

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

MARCH 23, 2022

9:00 A.M.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**SENATE BILL NO. 2218 SD1
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM**

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2218 SD1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub program to increase access to local food. It provides for funding awards to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub, authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the Honalo Marshalling Yard in Kona, requires reports to the Legislature, and appropriates funds.

The Department supports the intent of this measure provided it does not adversely impact priorities in the Executive budget and offers comments.

Food hubs are centrally located facilities with a business management structure that facilitates the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of locally grown produce, and are an integral missing piece of agricultural infrastructure required to sustain the efforts to double local food production.

The Department agrees that food hubs are an important link in the supply chain to channel more local food to the consumers and institutions of the State. Food hubs can also serve as “back-up” infrastructure for food systems. This measure addresses the challenge of local small farmers to scale-up production by providing a pathway to the larger purchasers of safe and marginally processed, locally grown, fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation’s Whitmore Food Hub Master Plan illustrates the complexity of the food hub concept as it must support the scale and scope



of the farming operations it will serve. Timing is critical to ensure that production and processing/packaging support are developed in synchrony. Additionally, the Honalo Marshalling Yard needs critical infrastructure upgrades that would enable it to be developed as a food hub consistent with the purposes of this Act.

The Department acknowledges the Hawaii Good Food Alliance and the Hawaii Food Hub Hui two-year project, “A Statewide Partnership for Supply Chain Integration” and the award of nearly \$830,000 from the USDA Regional Food System Partnerships Program as well as \$200,000 from philanthropy to support food hubs that include food hubs on five islands:

- Malama Kauai’s Moloaa Aina Center
- Sustainable Molokai’s Mobile Market
- Kahumana Food Hub & Organic Farms
- Roots Cultural Café and Food Hub of Kokua Kalihi Valley
- Oahu Fresh
- Maui Hub
- Local Harvest
- OK Farms
- Adaptations
- Hawaii Ulu Cooperative
- Kohala Food Hub
- The Food Basket

The Department offers amendments to this measure:

1. At Page 2, line 16, Page 3, line 7, Page 4 line 13, and Page 5 Line 20 delete the word “grant”. Grants require standards set forth in statute as established in Article VII, section 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution.

(2) Page. 4, line 18 - Change “shall” to “may” adopt rules

Regarding Section 5, the Honalo capital improvement (CIP) appropriation request, the Department supports the CIP appropriation provided it does not impact the projects identified in the Executive biennium budget request.

The Department agrees with the Committee amendment that specifies that receipt of funding under this pilot program be conditioned upon the recipients’ compliance with applicable state and federal laws governing food safety. Finally, the Department respectfully comments that two additional full-time Economic Development Specialists may be needed for the five year term to provide adequate support and oversight relating to procurement, fiscal management, bond issuance, quality/safety monitoring, and metric/reporting requirements should this pilot program be established.

Thank you 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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2218, S.D. 1

**March 23, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Room 325 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

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

Senate Bill No. 2218, S.D. 1, establishes a five-year food hub pilot program within the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to award grant funding to qualified applicants for the construction of critical infrastructure to establish and expand food hubs in each of the counties; requires the DOA to adopt rules pursuant to Chapter 91, HRS, to administer and operate the pilot program; requires the DOA to submit interim reports to the Legislature on the pilot program; appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to effectuate the pilot program; and authorizes the Director of Finance to issue an unspecified amount of general obligation bond funds in FY 23 to finance infrastructure upgrades at the Honalo Marshalling Yard.

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.

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 11th FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022, 9:00 A.M.

STATE OF HAWAII
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2218, SD1
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM**

BY,

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

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

The City and County of Honolulu (“City”) Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR) **supports SB2218, SD1**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food and provides for the award of grant funding to establish or expand a food hub.

The *O’ahu Resilience Strategy*¹ notes Hawai’i’s reliance on imported foods makes its food supply and communities vulnerable to shocks and stressors, while also driving up greenhouse gas emissions alongside costs of living. SB2218, SD1 represents a step forward in addressing these challenges by investing in our local food economy and promotes the statewide *Aloha+ Challenge* goal of doubling local food production by 2030,² as well as the City and state’s statutory target of net-negative carbon emissions by 2045.

SB2218, SD1 is also essential to ongoing Coronavirus pandemic recovery efforts, complementing work being done at the City level to invest in local agriculture. Unlike other distributors, food hubs, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), facilitate the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and

1 City and County of Honolulu, *Ola: O’ahu Resilience Strategy*, Action 10 Promote New Agricultural Models for Economic and Food Security, p.43, <https://resilientoahu.org/resilience-strategy>.

2 Hawai’i Green Growth, *Aloha + Challenge*, Local Food, <http://aloha-challenge.hawaiiingrowth.org/aloha-goals/local-food/>.

marketing of locally or regionally produced food products.³ Given that the majority of O‘ahu’s farms—707 out of 927 or about 76 percent—are between one and nine acres and the majority are family-owned,⁴ investing in food hub infrastructure across O‘ahu and the state will support the economic viability and market penetration of these small local farmers in helping to scale production while providing storage, aggregation, distribution, and marketing. The 11 food hubs in Hawai‘i already support around 900 farmers, who make up a third of the farmers who produce food for local consumption.⁵ Expansion of food hubs will add to the amount of local farmers Hawai‘i is able to support.

Additionally, unlike more traditional models of outreach and marketing in the agricultural sector, food hubs provide a reliable and consistent source of income by paying a fair price to farmers. This further contributes to the economic security of agricultural producers hard hit by the pandemic and who will be impacted by future crises as well. Food hubs also help backyard farmers or micro-producers derive additional sources of income from their products.

Finally, food hubs also play a role in making local, culturally significant, and native foods more affordable and accessible to local communities. This is especially true as three out of the four of O‘ahu’s existing food hubs accept Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) from food and income insecure families enrolled in the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), further lowering barriers to access to local, healthy for low-income residents while expanding the local food market customer base.

In supporting food hubs, SB2218, SD1 therefore also supports local job retention and growth while strengthening the local food economy and lowering food costs. Additionally, by increasing the State’s food self-sufficiency, food hubs can help make our community more resilient to future shocks and stressors, including pandemics.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2218, SD1.

