



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND
AND AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**
Wednesday, March 16, 2022
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
in consideration of
HB 2431, HD2
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Committees:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports the intent** of HB 2431, HD1. This bill seeks to establish a temporary “sustainable food systems working group” within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development understands that the proposed working group originates from the initiative called “Transforming Hawai‘i’s Food Systems Together,” which seeks to build statewide capacity to develop an integrated food policy framework and food system resilience and equity strategy that is inclusive of Hawai‘i’s indigenous values and producer perspectives. The initiative intends to harness innovation and momentum developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, document lessons learned, articulate policy and planning recommendations, and set up the State to expand large-scale institutional purchasing of local foods.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development and the Statewide Sustainability Branch serves as partners with this collaborative statewide project and supports this initiative’s intent; however the Statewide Sustainability Branch, recently established by [Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §225M-8](#) in 2020, is presently only staffed with one employee.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development understands that a working group will require staffing or contract services to provide public noticed meetings, website management, meeting minutes, research, and coordination to fulfill the intent of this bill in accordance with the Sunshine Law.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development thanks the Committee on Agriculture for including the amendments that we requested. We support the intent of this bill, provided that this bill does not replace, or impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2431, H.D. 2

March 16, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Room 229 and Videoconference

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 2431, H.D. 2, establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group (SFSWG) within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD); requires the SFSWG to develop a plan for a more sustainable, resilient local food economy; requires the SFSWG to submit the plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the Legislature; appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 to establish the SFSWG and support the development of the plan; and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds and an unspecified full-time equivalent (FTE) position count for FY 23 for a sustainability specialist for OPSD. The SFSWG shall be dissolved on December 31, 2023.

B&F defers to OPSD with respect to the establishment of the SFSWG. However, B&F would like to point out that the FY 23 Executive Supplemental Budget submitted to the Legislature includes a request to add \$273,572 of general funds for 1.00 permanent

FTE position and 3.00 temporary FTE positions to staff and support OPSD's Statewide Sustainability Branch.

B&F also notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriations 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
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 COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND
AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**MARCH 16, 2022
1:00 P.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2431 HD2
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

Chairpersons Inouye, Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2431 HD2. The measure establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the office of planning and sustainable development, designates members, and tasks the working group with the development of a plan for a more sustainable, resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community.

The Department supports the intent of this measure and appreciates the opportunity to contribute as a member of the working group. The Department defers to the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development regarding staffing and resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





Officers

Vincent Mina
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Dash Kuhr
Kohala, Hawaii'i

Drake Weinert
East Hawaii'i

Steve Lund
Puna, Hawaii'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawaii

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawaii'i

Robert Boudreaux
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Bobby Pahia
Mauna Kahalawai, Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Brynn Foster
North Shore, Oahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, Oahu

Vincent Kimura
Waimanalo, Oahu

Anabella Bruch
Kauai

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Water & Land and Agriculture Committees,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB2431 and seeks an amendment to add an HFUU representative** to the sustainable food systems working group.

Local agriculture is a critical component of sustainable food systems. As most farms in the state are smallholder and family operations, which compose the majority HFUU farm members, we believe our participation in this working group will add an important and necessary perspective. Furthermore, HFUU's dedication to sustainable food systems has been a driving force of its membership growth, educational activities, and legislative goals.

To exclude the voice of an organization representing small and family farmers with a dedication to sustainable agriculture would negatively impact the goals set forth in HB2431.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vincent Mina President HFUU/HFUF



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
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Executive Officers

Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Chair*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Vice Chair*
Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
John Schliff, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor*
Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
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 Water and Land
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 16, 2022

TIME: 1pm

PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: HB2431 HD2 Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

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 supports this measure to establish the sustainable food systems working group within the office of planning and sustainable development. Understanding our food systems and making thoughtful decisions to direct their future is an vital benefits everyone. Creating more sustainable food systems is an opportunity to achieve a wide range of positive outcomes for our state.

We thank the legislature for including a representative from HFIA on this group. We look forward to sharing our expertise as part of this important effort and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



March 14, 2022

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Place: Via Videoconference, Rm 229

Regarding: HB2431, HD2 RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

STRONGLY SUPPORT but with amendments HB2431, HD2 Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

HFACT is a not-for-profit, IRS 501c(5) organization, that advocates for small boat commercial, non-commercial, and recreational fishermen throughout Hawaii. HFACT board members sit on a number of federal fisheries management and endangered species advisory committees as well as state marine and coastal zone advisory committees; and, HFACT is thoroughly familiar with and participates in ocean and marine resource management in Hawaii and the central Pacific.

