Hawai'i Island, our food banks in Kona and Hilo have faced the highest need in our thirty-three-year history, with record numbers of residents needing our services for the first time in their lives. In 2020, we served nearly six times more individuals than we served pre-pandemic. Although the economy is improving, we are still serving three times more than we served pre-pandemic as our residents' grapple with the long-term impacts of pandemic unemployment, illness, and the rising costs of rent, groceries, gas, and utilities.

Due to ongoing breaks in the supply chain, the need remains high and is forecast to remain high for the next couple of years; federal commodities are falling; and philanthropy, while still higher than pre-pandemic levels, is much reduced over the height of the pandemic. The State's food banks need support to continue to ensure no-one goes hungry.

I respectfully ask your committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Dennis Lin,  
The Food Basket, Board Treasurer

February 13, 2022

The Honorable Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Stacelynn K. M. Eli, Vice Chair  
Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness

The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1745, Relating to appropriating funds to support Hawaii's Food Banks

Aloha, Chair Ichiyama, Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Eli, and Vice Chair Tam:

My name is Warren Lee and I serve on the board of The Food Basket Inc., Hawai'i Island's Food Bank. Our mission is to "End hunger in Hawaii County."

The Covid-19 pandemic has placed an unprecedented a strain on the food banks in the State of Hawaii. Although it appears that the number of infections is subsiding, there will be longer economic havoc in the recovery stages. Continued financial support to the food collection agencies to operate and maintain their organizations, purchase food supplies, and distribute the perishables and non-perishable food to pantries and individuals is essential to fighting hunger in these dire times.

I strongly support HB 1745!

  
Warren Lee



February 14, 2022

Dear Chairs Ichiyama and Yamane, Vice Chairs Eli and Tam, and Members of the House Committees on Pandemic Disaster Preparedness and Health, Human Services and Homelessness:

Food insecurity is a critical issue in Hawaii, we **strongly support** HB 1745 because:

- Food insecurity levels drastically increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic and remain significantly higher than prior to the pandemic.
- One in six Hawai'i residents is food insecure, including one on four children. Hawai'i has the second highest rate of child food insecurity in the country.
- Many federal support programs such as the federal child tax credit and the federal unemployment relief program have ended, even though families are still struggling.
- Federal food commodity programs and philanthropic support have decreased over last year as well, leaving food banks with less resources while need remains elevated.
- This bill will provide crucial support to our food banks to allow them to continue to meet the food security needs of our community.

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. Our Network members have been actively involved in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic and ensuring that communities across the State had access to food.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

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

"Phil" Augustus Acosta, Aloha Harvest

Megan Fox, Malama Kauai

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

Rona Fukumoto, Lanakila Pacific

Alicia Higa, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

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

Amy Miller Marvin & Laura-Kay Rand, Hawai'i Foodbank

Sharon Kaiulani Odom, Kokua Kalihi Valley

Tina Porrás-Jones, Parents and Children Together

Harmonee Williams and Tina Tamai, Hawaii Good Food Alliance

Rich Yust, Maui Food Bank

February 14, 2022

To: The Honorable Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Stacelynn K. M. Eli, Vice Chair  
Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness

The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Adrea K. Tam, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness

From: Samantha Collins

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1745, Relating to appropriating funds to support Hawaii's Food Banks

Aloha, Chair Ichiyama, Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Eli, and Vice Chair Tam,

My name is Samantha Collins and I serve on the board of The Food Basket Inc., Hawai'i Island's Food Bank. Our mission is to "End hunger in Hawaii County". I strongly support this bill.

The impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic have heightened the issues of food insecurity and hunger in our state to new levels. Due to the economic impacts of the pandemic on Hawai'i Island, our food banks in Kona and Hilo have faced the highest need in our thirty-three-year history, with record numbers of residents needing our services for the first time in their lives. In 2020, we served nearly six times more individuals than we served pre-pandemic. Although the economy is improving, we are still serving three times more than we served pre-pandemic as our residents' grapple with the long-term impacts of pandemic unemployment, illness, and the rising costs of rent, groceries, gas, and utilities.