3 Jim Barham. *Getting to Scale with Regional Food Hubs*, (2017), United States Department of Agriculture, <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2010/12/14/getting-scale-regional-food-hubs#:~:text=Our%20working%20definition%20of%20a,value%20chain%2C%20food%20hubs%20are>

4 United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service. (2017). *2017 Census of Agriculture County Profile, Honolulu County, Hawaii*, https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Hawaii/cp15003.pdf

5 Saleh Azizi Fardkhales & Noa Kekuewa Lincoln. *Food hubs play an essential role in the COVID-19 response in Hawai‘i*. (2021). <https://www.foodsystemsjournal.org/index.php/fsj/article/view/937/910>

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:54:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglass S. Adams	Research and Development, County of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

The Department of Research & Development, County of Hawaii, supports SB2218, and urges the Committee to move the bill to the House with a positive recommendation. The County of Hawaii serves as the lead applicant for a Hawaii Island agricultural coalition that recently submitted a Build Back Better Regional Challenge Phase 2 application for about \$100 million to the US Economic Development Administration. Both the Hawaii Ulu Cooperative and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture are members of this coalition, which includes a project to upgrade the Honalo Marshaling Yard as a part of the larger coalition effort to expand market-based and value-chain development opportunities in West Hawaii and across the Island of Hawaii. This bill offers the opportunity with state programmatic and capital improvement funds to create synergies with federal economic development funding to enhance the agricultural ecosystem on Hawaii Island and ultimately across the State. We urge the Committee's support for the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.

very respectfully

Douglass S Adams

Director, Research & Development, County of Hawaii



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Waialua, HI 96791-9501
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www.NSEVP.org

March 21, 2022

House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday March 23, 2022, 19:00 am

SUBJECT: Support for SB 2218 – RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (North Shore EVP), I would like to extend our full support of SB 2218, which will require the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food.

The North Shore EVP was formed in 2015 as a result of a comprehensive, community-based economic analysis that identified the need for a regional food hub to fill serious gaps in the food supply chain of the region. Our community envisions the development of a regional mid-scale aggregation facility (\$5-10M/y gross revenue) serving the farms of North Shore and Windward Oahu that could serve as a model for other regions across the state.

Since COVID-19 Hawaii's existing food hubs have done a tremendous job collaborating to meet the needs of small local producers and adjusting the agricultural supply chain to provide new market opportunities for these farmers. Scaling these operations to where they can operate profitably is critical to rebuilding successful farming operations across the state and providing them access to commercial and institutional markets, including those created by the Legislature in 2021 (Acts 175 and 176).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kevin M Kelly, President



Farmer owned, 'āina grown

Testimony in Support of SB 2218 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program
House Committee on Agriculture
March 23rd, 2022

Testimony of Dana Shapiro
General Manager
Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative strongly supports SB 2218 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program. A food hub is an exclusively regional aggregation and distribution center that efficiently facilitates consumer access to local food. Most of Hawai'i's farmers are small scale and highly diversified. Food hubs allow small farmers the time they need on the 'āina by providing the infrastructure of aggregation, processing, marketing and distribution; ultimately, they get local products to market so food producers can focus on growing their production. Food hubs also return a greater portion of each dollar of value, about 70%, to the farmer – far more than conventional distributors of imported food do.

The Honalo Marshaling Yard, owned by the State of Hawai'i and leased to the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative, is an example of vital food infrastructure that requires capital improvements to support local farms and strengthen the islands' food system resilience. The Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative is an existing food hub for producers of indigenous and local starches including 'ulu, kalo, 'uala, and pala'ai. We represent 116 farmers and counting on Hawai'i Island, Maui and O'ahu. To date, we have aggregated, processed and distributed nearly 1 million pounds of locally produced staple crops to Hawai'i communities.

Thanks to the legislature's 2019 appropriation of \$1.25 million via both CIP and GIA funds for infrastructure improvements at the Honalo facility, our flagship operation located in Kailua Kona, we are currently working in partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to upgrade base infrastructure (e.g. wastewater, domestic water, electricity, etc.) in order to bring the facility up to Hawai'i County Code. A shortfall of about \$900,000 is still needed to complete the project – which will result in a 10x increase in operational capacity from 200,000 pounds to 2 million pounds of local staple crops per year. *Please note that the 2019 appropriation would have been sufficient had the foundational infrastructure of building not*



Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

79-1017 E Honalo Rd, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740 | 808-238-8869 | eatbreadfruit.com | info@eatbreadfruit.com

required additional upgrades to comply with county planning and federal food safety regulations – which were not known at the time.

The general obligation bonds now requested through SB 2218 will enable this critical infrastructure project to be completed and the benefits of the Honalo marshalling yard as a food hub to be fully realized among state producers and consumers.

Moreover, SB 2218 will provide other food hubs across the state with additional funding opportunities to help them grow and expand. The proposed five-year pilot program would allow enough time to measure the effectiveness of the pilot program and disseminate lessons learned to help accelerate these critical business endeavors. This bill's impact will resonate across our state and empower a more resilient, regenerative local food system.

We commend the legislature for this forward-thinking approach to supporting local food and local farmers, and urge the members of House Committee on Agriculture to support this critically important bill.

Sincerely,



General Manager





**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, March 23, 2022; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2218, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 2218, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

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.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would establish a five-year food hub pilot program (Program), to be administered by the Department of Agriculture to award grant funding to qualified applicants for the construction of critical infrastructure to establish and expand food hubs in each county. In addition, this bill would appropriate:

- (1) An unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2022-2023 to establish the Program and award grant moneys to qualifying food hubs; provided that the recipient meet all applicable state and federal food safety laws, rules, and regulations, including the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, P.L. 111-353; and
- (2) An unspecified amount of general obligation bonds for fiscal year 2022-2023 to complete critical infrastructure upgrades to enable the Honalo Marshalling Yard to be developed as a food hub.

The bill also clarifies that the appropriation not lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is made, but that all moneys unencumbered lapse on June 30, 2024.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2218, Senate Draft 1
Wednesday, March 23, 2022; 9:00 a.m.
Page 2

The bill also would take effect on July 1, 2050.

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

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated the need for a program like this. Our over-reliance on tourism has weakened our ability to bounce back from COVID's dire economic realities.

The only way for us to protect ourselves from this and future global pandemics is for Hawaii to diversify its economic base and become more self-sufficient. And for us to do that, we need to grow more food.

We urge 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.

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 2:22:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai women's caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Food Hubs can be an excellent way to support local farmers and give people here access to local food.



Farmer owned, 'āina grown

Testimony in Support of SB 2218 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program

House Committee on Agriculture

March 23rd, 2022

**Testimony of Kyle Jackson
Farmer Member Coordinator
Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative**

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the Committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2218 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program. I am currently serving on staff at the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative as our Farmer Member Coordinator and am intimately familiar with our farmer needs; as well as the needs of our community at large relating to sustainable agriculture infrastructure. The majority of our members and Hawai'i farmers at large are small scale and highly diversified. Food hubs allow small farmers the time they need on the 'āina by providing the infrastructure of aggregation, processing, marketing and distribution so food producers can focus on growing their production. Food hubs also return a greater portion of each dollar of value, about 70%, to the farmer – far more than conventional distributors of imported food do.