HFACT **SUPPORTS** HB2431, HD2 Relating to Sustainable Food Systems, but with amendments.

HFACT asks that the working group proposed in the bill include adequate representation of the fishing community. Therefore HFACT asks for the following two additions to the membership of the working group:

- (1) A representative of the Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition (HFACT), to be selected by the president of the Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition.
- (2) A representative of the commercial fishing sector of the state of Hawaii, selected by the administrator of the DLNR, Division of Aquatic Resources.

Hawai'i Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, Inc.
75-796 Hiona Street, Holualoa HI 96725

In 2012, the state published a report entitled “INCREASED FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY, A STATE STRATEGIC/FUNCTIONAL PLAN”.

It is already recognized by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture that the economic impact of food import replacement is significant. The 2012 report cites that “replacing just 10% of the food Hawaii currently imports would amount to approximately \$313 million dollars which would remain in the State”. Currently seafood imports account for the majority of seafood consumed in Hawaii. Fresh, locally caught seafood holds a minority share of the market.

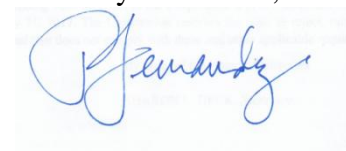
Also identified in the 2012 report is that “a critical factor towards successful implementation will be building partnerships with the increasing number of organizations involved in food self sufficiency/food security.” HFACT stands ready to assist the state in this regard.

In 2017, sustainability and self-sufficiency discussions focused on agriculture and omitted the **state’s largest food producing entity**, *which is fishing*. Hawaii’s commercial fishing vessels land about \$110 million of seafood. Eighty to 90 percent of the locally caught fish stay in our islands as food for our people and visitors. By comparison, according to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, cattle production is valued at about \$65 million with only 24 percent kept in the state. Sugarcane is valued at about \$54 million with less than 5 percent kept for local consumption. Algae production is worth \$33 million with 0 percent retained locally. Papayas are worth \$11 million with half of the production staying in the state. All of the banana, milk, lettuce and taro produced in Hawaii are consumed locally, but together these local products are valued at about \$31 million, which is less than a third of the value of local commercial fish landings.

The alternative to a viable local fishery is increased dependence on much less regulated foreign imports. Up to a third of these imports are considered to be from illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries and less than 2 percent of the imports are inspected. By contrast, Hawaii’s commercial fisheries are highly regulated, highly compliant to regulations, and fully inspected.

HFACT thanks the chairs, vice-chairs, and committee members for this opportunity to provide comment and to assist in providing food to the people of Hawaii and to assist in the conservation of Hawaii’s natural resources.

Sincerely and Aloha,



Phil Fernandez
President



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

March 16, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 2431, HD2
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Keith-Agaran and Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

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 HB 2431, HD2, which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the office of planning and sustainable development and requires the working group to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the legislature.

The impacts of the COVID pandemic have highlighted the need to strengthen Hawaii's food system to ensure greater resilience, food security, human health, and economic diversity and stability.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

March 14, 2022

To: Chair Inouye, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committees on Water and Land & Agriculture and Environment

Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2431, Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing on behalf of the Hawai'i Food+ Policy Internship to express our **Support** for HB2431 to create a Sustainable Food Systems Working Group.

According to Gail Feenstra, a community food system is “a collaborative effort to build more locally based, self reliant food economies – one in which sustainable food production, processing, distribution and consumption is integrated to enhance the economic, environmental and social health of a particular place” (2002). “Food system approaches” are looked at as methods to improve results and the overall sustainability of food systems, in order to acknowledge and appropriately manage the interactions taking place between each part of a given system (Tendall et al., 2015).

Food systems are far more complicated than most people realize, and a resilient system is one capable of sustainability on multiple levels (Tendall et al., 2015). At this time, there are no groups or organizations in Hawai'i that consider the many complexities which comprise our food system, nor are there any established organizations even capable of such a task on a level that considers every influential externality comprising a resilient and sustainable food system. On the smallest level, food systems deal with farming, processing, packaging, and distribution (Ericksen, 2008). According to Tendall et al. (2015), “these activities encompass social, economic, political, institutional and environmental processes and dimensions, referred to as scales.”