Due to ongoing breaks in the supply chain, the need remains high and is forecast to remain high for the next couple of years; federal commodities are falling; and philanthropy, while still higher than pre-pandemic levels, is much reduced over the height of the pandemic. The State's food banks need support to continue to ensure no-one goes hungry.

I respectfully ask your committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Warmest Aloha,



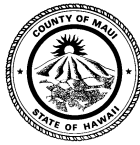
Samantha Collins

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers  
Gabe Johnson  
Kelly Takaya King  
Michael J. Molina  
Tamara Paltin  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services  
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 14, 2022

TO: Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
House Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness  
Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair

DATE: February 14, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 17435, RELATING TO APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT HAWAII'S FOOD BANKS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure to appropriate funds to support Hawaii's food banks.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated food insecurity throughout the State, with many in our communities facing increasing difficulties in meeting their basic needs for food and nutrition.
2. Many of our working families rely on organizations like the Maui Food Bank to provide the food assistance they need to prevent hunger and the negative health, employment, education and other outcomes that result from hunger and inadequate sustenance.
3. With the decline in federal funding for local food assistance, additional support from the State is needed to ensure there are no gaps in the ability of Maui Food Bank to serve our community members in need.

For the foregoing reasons, I **SUPPORT** this measure.

**HB-1745**

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 10:50:57 AM

Testimony for PDP on 2/15/2022 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Julia Zee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1745 to appropriate funds to support Hawai'i's food banks. I am a retired UH Manoa faculty member and community food and nutrition educator and now serve as a member of the board of directors for The Food Basket, Hawai'i Island's Food Bank. I have seen firsthand the need for healthy food on our island among seniors, individuals, and parents with children. This need has grown significantly during the COVID pandemic with many new homeless and hungry. The Food Basket staff have worked tirelessly to procure healthy food, including locally grown produce and proteins, to distribute to residents islandwide. They have kept families and individuals fed as well as kept local farmers and producers in business. As a State, we need to help our food banks who are helping our neighbors. Please support HB1745. Thank you.

**HB-1745**

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 8:05:43 AM

Testimony for PDP on 2/15/2022 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kristin Peterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Health, Human Services & Homelessness

Kristin Peterson

MSW Student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Re: Support for H.B. No. 1745, Relating to Appropriating Funds to Support Hawai‘i’s Food Banks

Aloha Representative Yamane, Representative Tam, Health, Human Services and Homelessness committee members, and community members,

My name is Kristin Peterson, and I am graduate student with the Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

As a Hawai‘i resident, and a Mānoa Valley community member, I strongly support H.B. No. 1745, Relating to Appropriating Funds to Support Hawai‘i’s Food Banks. I humbly ask you to do the same. Feeding America reported that since 2019 there has been a 51% increase in the number of Hawai‘i residents who are confronting hunger. I am one of them.

When I started my master in social work program in the fall of 2019, I wanted to help those facing income and health disparities. I did not think at the time that I would be one of the very people I was hoping to help. The cost of living in Hawai‘i is difficult for many middle-class residents, but coupled with the cost of school, I was barely getting by. The pandemic changed everything. In June 2020, I lost my job and have not found steady income since that time. I have



relied on food pantries and other support programs to sustain me. The pandemic has dragged on much longer than any of us hoped and the need for supplemental food assistance is still urgent.

I know that I am not alone, and I believe no one should go hungry. Hawai'i Foodbank CEO and President Amy Marvin reported that one in every six Hawai'i residents, and one in four children in the state, were in danger of food insecurity in 2021. She stated that since the start of the pandemic there has been a 67% increase in the need for food assistance. Hawai'i food banks need additional funding to meet the needs of the community who are struggling with hunger and food insecurity. I ask you to pass H.B. No.1745. Thank you again for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kristin Peterson

**HB-1745**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:01:10 PM

Testimony for PDP on 2/15/2022 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Members of the House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness and House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness,

I strongly support the passage of HB 1745. This will provide continued financial assistance in helping individuals and their families in the need for food assistance statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to strongly support HB 1745.