The Honalo Marshaling Yard, owned by the State of Hawai'i and leased to the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative, is an example of vital food infrastructure that requires capital improvements to support local farms and strengthen the islands' food system resilience. The Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative is an existing food hub for producers of indigenous and local starches including 'ulu, kalo, 'uala, and pala'ai. To date, we have aggregated, processed and distributed nearly 1 million pounds of locally produced staple crops to Hawai'i communities.

Thanks to the legislature's 2019 appropriation of \$1.25 million via both CIP and GIA funds for infrastructure improvements at the Honalo facility, our flagship operation located in Kailua Kona, we are currently working in partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to upgrade base infrastructure (e.g. wastewater, domestic water, electricity, etc.) in order to bring the facility up to Hawai'i County Code. A shortfall of about \$900,000 is still needed to complete the project – which will result in a 10x increase in operational capacity from 200,000 pounds to 2 million pounds of local staple crops per year. *Please note that the 2019 appropriation would have been sufficient had the foundational infrastructure of building not*



Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

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required additional upgrades to comply with county planning and federal food safety regulations – which were not known at the time.

The general obligation bonds now requested through SB 2218 will enable this critical infrastructure project to be completed and the benefits of the Honalo Marshalling Yard as a food hub to be fully realized among state producers and consumers.

Moreover, SB 2218 will provide other food hubs across the state with additional funding opportunities to help them grow and expand. The proposed five-year pilot program would allow enough time to measure the effectiveness of the pilot program and disseminate lessons learned to help accelerate these critical business endeavors. This bill's impact will resonate across our state and empower a more resilient, regenerative local food system.

We commend the legislature for this forward-thinking approach to supporting local food and local farmers and urge members of the House Committee on Agriculture to support this critically important bill.

Sincerely,



Kyle Jackson
Farmer Member Coordinator



SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:12:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catarina Zaragoza	The Locavore Store	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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. This bill will provide support for the network of food hubs across the state to expand their work, and in doing so increase farmer incomes and consumer food access. For these reasons we strongly support SB2218.

In 2017, the Legislature awarded the Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation a Grant in Aid project to Strengthen Regional Food Hubs in Hawai'i. As part of that project, the coordinator, Dr. Saleh Azizi facilitated a focus group, composed of the majority of Hawai'i's food hubs, to understand the resources needed for food hubs to respond to statewide local food purchasing goals. The focus group findings resulted in a 2020 Food Hub Pilot program bill to support existing and new food hubs in all of Hawaii's counties.

Food hubs play a critical role in our food system by connecting small farmers with diverse markets. In decades past, farmer cooperatives were a strong tool for smallholders to get to market. Food hubs are a modern approach to revitalize farmer cooperation and expand market access. Support of this bill will expand the critical work of food hubs and build a stronger local food economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Farmer owned, 'āina grown

Testimony in Support of SB 2218 _SD1 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program
House Committee on Agriculture
March 23rd, 2022

Testimony of Kyle Datta
President
Board of Directors
Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the Committee,

I am the President of the Hawai'i Ulu Producers Cooperative, one of the largest food hubs in the state. We supply local starches, Ulu, Kalo, Ulua to the public and private schools, food banks, local restaurants, hotels and supermarkets.

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2218_SD1 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program. Currently serving on the President of the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative's, I write on behalf of our 116 farmer-members on Hawai'i Island, Maui and O'ahu to share the importance of the proposed food hub pilot program and Honalo Marshaling Yard improvements included in SB 2218SD1 . The majority of our members and Hawai'i farmers at large are small scale and highly diversified. Food hubs allow small farmers the time they need on the 'āina by providing the infrastructure of aggregation, processing, marketing and distribution so food producers can focus on growing their production. Food hubs also return a greater portion of each dollar of value, about 70%, to the farmer – far more than conventional distributors of imported food do.

The Honalo Marshaling Yard, owned by the State of Hawai'i and leased to the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative, is an example of vital food infrastructure that requires capital improvements to support local farms and strengthen the islands' food system resilience. The Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative is an existing food hub for producers of indigenous and local starches including 'ulu, kalo, 'uala, and pala'ai. To date, we have aggregated, processed and distributed nearly 1 million pounds of locally produced staple crops to Hawai'i communities.

Thanks to the legislature's 2019 appropriation of \$1.25 million via both CIP and GIA funds for infrastructure improvements at the Honalo facility, our flagship operation located in Kailua



Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

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Kona, we are currently working in partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to upgrade base infrastructure (e.g. wastewater, domestic water, electricity, etc.) in order to bring the facility up to Hawai'i County Code. A shortfall of about \$900,000 is still needed to complete the project – which will result in a 10x increase in operational capacity from 200,000 pounds to 2 million pounds of local staple crops per year. *Please note that the 2019 appropriation would have been sufficient had the foundational infrastructure of building not required additional upgrades to comply with county planning and federal food safety regulations – which were not known at the time.*

The CIP funds now requested through SB 2218_SD1 will enable this critical infrastructure project to be completed and the benefits of the Honalo Marshalling Yard as a food hub to be fully realized among state producers and consumers.

Moreover, SB 2218 will provide other food hubs across the state with additional funding opportunities to help them grow and expand. The proposed five-year pilot program would allow enough time to measure the effectiveness of the pilot program and disseminate lessons learned to help accelerate these critical business endeavors. This bill's impact will resonate across our state and empower a more resilient, regenerative local food system.

We commend the House Committee on Agriculture for its forward-thinking approach to supporting local food and local farmers, and urge the members of Committee to support this critically important bill. We humbly mahalo the Legislature for its support of local food and local farmers for local people.

Sincerely,

Kyle Datta
President
Board of Directors





Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

SB2218 SD1
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 9:00 AM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB2218 SD1** to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. Food hubs are effective tools for allowing smaller agricultural operations to aggregate their products and sell locally. The benefit of a hub is that agricultural operations can gain access to cold storage, equipment, distribution, and marketing that they may not have been able to afford on their own. We appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, March 23, 2022 — 9:00 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 2218 SD 1, Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program.

Dear Chair Hashem and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve 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 SB 2218 SD 1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food and provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub. This bill also authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the Honalo Marshalling Yard.