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

We believe that a Sustainable Food Systems Working Group is the best food system approach to address the many nuanced issues that make our food system so unique. After living through two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, and considering all of the agricultural shifts taking place across Hawai'i, we feel that this will help us to become far more food-secure and resilient when considering our most precious of resources.

Mahalo,
Ioane & the Food+ Interns
#fixourfoodsystem

References

Ericksen, P. J. (2008). Conceptualizing food systems for global environmental change research. *Global environmental change*, 18(1), 234-245.

Feenstra, G. (2002). Creating space for sustainable food systems: Lessons from the field. *Agriculture and human values*, 19(2), 99-106.

Tendall, D. M., Joerin, J., Kopainsky, B., Edwards, P., Shreck, A., Le, Q. B., ... & Six, J. (2015). Food system resilience: Defining the concept. *Global Food Security*, 6, 17-23.

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



**Senate Committee on Water and Land /
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment**

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB2341 HD2

Wednesday, March 16th, 2022 1:00pm, Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Inouye/Gabbard, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran/Nishihara and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports HB2341 HD2, which we believe helps to provide a tangible solution to moving toward more sustainable local food production and strengthening our local food system, while supporting our local farmers and food producers, as well as our economy.

HB2341 HD2 establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the office of planning and sustainable development.

HB2341 HD2 will present opportunities for multilevel and cross-sectoral partnerships and collaborations to build a robust and resilient food system, engaging in regenerative and environmentally sustainable practices, for the support of Hawaii's economic and public health objectives.

Establishing a sustainable food systems working group will help enhance a good working relationship between food producers, processors, distributors, retailers, consumers, waste management, academic institutions, non-government organizations, and government agencies.

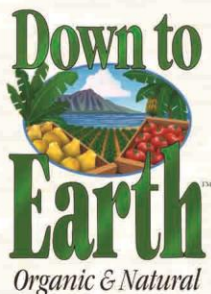
HB2341 HD2 will open an opportunity for the creation of green jobs, and the implementation of sustainable economic development for climate change mitigation.

Please support HB2341 HD2. Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned above the typed name.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

Love Life!



HB2431 HD2 RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
Senate Committees on Water and Land
and Agriculture and Environment
March 16, 2022, 1:00pm State Capitol

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Maui Location

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Aloha Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye, WTL Chair, Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, WTL Vice Chair, Sen. Mike Gabbard, AEN Chair, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, AEN Vice Chair, and Committee Members.

Down to Earth Organic and Natural testifies in support of HB2431 HD2.

Down to Earth Organic and Natural has six locations on Oahu and Maui. Since we opened in 1977, we have supported healthy lifestyles and preservation of the environment by selling local, fresh, organic and natural products, and by promoting a healthy, plant-based and vegetarian lifestyle.

We are strongly in support of HB2431 HD2. It is crucial that we make the commitment now to establish a sustainable food systems working group and require the working group to submit a plan, recommendations for implementing the plan, and proposed legislation.

Down to Earth strives to provide healthy, organic, natural, and local food for residents and visitors that is not only better for their bodies, but is also best for the 'aina. We are proud to support local organic growers, whose farms do not pollute our water and soil with chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

On behalf of these farmers, our communities, our keiki, and many generations to come, please ensure for the sustainability of our islands to be able to continue to produce healthy foods and thrive as the natural paradise that we love.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Alison Riggs
Public Policy & Government Relations Manager
Down to Earth

2525 S. King St., Suite 309
Honolulu, HI 96826

Phone (808) 824-3240
Fax (808) 951-8283
E-mail: alison.riggs@downtoearth.org

www.downtoearth.org

HB-2431-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 1:14:32 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
len nakano	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii fishing needs to be represented.

HB-2431-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 3:40:59 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carl M Jellings Sr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Support Mahalo

HB-2431-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 5:19:09 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendt Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB2431 but the panel should include members from the fishing community.
1) a member of the commercial fishing sector and 2) a member from the fish farming sector.
They are BOTH sustainable food supply for Hawaii however have very different backgrounds so
a single member from either sector would not know how to represent the other.

HB-2431-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 5:19:09 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shyla Moon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this but it must have the right representation of the vetted fishing community.

HB-2431-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 5:50:02 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Tam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A significant and meaningful task for a "large" working group comprised of a wide cross-section of interests. I note the absence of fishermen and "local" fish sales representation.