February 10, 2022

Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness  
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness  
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Chairs Ichiyama and Yamane and members of the committees:

I am writing in support of House Bill 1745, Appropriating Funds to Support Hawaii's Food Banks. As you may know, the need for food assistance has grown during the Covid-19 pandemic and continues to be elevated. Over the past few years, Kauai has also had several landslides where residents are stranded and the Hawaii Food Bank has assisted with emergency response.

I humbly ask for your support in passing HB1745.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Yoshida  
PO Box 3717  
Lihue, HI 96766



February 15, 2022

Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair, Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness Committee  
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair, Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

RE: HB 1745, Relating to Appropriating Funds to Hawaii's Food Banks

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Chair Yamane, and Members of the Committees,

I am writing to **SUPPORT** House Bill 1745. My name is Charla Teves and I am a student at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa. The news of radio djs mocking singer Paula Fuga when she spoke about her experience with childhood food insecurity motivates me to support this bill. I am asking for your help to adopt policies that will eliminate hunger in our lifetime.

One in five Hawaii children struggle with hunger, according to Feeding America. At more than 55,000 children, they would fill the Stan Sheriff Center four times over and still overflow into the parking lot. The Hawai'i statewide food insecurity rate for 2020 was projected at 16.8%, but the figure was far greater for children at 29.4%, or 89,050, according to a November 2020 report by Feeding America. The pandemic has worsened the impact of poverty and hunger for children. The report said that Hawaii households with children were generally more likely to be food insecure, due to the closure of schools, where many children had access to free or reduced-price meals.

In 2021, I was one of 100 students nationwide awarded a Youth Service America and Sodexo Stop Hunger grant which enabled me to convene a Hawai'i virtual end hunger summit. Many state legislators, community leaders, students, and young adults convened to share their ideas such as supporting a statewide food policy and school gardens. We collected over 1,100 pounds of food that was donated to the Hawai'i Foodbank. I learned so much from the experience that I can no longer remain quiet. Please add my voice to the supporters of House Bill 1745.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Charla Teves | 1099 Alakea Street, Suite 2530 | Honolulu | (808) 447-1840

**HB-1745**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:37:47 PM

Testimony for PDP on 2/15/2022 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Stand in Support.

**HB-1745**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:05:07 PM

Testimony for PDP on 2/15/2022 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Beth Tokioka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As the President of the Kauai United Way Board of Directors and a member of the Kauai Advisory Board for the Hawaii Foodbank - Kauai Branch, I have seen first hand how quickly and effectively HFB has responded to acute needs in our community. The Kauai north shore flooding of 2018 was devastating for the affected communities. HFB quickly responded and provided prolonged and targeted assistance for the communities that were cut off due to extensive road damage. As we all know, in 2020 COVID hit and HFB-Kauai went into high gear (and continues in that mode today) to assist residents in need throughout the island. The essential nature of these services is as evident today as it has been for the past four years of crisis response. While community fundraising efforts will continue, they will be difficult to sustain at the current level of need. Additional funding will insure HFB can seamlessly provide food for those in need throughout the state. Mahalo for your consideration!

**HB-1745**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:56:32 PM

Testimony for PDP on 2/15/2022 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha nui,

I support this bill and its intention to serve our communities who are experiencing these very real and difficult circumstances.

Mahalo,  
Kimeona Kane



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**Charlie Gustafson**, Tamura Super Market, *Chair*  
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**Paul Kosasa**, ABC Stores, *Advisor*  
**Derek Kurisu**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO:  
Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness  
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
Rep. Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair

Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness  
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 15, 2022  
TIME: 11am  
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: HB1745 Appropriating Funds to Support Hawaii's Food Banks

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 to appropriate funds to help Hawaii's food banks meet the significantly heightened need for food assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Hawaii food banks are a vital resource for those in our communities dealing with food insecurity. Over the past two years our food banks have had to manage unprecedented demand. The economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the supply chain issues currently impacting the global food supply chain have also affected our food banks. Supporting our local food banks is a direct and necessary way for our State to support those in need in our communities. We encourage the committee to vote yes on this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.