Ulupono supports the efforts of food hubs statewide as they serve as critical aggregation, food processing, and distribution for small farmers to access local markets. By increasing local market accessibility, small farmers will be able to provide a fresh, healthy product for consumers statewide. According to the 2017 USDA NASS Census of Agriculture, of Hawai'i's 7,328 farms statewide, 66%, or 4,868 farms, are between 1–9 acres and 78%, or 5,701 farms, produce less than \$25,000 in sales. Hawai'i's agricultural producer majority is small farmers. State supported food hubs may give Hawai'i's producers the opportunity to compete with local markets while also remaining financially viable. We hope that this support for local agriculture can be considered as we look to continue our State's economic recovery and diversification.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Farmer owned, 'āina grown

Testimony in Support of SB 2218 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program
House Committee on Agriculture
March 23rd, 2022

Testimony of Tom Menezes
Board of Directors
Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the Committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2218 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program. Currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative's, I write on behalf of our 116 farmer-members on Hawai'i Island, Maui and O'ahu to share the importance of the proposed food hub pilot program and Honalo Marshaling Yard improvements included in SB 2218. The majority of our members and Hawai'i farmers at large are small scale and highly diversified. Food hubs allow small farmers the time they need on the 'āina by providing the infrastructure of aggregation, processing, marketing and distribution so food producers can focus on growing their production. Food hubs also return a greater portion of each dollar of value, about 70%, to the farmer – far more than conventional distributors of imported food do.

The Honalo Marshaling Yard, owned by the State of Hawai'i and leased to the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative, is an example of vital food infrastructure that requires capital improvements to support local farms and strengthen the islands' food system resilience. The Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative is an existing food hub for producers of indigenous and local starches including 'ulu, kalo, 'uala, and pala'ai. To date, we have aggregated, processed and distributed nearly 1 million pounds of locally produced staple crops to Hawai'i communities.

Thanks to the legislature's 2019 appropriation of \$1.25 million via both CIP and GIA funds for infrastructure improvements at the Honalo facility, our flagship operation located in Kailua Kona, we are currently working in partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to upgrade base infrastructure (e.g. wastewater, domestic water, electricity, etc.) in order to bring the facility up to Hawai'i County Code. A shortfall of about \$900,000 is still needed to complete the project – which will result in a 10x increase in operational capacity from 200,000 pounds to 2 million pounds of local staple crops per year. *Please note that the 2019 appropriation would have been sufficient had the foundational infrastructure of building not*



Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

79-1017 E Honalo Rd, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740 | 808-238-8869 | eatbreadfruit.com | info@eatbreadfruit.com

required additional upgrades to comply with county planning and federal food safety regulations – which were not known at the time.

The general obligation bonds now requested through SB 2218 will enable this critical infrastructure project to be completed and the benefits of the Honalo Marshalling Yard as a food hub to be fully realized among state producers and consumers.

Moreover, SB 2218 will provide other food hubs across the state with additional funding opportunities to help them grow and expand. The proposed five-year pilot program would allow enough time to measure the effectiveness of the pilot program and disseminate lessons learned to help accelerate these critical business endeavors. This bill's impact will resonate across our state and empower a more resilient, regenerative local food system.

We commend the legislature for this forward-thinking approach to supporting local food and local farmers and urge members of the House Committee on Agriculture to support this critically important bill.

Sincerely,



Tom Menezes
Board of Directors





March 21, 2022

Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Support of SB 2218, S.D.1 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program (Requires the Department of Agriculture [DOA] to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food; provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub; authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the Honalo Marshalling Yard; requires reports to the Legislature; appropriates funds; effective 7/1/2050.)

Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.; Conference Room 325 Via Videoconference

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of SB 2218, S.D.1** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands in Hawaii. The bill demonstrates the need for, and benefit of collaboration amongst different sectors of the community - business, government, and agricultural stakeholders - and the importance of them working together cooperatively to improve the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry.

SB 2218, S.D.1. This purpose of this measure is to establish a five-year food hub pilot program under the DOA to increase access to local food, and to appropriate funds for the program.

LURF's Position. Food hubs are facilities that assist with the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of locally grown produce. LURF understands that food hubs represent hundreds of small/medium farms and generate over \$2.5 million in income annually in local food sales. These food hubs help small local farmers who do not have the resources and are therefore unable, on their own, to effectively distribute, store, process, and promote their locally grown foods. Management, technology, and marketing assistance provided by food hubs is necessary and in turn, food hubs require funding assistance from the State in order to support establishment and growth on a scale that can meet the demand of state institutions such as schools, hospitals, and correctional facilities.

LURF members include farmers, ranchers, and landowners who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider programs such as that proposed by this bill significant to the conduct of their operations and to help sustain their businesses, as well as to increase local food self-sufficiency and significantly heighten local food production in this State.

Agricultural stakeholders believe SB 2218, S.D.1 will greatly assist in the effort to achieve long-term sustainability of Hawaii's food supply and economic growth.

The purpose of this bill is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes, Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution, "to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands."

By recognizing the significance of, and need to assist the local agriculture industry and implement measures which help to support the growth and maintenance of agriculture in the State, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

For the reasons stated above, LURF is in **support of SB 2218, S.D.1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 7:44:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harriet Witt	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If we want to eat without being dependent on the mainland, we need farmers. If we want access to the food being grown by local farmers, we need a food hub. Please support this bill. Mahalo.

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:33:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colehour Bondera	Kanalani Ohana Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee:

Please support this important legislation.

Yours,

Colehour Bondera

Kanalani Ohana Farm



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

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 Agriculture
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 23, 2022
TIME: 9am
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: SB2218 SD1 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure for the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. Increasing local food production is a goal we all share. Existing food hubs in the state have enabled our local farmers to successfully bring a variety of products to market. The vast majority of the farms in our state are small farms, and they face a range of challenges bringing their products to market and remaining financially viable. Investing in food hubs is an important way for the state to support local farms and local agriculture. We encourage you to vote yes on this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:32:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Kioni Dudley	The Friends of Makakilo	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Major Food Crisis in Hawai'i at Mid-Century

By Kioni Dudley, Ph.D.

Hawai'i will have a major *food* crisis by mid-Century. We must start preparing for it *now* or thousands will die.

So few in Hawaii are even aware of the world's two greatest problems 1) The world population is exploding. 2) The world is running out of water.

Let's talk population: When I was born In 1940, world population had finally reached 2 billion. By the time I was 40, it had doubled to 4 billion. When I reached 80 years old in 2020 it was nearly 8 billion. 2 billion people doubled to 4 billion and doubled again to 8 billion in just my lifetime. It's doubling again, to 16 billion. The world now adds 1,600,000 new bodies every single week. The UN projects that to feed them, we must *double* world food production by 2050. For every bite of food today, there must be two — in just 30 years.

Growing more food takes more ground water. But NASA satellites have found that 22 of the world's 37 largest aquifers are shrinking irreparably and will run dry. Meanwhile, by 2050 global demand for fresh water will grow by 40 percent.