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Via Videoconference, Rm 229

Regarding: HB2431, HD2 RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

STRONGLY SUPPORT but with amendments HB2431, HD2 Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

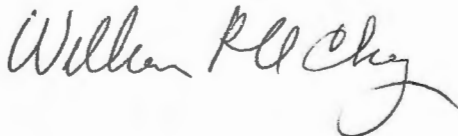
I fully **SUPPORT** HB2431, HD2 Relating to Sustainable Food Systems, but with amendments.

I firmly believe that the fishing community and industry needs to be included and represented in the working group. Fishing is very much a part of our food chain here in Hawaii and is a sustainable system. Therefore I ask that Bill HB2431, HD2 be amended to include fishing representatives on the working group.

Thank You for allowing my Testimony.

Sincerely,

William K.U. Chang

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William K.U. Chang". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

HB-2431-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 9:39:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Itano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB2431 with amendments. This working group needs representation from a balanced representation of responsible members of our fishing community. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-2431-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 10:36:30 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear WTL and AEN committee members,

Despite much rhetoric over the past decade, Hawaii has made little, if any progress toward a sustainable food supply. Being isolated in the Pacific, we are at greater risk than many other locations of running short of food. The documentary, "Ketchup and M&Ms", bluntly reminded us of how close we came to disaster a couple years ago. If not for a few supply chain "heroes", we could have been in utter chaos.

Bill HB2431 establishes a sustainable food supply working group to tackle this difficult issue once and for all. Let's not delay any longer. Our luck may run out before we solve the problem.

Please pass HB2431 HD2 this session.

Thank you,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii 96701



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Hawaii State Aha Moku
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Hawaii State Aha Moku

Before the Senate Committees on
Water and Land
Agriculture and Environment

Wednesday, March 16, 2022
1:00 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In **SUPPORT** of
House Bill 2431 HD2
Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

House Bill 2431 HD2 establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the office of planning and sustainable development. It requires the working group to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the legislature. It appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions to be employed by the office of planning and sustainable development statewide sustainability branch.

Aha Moku supports this measure and offers one amendment.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku System encompasses the eight main Hawaiian Islands and supports the traditional and generational knowledge of the people who are connected to each of the 46 moku and 606 ahupua'a. The system was brought forward from the 9th century, a time where sustainability and protection of resources ensured existence. It was a time where the focus of the people of the land was on survival. Today, the State of Hawaii is facing the same issues of food survival. However, throughout the main Hawaiian Islands there remains native Hawaiian traditional practitioners of *mahiai* (expert in agricultural practices within specific Moku), and *lawai'a* (expert in coastal and ocean sustainability of endemic marine species).

It is noted that the make-up of the working group is comprised of governmental representatives, state and county agencies, University of Hawaii representatives and food service representatives. It does have a place for representatives from the native Hawaiian community. However, that description is not enough for this working group.

Aha Moku suggests the following amendment be added to Section 2 (b)(8) to read: Two members of the native Hawaiian community, to be selected by the director of the office of planning and sustainable development; provided that one of the members shall be a resident of a county other than the city and county of Honolulu; **that these native Hawaiian representatives be knowledgeable in the traditional cultural practices of *mahiai* and *lawai'a*; and that they are aware that sustainability of food systems differ on the islands due to the differences in natural and cultural resources.**

Also, please know that sustainable food systems include, as an example, the use of edible medicinal plants grown on land and in the ocean. Native Hawaiian practitioners have skills and experience in protecting lands, coastal areas and ocean areas for continuing sustainable use of island food systems and are willing to share this knowledge so future generations of all communities in Hawaii can benefit.

We believe this bill is critically needed. Aha Moku works to integrate native Hawaiian natural and cultural resources into government policy. It is past time that the native Hawaiian generational knowledge of sustainability is included in working groups such as this. Their knowledge is based on thousands of years of observation and adaptation to nature's changes. Western science is based on observation. Hawaiian science has always been based on observation and the ability adjust to natural resource changes. Together, this will strengthen the collaboration of native Hawaiian and government knowledge of sustainability.

We are grateful for the opportunity to testify on this measure and thank this Committee for their consideration. We **SUPPORT** the passage of HB 2431 HD 2 and ask that our amendment be accepted.

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HB-2431-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 7:25:10 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/16/2022 1:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the establishment of a sustainable food systems working group within the office of planning and sustainable development. Efforts towards a sustainable, resilient food system are a win:win for our community and the climate. I strongly urge that a representative from the Hawaii Farmers Union United be added to the working group, as they would provide a highly knowledgeable, important and necessary perspective. I am unclear as to the logic of including a representative from the Hawaii tourism authority to this effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure!