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FEBRUARY 2, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2982
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 2982, 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.

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 Hawaii, 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.

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

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 3:27:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Food hubs are so important to access and security. Please find this bill. #fixourfoodsystem.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, February 2, 2022; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2982, RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, 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, RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's FQHCs. FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

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 \$1,000,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2022-2023, for the awarding of grant moneys to qualifying food hubs.

We note that this measure is substantively similar to another measure, Senate Bill No. 2218, which this Committee heard on Monday, January 31, 2022. That measure included, among other things, an unspecified appropriation 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 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.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2982
Wednesday, February 2, 2022; 1:00 p.m.
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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-2982

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 11:56:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maureen Datta	Testifying for Adaptations Inc	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. Food Hubs are an essential part of Hawaii’s food system. Hawaii’s Food Hub Hui connects more than a dozen regional hubs across the state to share abundance, knowledge, resources and market for locally grown food. A food hub is an exclusively regional aggregation and distribution center. A food hub is a local produce company that facilitates food grown within about 250 miles from the farm gate to the consumer. Adaptations’ food hub in Kona empowers about 175 food producers annually. They range in scale from backyard gardeners to a 20-acre lettuce farm to a 1000-acre fruit farm. They're practicing regenerative agriculture. They're employing residents, they're dealing with the adaptations needed to cope with climate change. Food producers are seat-of-the-pants researchers, they're MacGyvers, constantly having to put out fires and solve problems. Food hubs allow farmers and gardeners the time they need on the ‘aina by providing the infrastructure of aggregation, marketing and distribution. Food hubs get local products to market so the food producers can focus on growing their production. And food hubs return to the producer a greater portion of every dollar value, about 70%, than conventional distributors of imported food do. Imagine multiplying the effect one food hub has by a factor of 15 or more. This bill’s impact will resonate across our state and empower a resilient, regenerative local food system.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:09:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Helmut Klauer	Testifying for A'a Li'i Farm	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill!



Monday, January 31, 2022

Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports SB2982 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a 5 year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food and provides for grant funding for qualified applicants to establish or expand a food hub.

The creation and encouragement of community food hubs could help Hawaii meet its food sustainability goals. Food hubs help to expand market access to small and medium sized farmers creating a way for those entities to sell their products on a much larger scale. Food hubs create jobs and strengthen economies all while increasing access to fresh, healthy locally produced food. This can be a win-win scenario for our local communities.

For all these reasons, we ask you to **vote in favor of SB2982**.

Mahalo for the opportunity,

Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 1:51:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Valerie Barnes	Testifying for Sustainable Kohala	Support	No

Comments:

Our organization, comprising approximately 300 members in North Kohala on Hawai'i Island, strongly support SB2982. This program would greatly help in overcoming some of the significant barriers to farming and so would enhance local food security, e.g., storage, transportation, marketing. We have many local small farmers who are challenged by the lack of the facilities a food hub could provide. Reliable sources of local food are one of our organization's highest priorities. Please pass this measure.



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB2982

Wednesday, February 2nd, 2022 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports SB2982 to require the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. It also provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub.

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 consumers^[1].

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 products^[2].

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 market^[1].

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
- 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 healthy foods^[3].

Research has indicated that consumers are willing to pay a premium if they know the origins of their local and regional foods^[2]. 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, 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 SB2982 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

[1] Sustainable America: Rogers, Nicole (2013) *What is a Food Hub*
<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>

[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>



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 — 1:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 2982, Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program.

Dear Chair Gabbard 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 2982, 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.

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 in larger 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



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Anabella Bruch
Kauai

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

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 Hawai'ian 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 SB2982.**

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 Hawai'i's counties.

Food hubs connect small and family farmers with diverse markets. In decades past, farmer cooperatives were a strong tool for smallholders to get to market. As cooperatives fell apart, so did much of the small farm economy. Food hubs are the modern approach to that collective work to increase market access for groups of farmers. Drastic changes in foodways make these aggregators a crucial intermediary. Once abundant local grocers have been replaced by big box stores with global supply chains. Food hubs enable producers to enter these stores where most consumers access their food. Support of this bill will expand the critical work and build a stronger local food economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vincent Mina President HFUU/HFUF

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 3:31:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 6:50:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support our local farmers.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 10:57:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 2:28:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2982.

I'm in support of funding a five-year program to meet the needs of Hawaii's farmers who in turn can meet the needs of Hawaii's residents. Without an organized program that enhances agricultural production, making the food safe and abundant, Hawaii will not be able to achieve the demands of the Hawaii residents. Technical assistance, education, and equipment, are all needed to bring this program to fruition.

Please support SB 2982.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 2:38:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Georjean Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the proposed pilot program on food hubs in SB2982 to learn how best to provide support to local farmers in efficiently connecting with buyers. it will inform our efforts toward sustainable food management in the islands.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 2:51:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anne Borman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully supportt his measure. It will help our local agriculture.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 3:42:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sharlene Gee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this. Hawaii's food security requires that we grow more food locally, grow the local market for local foods, and increase residents' access to local food. Establishing food hubs is a part of this. I personally support this type of effort by weekly purchasing food from our local food hub, Adaptations CSA. I'd like to provide others this type of opportunity.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 6:10:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alicia Starsong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. Food Hubs are an essential part of Hawaii's food system.