The San Joaquin Aquifer under the great California croplands is in desperate shape with thousands of dry wells. The Ogallala Aquifer, running under America's bread-basket, all the way from North Dakota to Texas, will be completely dry in 40 years. There will be no water for to grow crops. And no water to drink!

Some countries in Africa and the Near East have absolutely *no more open land to expand* agriculture. Yet the populations of 28 African countries will more than double by 2050.

The UN predicts that in the year 2050, we will have 370 million people *without food*. That's more than the entire population of the United States.

As countries run out of food, The UN predicts mass migrations and *wars* for food.

Hawaii imports 90 percent of what we eat, and we keep only one week's supply of food on-island. As food becomes more scarce worldwide, it is quite possible that there will be no outside food available for import, from anywhere.

No wheat, potatoes, rice, fresh fruits — none of it! We must prepare for this fact or we will die. **We have just 30 years to become totally self-sufficient in food.**

To meet that need we must expand farm education programs. We need to start opening up banked farmland on all islands, and growing *all* of the foods we now import. We must produce and sell our own farm supplies We must develop ranges for cattle, and create more piggeries, chicken and egg farms, dairies, and slaughter houses. We need our own huge bakeries, milk processing plants, breweries, canneries, and other facilities to process for market all of the foods we produce.

We need to start now! There are a number of agriculture bills still alive in the legislature. Every Senator and Representative needs to adopt the mindset, "If it is good for agriculture, it must pass." Let's get moving now! We don't have time to waste.

The facts in this email are amplified and documented on my website, www.2050Hawaii.com.

Dr. Kioni Dudley

92-1365 Hauone Street

Kapolei, Hawai'i 96707

Telephone: (808) 672-8888

E-mail: DrKioniDudley@hawaii.rr.com

Website: www.2050Hawaii.com



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Waimanalo, Oahu

Anabella Bruch
Kauai

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the House Agriculture Committee,

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. This bill will provide support for the network of food hubs across the state to expand their work, and in doing so increase farmer incomes and consumer food access. For these reasons **HFUU strongly supports SB2218.**

In 2017, the Legislature awarded the Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation a Grant in Aid project to Strengthen Regional Food Hubs in Hawaii. As part of that project, the coordinator, Dr. Saleh Azizi facilitated a focus group, composed of the majority of Hawaii's food hubs, to understand the resources needed for food hubs to respond to statewide local food purchasing goals. The focus group findings resulted in a 2020 Food Hub Pilot program bill to support existing and new food hubs in all of Hawaii's counties.

Food hubs play a critical role in our food system by connecting small farmers with diverse markets. In decades past, farmer cooperatives were a strong tool for smallholders to get to market. Food hubs are a modern approach to revitalize farmer cooperation and expand market access. Support of this bill will expand the critical work of food hubs and build a stronger local food economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vincent Mina President HFUU/HFUF

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:03:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeri Di Pietro	Hawai'i SEED	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2218 SD1 and move forward with the creation with the Food Hub Pilot Program. Food Hubs are practical and convenient for farmers and consumers. A great step towards food security

Mahalo,

Hawai'i SEED is



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 23, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2218, SD1
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Room 325 & Videoconference
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 2218, SD1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food and provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub. It also authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the Honalo Marshalling yard.

Small farmers typically do not have access to facilities and infrastructure to aggregate, process, and distribute products to local consumers. The challenge to small growers is also complicated by stringent regulations of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), jeopardizing the ongoing viability of many small growers due to the costs of compliance.

In Hawai'i, additional challenges to small farmers include high costs in land, labor, and energy, as well as limited access to water supply for irrigation. Food hubs are an important subset of food value chains. Many farmers and ranchers, especially small-sized operations, often lack the capacity to access retail, institutional, and commercial foodservice markets on their own, and consequently miss out on the fastest-growing segment of the local food market. By offering a combination of aggregation, distribution, and marketing services at an affordable price, food hubs make it possible for many producers to gain entry into new larger-volume markets that boost their income and provide them with opportunities for scaling up production.

The Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative provides an important service to Hawai'i farmers by aggregating, processing, and marketing 'ulu and associated co-crops grown in diversified farming systems. The Honalō Marshaling Yard facility is owned by the State of Hawai'i and was developed over 25 years ago to support these very activities. The facility is now in gross need of public investment to enable increased production and the scaling of local food industries that have demonstrated the potential for both economic development and long-term food security and sustainability.

By 2025, the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative anticipates handling nearly 2 million pounds per year of 'ulu and associated co-crops based on existing members' production figures, for an overall farm gate value of over \$6.5 million paid out directly to local farmers. Investing in the Honalō facility today is a worthwhile and vital investment in the capacity of Hawai'i's agricultural sector and in the ability of our islands to not only feed ourselves nutritious food but to export high-value dense crops and processed agricultural products for revenue growth and job creation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 9:00 AM
Via Video Conference

House Committee on Agriculture

To: Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

**Re: SB 2218, SD1– Testimony In Support
Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I am writing in SUPPORT of SB 2218, SD1 which would require the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. The measure also provides for the award of grant funding to qualified application wishing to establish or expand a food hub.

The State's food security may be strengthened by growing more food locally and increasing access to local food. Establishing food hubs, which are centrally located facilities having a business management structure that facilitates aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of locally produced food products may be a means by which to foster interest in locally grown foods and make them more available to consumers. The majority of the farms in Hawai'i are small operations that struggle to bring their products to market. Food hubs provide wider access to institutional and retail markets for small to mid-sized producers, and increase consumers' access to fresh healthy food, including those consumers in underserved areas.

HPH has a goal of sourcing 50% of its food purchases from local suppliers in an effort to support local food systems. Food hubs have the potential provide an alternative method to assure quality and assist purchasing with local agricultural producers. Providing greater access to local foods improves food security and strengthens our agricultural industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Agriculture

Date: March 23, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Where: Conference Room 325

TESTIMONY

By Kā'eo Duarte

Vice President, Community & 'Āina Resiliency Group

RE: SB 2218, SD1 – Relating to a food hub pilot program

Aloha e ka Luna Ho'omalua Hashem, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Perruso, a me nā lālā o ke Kōmike.

Kamehameha Schools **supports** SB 2218, SD1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a 5-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food and provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub.

We believe that our educational mission is best achieved in a society that supports and enables the success and well-being of our learners. One significant component of such a society is a sustainable, local food system.

Hawai'i can strengthen our local food system by increasing the amount of and access to locally grown food. Food hubs contribute to these outcomes by aggregating, storing, processing, distributing, and marketing local food products. These services give producers wider access to institutional and retail markets, which is particularly valuable in Hawai'i where most producers are small farms. Food hubs also increase consumers' access to locally produced food, including for those in underserved areas.

We believe that establishing a food hub pilot program will further expand the positive benefits that these organizations provide to our community. In recognizing these benefits, Kamehameha Schools has also invested in two local food hubs, Farm Link Hawai'i and Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative. We believe these operations will contribute to the State's Aloha+ Challenge goal of doubling local food production by 2030.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to pass SB2218, SD1. Mahalo for your consideration.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

Hānai i ke keiki; ola ka lāhui. (Nurture the child and the people thrive.)



House Committee on Agriculture

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB2218 SD1

Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022 9 a.m. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports SB2218 SD1 to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. We believe that this measure will help to grow our local food production and economy.

Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce from small local farmers to help bring produce to market while promoting local production of culturally appropriate nutritious food and promoting the local economy. Food hubs can be thought of as helpful middlemen that connect producers (farmers and ranchers) with institutional buyers (restaurants, hospitals, schools, etc) and directly to consumers¹.

Often finding access to distribution into mainstream markets and stores is challenging for local, small-scale producers. Food hubs can also help overcome this challenge by helping producers to market their products².

Food hubs do not replace farmers markets, which still provide a direct outlet for farmers and a unique opportunity for producers to have direct contact with their customers. Food hubs are beneficial for producers who do not have the time or personal interest to sell at farmers markets. They also provide continual available access to local food sources for those that can not make it to the farmers market¹.

The functions and structure of a food hub vary, but often include the following:

- Market access for local producers
- Information sharing
- Transportations and distribution
- Brokerage services
- Product bundling and aggregation
- Season extension

¹ Sustainable America: Rogers, Nicole (2013) *What is a Food Hubs*
<https://sustainableamerica.org/blog/what-is-a-food-hub/>

² SDSU Extension Community Vitality Field Specialist: Blachford, Sierra under direction of O'Neill, Kari & Zdorovtsov, Chris; *The Benefits of Food Hubs* <https://extension.sdstate.edu/benefits-food-hubs>

- Maintaining producer-consumer connections
- Producer-oriented technical assistance

Food hubs are also believed to assist with the development of resilient and equitable local food systems which provide greater food system equity, taking better care of those in “food deserts”, where people have limited access to a variety of healthful foods³.

Research has indicated that consumers are willing to pay a premium if they know the origins of their local and regional foods². Making access easy and convenient in the form of online hubs or physical locations makes access more possible while taking the burden off the farmer allowing them to focus on expanding and growing more food. Food hubs therefore play a critical role in expanding local food production.

SB2218 SD1, and the support of food hubs, will actively help to better prepare us for situations of food scarcity. During this past year we have been reminded of the priceless value of food security and self sufficiency as the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to look around and question the long term viability of our current food supply system. We have seen what happens in emergency situations, such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on supply, especially during the initial months of the pandemic.

The more we support local food production, aggregation and consumption the more we decrease our carbon footprint associated with incoming shipping costs while growing our food security.

Please support SB2218 SD1 and food hubs throughout the islands as part of the solution to help grow our local food economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Anne Frederick
Executive Director

³ MSU Center for Regional Food Systems: Weiss, Andrea (2020) *Equity and collaboration for resilient local food systems across the U.S.*
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/equity-and-collaboration-for-resilient-local-food-systems-across-the-us>



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

SB 2218, SD1

Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program

Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 9:00 AM
Conference Room 325
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bobby Farias, rancher and part owner of Hawaii Meats, and **I strongly support SB2218, SD1**. I support the pilot program for a Food Hub aggregation point for Local food. Finding efforts to increase efficiency in the local food system is a must!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Bobby Farias

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 1:21:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
"Phil" Augustus Acosta	Aloha Harvest	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Perruso,

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB2218.

Aloha Harvest is the largest nonprofit organization in Hawaii dedicated to food rescue and sustainability. We have a vision of a resilient and sustainable Hawai'i working to eliminate hunger and food waste. We were founded over 22 years ago, and with the help of over 1,000 community partners, we have redistributed nearly 30 million pounds of food and have prevented that from going to our incinerator and landfill. We collaborate with grocery stores, restaurants, local farmers, distributors, various businesses, and food establishments to rescue quality food to nourish and strengthen our community. In 2021, we distributed 3.8M pounds of food, and out of that, 2,865,301 pounds is rescued excess food. That is the equivalent of 2.2 million meals served and \$8M dollars saved, just this past year alone!

Aloha Harvest works to address the cruel mismatch in the food system where people go hungry while we also waste an enormous amount of food. Our primary activity is to divert and rescue quality food from entering the waste stream, and to deliver it on the same day to nonprofit partners that feed the hungry. We provide these critical services seven (7) days a week, free of charge to the donors and recipient agencies. In the process, we also provide a boost to our local businesses and economy, while reducing the impact of food waste to the environment and climate change. Our work is closely aligned with the State and County's sustainability goals, as well as the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030).

Currently, our operational model for vehicle-only pick-up and drop-off is a major limitation to expanding capacity to meet growing needs. Developing a Food Resilience Hub is critical to expanding our organizational capacity (dry/chill/frozen storage, wash/prep/sorting areas, kitchen/production areas, increased volunteer & community engagement, consolidated operations, etc.) and work with more partners to serve more people. We completed a Food Resilience Hub feasibility and expansion study in October 2021 with help from Ulupono Initiative and the Hawaii Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED). A copy of the final report can be accessed here (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RDjKuA4A4mHX23_DFc_i_xE3pJW8uMjIz/view?usp=sharing)

We are only capturing approximately 2% of potentially recoverable food on Oahu. While much progress has been made to connect, collect and distribute food, there is still so much more that can be done to expand capacity by creating the space to bring partners together to work cooperatively to serve more people (shared facilities, shared resources, lower operating expenses, lower risks, etc.). Transitioning from a current vehicle-only distribution model to a food hub will expand our capacity to collect more food and offer new services. In addition to core functions to aggregate and redistribute food, a food hub also provides opportunity to offer a range of social enterprise programs (training, value-added products, meal preparation etc.) to develop sustained revenue for long-term viability, and host complementary programs such as community composting.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure and are grateful for your continued support. Mahalo.

-Phil Acosta

Executive Director, Aloha Harvest

phil@alohaharvest.org, (808) 208-4307

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:36:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I come from Papakōlea, O‘ahu. I'm a Kanaka Maoli born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom. I'm writing in full support of SB2218 SD1.

Food hubs provide markets for small farmers and food producers to sell their produce and food products. It can be challenging for small farmers and food producers to find retail outlets and markets for their goods. Food hubs level the playing field for smaller-scale producers by connecting them with customers who want to support local and sustainably grown food. Food hubs also aggregate produce and added value products and often provide delivery and pick-up options.

Support SB2218 SD1.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 6:02:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ISABELLA E HUGHES	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to submit my strong support for SB2218 SD1 as it is imperative to develop a food hub pilot program for our community. It is also important taht this bill allocates critical resources to complete upgrades at the Honalo facility, HUC's flagship manufacturing facility located in West Hawai'i Island.

Please vote to support SB2218 SD1.

Respectfully,

Isabella "Bella" Hughes

Shaka Tea cofounder, Head of Mission & Innovation

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:11:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Witcover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a resident of Captain Cook and I am in SUPPORT of SB2218 to increase access to local food through food hubs. Food hubs play a critical role in our food system by connecting small farmers with diverse markets. The Honalo Marshaling Yard, owned by the State of Hawai'i and leased to the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative, is an example of vital food infrastructure that requires capital improvements to support local farms and strengthen the islands' food system resilience.

Mahalo

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 11:55:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kevin matsuoaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Food hubs play a vital role in the local economy. It is so important to support local farmers and connect them with facilities they can use. The people of Hawaii need more access to locally grown food and a food hub allows that. It helps both the farmers and the consumers. In full support of this program!

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 12:48:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Tompkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Marian Tompkins I live in Hawi on the Big Island of Hawaii.As a member of the Hawaii Ulu Co-op in Honalo, Hawaii, I am in supprt of Bill SB2218.

The Honalo Marshaling Yard is a vital example what a hub can accomplish. Our local farmers can use this kind of hub to help distribute their produce. The Honalo Marshaling Yard can use Bill SB2218 to help with expansions and upgradesand keep Hawaii sustainable for the future.

Living on this island for over 40 years, I have learned how vulnerable our islands can be. It is very important, now, to make sure that the resources and produce continue to be available for our residents.

Thank you for your vote,

Marian Tompkins

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 1:35:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need a food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. It's a no brainer.

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 1:40:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannalore Aiwohi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello my name is Hannalore Aiwohi, a resident of Haleiwa, HI. I am in support of SB2218 to increase access to local food through food hubs. Food hubs are critical in connecting small farmers and diverse markets.

I am an owner of a small lot earmarked as IAL. We are starting our farm growing 'ulu and noni. These are niche staples. Small farmers need infrastructure. Help farmers strengthen our islands' food system resilience by passing this bill. Thank you

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 2:00:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helmut Klauer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Thai Bill

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:13:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thayne Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

This bill will provide support for the network of food hubs across the state to expand their work, and in doing so increase farmer incomes and consumer food access. For these reasons I strongly support SB2218.

In 2017, the Legislature awarded the Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation a Grant in Aid project to Strengthen Regional Food Hubs in Hawai'i. As part of that project, the coordinator, Dr. Saleh Azizi facilitated a focus group, composed of the majority of Hawai'i's food hubs, to understand the resources needed for food hubs to respond to statewide local food purchasing goals. The focus group findings resulted in a 2020 Food Hub Pilot program bill to support existing and new food hubs in all of Hawaii's counties.

Food hubs play a critical role in our food system by connecting small farmers with diverse markets. In decades past, farmer cooperatives were a strong tool for smallholders to get to market. Food hubs are a modern approach to revitalize farmer cooperation and expand market access. Support of this bill will expand the critical work of food hubs and build a stronger local food economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:29:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa DeSantis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2218. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:45:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Inaba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ann Inaba , I am a resident of Holualoa in Kona and I am in SUPPORT of SB2218 to increase access to local food through food hubs. Food hubs play a critical role in our food system by connecting small farmers with diverse markets. The Honalo Marshaling Yard, owned by the State of Hawai 'i and leased to the Hawai 'i 'Ulu Cooperative, is an example of vital food infrastructure that requires capital improvements to support local farms and strengthen the islands' food system resilience.

Mahalo for your dedication to local food and the health of our communities and 'āina.

Signed,

Ann Inaba



SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:45:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebekah Cryderman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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. This bill will provide support for the network of food hubs across the state to expand their work, and in doing so increase farmer incomes and consumer food access. As a team member and volunteer of Kalani Retreat Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational retreat center that focuses on education related to the environment, community, agriculture and wellness that is based in the Puna District of the Big Island, I recognize the need for greater access to nutritious food and expanded farming skills, especially in rural food deserts like where our center is located. For these reasons I strongly support SB2218.

In 2017, the Legislature awarded the Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation a Grant in Aid project to Strengthen Regional Food Hubs in Hawai'i. As part of that project, the coordinator, Dr. Saleh Azizi facilitated a focus group, composed of the majority of Hawai'i's food hubs, to understand the resources needed for food hubs to respond to statewide local food purchasing goals. The focus group findings resulted in a 2020 Food Hub Pilot program bill to support existing and new food hubs in all of Hawaii's counties.

Food hubs play a critical role in our food system by connecting small farmers with diverse markets. In decades past, farmer cooperatives were a strong tool for smallholders to get to market. Food hubs are a modern approach to revitalize farmer cooperation and expand market access. Support of this bill will expand the critical work of food hubs and build a stronger local food economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:50:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Penn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must support our local farmers! I support this bill!

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:56:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
clairee musial	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This bill is imperative for focusing on food sovereignty at the DIRE level that we should all be present and supportive of. If we do not gear our laws towards the absolute truth that the need to thrive on this island is solely reliant on our personal food production and supply chains, we will miss an IMPERATIVE opportunity to continue to live in good health and happiness as a community. More funding for regenerative agriculture and regenerative economic systems.

end slavery,

claire e musial

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:00:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Food hubs allow small farmers to sell their produce.

We need them.

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:03:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this essential issue. Mahalo,

Elizabeth Hansen, Registered Voter- Hakalau HI 96710

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:05:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Senators:

I am respectfully asking that you support SB2218 SD1 concerning the Food Hub Pilot Program.

Thank you for your courtesy and consideration,

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:07:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators: Please support this essential issue. Mahalo,

Rodger Hansen, Registered Voter- Hakalau HI 96710

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:24:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:17:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear AGR committee members,

Please pass this Food Hub bill.

I strongly support SB2218 to create a 5-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food and assist farmers in getting their produce to markets.

Food hubs help connect farmers with customers. These relationships can take many forms, so they are not one-size-fits-all. Educating all parties as to what to expect and assigning responsibilities will help operations run more smoothly. The end result should be a fiscally balanced system—not a one-way money sink. Accountability should be expected, especially with limited state funds. I would like to echo some testifiers who stated that management and accountability are key elements in food hubs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how broken and unequal our current system is AND how important food is—to our health and to our well-being. With food hubs we have a chance to improve the growing, harvesting, processing and sale of a farmer's produce. Food hubs can help immensely with food preparation, storage and distribution, bringing jobs to a community and ensuring food security where there was none. For all these reasons, now is the time to initiate this program.

Right now, many farmers, especially small farmers, are producing food but have no outlet for their products. This bill can be the catalyst that shows them a way forward.

I work with a farmer who is growing beautiful fresh fruits and vegetables; he also has a second full-time job. Every week, he sells part of his crop to local customers and restaurants, part of it goes to two or three local non-profits and, sadly, some goes back into the compost piles because he has little time to find or fill customer orders. A nearby food hub could help this farmer immensely. Please do what you can to help farmers get the tools and resources they need to farm efficiently and connect with other farmers, other small businesses and with marketers. These programs and partnerships are critical to bringing a sustainable food supply to Hawaii.

Thank you for your support of SB2218.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:27:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB2218 SD1. Food Hubs are a key element for farmers to distribute their produce and products. It's especially crucial for smaller and more isolated islands and communities.

Mahalo for your support,

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:27:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB 2218.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:50:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzanne Fields	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a home-based farmer and a member of the Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU), which you know is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. This bill will provide support for the network of food hubs across the state to expand their work, and in doing so, increase farmer incomes and consumer food access. For these reasons we strongly support SB2218.

In 2017, the Legislature awarded the Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation a Grant in Aid project to Strengthen Regional Food Hubs in Hawai'i. As part of that project, the coordinator, Dr. Saleh Azizi facilitated a focus group, composed of the majority of Hawai'i's food hubs, to understand the resources needed for food hubs to respond to statewide local food purchasing goals. The focus group findings resulted in a 2020 Food Hub Pilot program bill to support existing and new food hubs in all of Hawaii's counties.

Food hubs play a critical role in our food system by connecting small farmers with diverse markets. In decades past, farmer cooperatives were a strong tool for smallholders to get to market. Food hubs are a modern approach to revitalize farmer cooperation and expand market access. Support of this bill will expand the critical work of food hubs and build a stronger local food economy.

This support would also allow home-based farmers, like me, to have a dependable avenue for selling the produce we grow AND ensuring that fresh, locally produced fruits and vegetables are more widely available. Too often, my produce goes to waste when my usual sources are not buying.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Suzanne Fields

Haiku, Maui

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 7:07:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Hovanski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Elizabeth Hovanski, I am a resident of Pāhoa in district 4 and I am in SUPPORT of SB2218 to increase access to local food through food hubs. Food hubs play a critical role in our food system by connecting small farmers with diverse markets. The Honalo Marshaling Yard, owned by the State of Hawai‘i and leased to the Hawai‘i ‘Ulu Cooperative, is an example of vital food infrastructure that requires capital improvements to support local farms and strengthen the islands' food system resilience.

It is imperative to continue support for local agriculture to prevent complete dependency on outside corporations. Local food sources are important to our economy and provide jobs and cultural resources here in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your dedication to local food and the health of our communities and ‘āina.

Signed,

Elizabeth Hovanski

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 7:33:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rexann Dubiel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please we need to become food secure. This bill will further our journey.

Think of the future and pass this bill!

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:06:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
VINCENT KIMURA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a no-brainer.... the only way to change our system is to better support; contract growing, food aggregation, cold storage and logistics. If there's any question to the use of foodhubs, please reference the Wallace Center - Winrock International and the National Good Food Network.

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:31:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monte Keawe-Costa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:08:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill establishes a five-year food hub pilot program intended to increase production of and access to local food by providing grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub.

This is needed because it can be challenging for small farmers and food producers to find retail outlets and markets for their goods. Food hubs provide readily-available and reliable markets for small farmers and food producers to sell their produce and food products.

Food hubs also level the playing field for smaller-scale producers by:

- connecting them with customers who want to support local sustainably grown food--often providing direct delivery and pick-up options for customers--
- providing more cost-efficient economies of scale, and
- facilitating production and sale of more value-added.products using locally-produced foods, which further increase local small farm revenues.

And by reducing Hawaii's dangerous over-dependency on imported food, food hubs can also help to locally capture and more widely distribute more of the business revenue generated by the local economy, while also increasing the local multiplier effect of those revenues.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:19:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Yes, support food hubs by providing financial support in order to seed production of locally grown foods and ensure the success of this industry through consolidation of facilities to cut costs and create food cooperatives to help beginning, small and mid-size producers and increase access to locally grown healthy foods.

Thank you for considering my testimony..

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:25:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kilia Purdy-Avelino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a homestead farmer on Molokai, where our options to import food (via air or barge) is minimal and expensive, I STRONGLY support SB 2218 SD1. With the right support and designation of our water to our homesteaders along with funding appropriations, we have the ability to produce more food to sustain our island and will need to establish a food hub here.

Mahalo,

Kilia Purdy-Avelino

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 6:09:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Maui's food hub has been successful... All islands residents and farmers need this support.

Successful farmers, healthier residents, less imported food and related costs in \$ and environment / carbon. It's a win win ! SUPPORT it !

JN Makawao

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 6:11:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahela Spencer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB2218. This is very important for our local farmers and community.

Mahalo,

Lahela Spencer

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 8:43:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenta Nemoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kenta Nemoto, I am a resident of Laupahoehoe in North Hilo and I am in SUPPORT of SB2218 to increase access to local food through food hubs. Food hubs play a critical role in our food system by connecting small farmers with diverse markets. The Honalo Marshaling Yard, owned by the State of Hawai'i and leased to the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative, is an example of vital food infrastructure that requires capital improvements to support local farms and strengthen the islands' food system resilience.

Mahalo for your dedication to local food and the health of our communities and 'āina.

Signed,

Kenta Nemoto

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 7:13:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nedi McKnight	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support. We need food hubs more than ever. On our 1 acre in Pa‘auilo, our fruit trees are dripping with fruit. Jackfruit go to waste. Tangerines are unpicked. We have extra squash, and an over abundance of organic eggs. Food Hubs would give us the opportunity to have help harvesting and sharing.

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:15:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Howard Ling	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Howard Ling, I am a resident of Honaunau in South Kona and I am in SUPPORT of SB2218 to increase access to local food through food hubs. Food hubs play a critical role in our food system by connecting small farmers with diverse markets. The Honalo Marshaling Yard, owned by the State of Hawai'i and leased to the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative, is an example of vital food infrastructure that requitres captial improvements to support local farms and strengthen the islands' food system resilience.

Mahalo for you dedication to local food and the health of our communities and 'āina.

Signed,

Howard Ling

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:21:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge strong support for this bill.

SB-2218-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:07:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene K. Rowley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this pilot program to promote local agriculture and increased food independence for Hawai'i