A food hub is a local produce company that facilitates food grown within about 250 miles from the farm gate to the consumer. Adaptations' food hub in Kona empowers about 175 food producers annually. I am a user of the Adaptations distribution.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 8:29:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eva Wilder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

yes

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 1:21:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
marjorie erway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:06:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sharon Shields	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

#fixourfoodsystem We need more fresh food available to our communities. I support more food hubs

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 10:51:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Strong Support for SB 2982 !

Mahalo. JN Makawao

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 10:56:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thayne Taylor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Food hubs connect small and family farmers with diverse markets. In decades past, farmer cooperatives were a strong tool for smallholders to get to market. As cooperatives fell apart, so did much of the small farm economy. Food hubs are the modern approach to that collective work to increase market access for groups of farmers. Drastic changes in foodways make these aggregators a crucial intermediary. Once abundant local grocers have been replaced by big box stores with global supply chains. Food hubs enable producers to enter these stores where most consumers access their food.

Support of this bill will expand the critical work and build a stronger local food economy.

Thank you,

Thayne Taylor

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 10:23:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support and **#fixourfoodsystem.**

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:09:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tierra Bartolotti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i State Legislators,

Local food hubs across the State of Hawai'i are becoming increasingly integral in their role of supporting both growers & producers, while establishing consistent local supply of food networks to consumers. Additionally, producers who specifically purchase source-ingredients through the food hub's local resources, and then sell through the hub -- double up the impact on a local food economy. As a student researcher, at UH West Oahu, I have been in direct communication with multiple food hub organizers across the state to identify what some of the barriers are to increasing value-added food production in Hawai'i. In my research, I have found that by strengthening & supporting local food hubs, these organizations can directly help alleviate many of the following persistent challenges that local farmers face such as: access and proximity to FSMA certified kitchens, access to new markets, and understanding the moving targets around processing compliances. These persistent challenges continue to limit the economic viability for small, local producers to access new markets. Therefore, I stand in full support for SB2982.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:13:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
megan powers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Diversity is strength. Food Hubs strengthen our food security by drawing upon a diversity of suppliers and locations. Food Hubs make it possible for the small farmer or backyard grower to share their abundance with people in need instead of that food going to waste.

I strongly urge all to support the creation and expansion of more Food Hubs State wide.

Mahalo,

Megan Powers

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:19:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jordan Hocker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha chair and comittee members,

My name is Jordan Hocker and I live on the island of Maui. I strongly support SB2982 for the food hub pilot program. Here on Maui, during the pandemic, the most life changing thing to come out of it for me and my family was Maui Hub. This was a food hub established to connect farmers directly to members of the community through an easy platform and pick up/delivery system. I've heard stories recently about supply chain issues globally and have heard accounts of grocery store shelves being bare because they are unable to get certain items due to shortages and supply chain issues. My family, however, hasn't experienced a single inconvenience due to these issues because between Maui Hub and our local farmers market, we were able to switch to 85-90% local food items. Food sovereignty and resilience is of utmost importance right now. If we are going to adapt to changing times and climate change, the most logical thing to do, would be to make sure that Hawai'i's families are secure locally and regionally. Meaning that the establishment of food hubs WILL increase community food security. Climate change also threatens our supply chains, we cannot keep importing everything and then when the food doesn't come, respond in that moment. We need to plan ahead to secure our future as a viable island communities. Maui has many farmers who could contribute to something like this. We need food hubs. Help us get them.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:29:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support [SB2982](#).

Sincerely, Deborah Umiamaka.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 12:13:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rivah Winter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill, which will help to empower Hawaii's food system.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 12:33:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lisa DeSantis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2982.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:03:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kirstin Kahaloa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! We have over a dozen food hubs across the state supporting small farmers. Offering state support to keep these food hubs viable and scalable is critical to growing our local food system. Please support this bill!

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 1:04:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerry Ross	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We have been using the food hub on Maui since it began to sell produce. It is fantastic. Support to help defray administrative costs would keep food prices affordable and keep farmers solvent.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 2:49:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kilia Purdy-Avelino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Kilia Purdy-Avelino. I am a 4th generation homesteader on Molokai. Our goal is to produce more fresh food to supply our own community to reduce importing food with our already limited transport and high cost. Food hubs create an economic engine for the small farmer while serving small, rural communities. I am in strong support.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 3:38:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Toni Withington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee members,

I strongly support this bill for providing more local produce to island families. As a backyard farmer, I also welcome the opportunity to share the abundance of our land with other families. This is the true ohana way. Best thing you can do for our communities.

Toni Withington, Hawi HI

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 4:34:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kane M	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In order for Hawaii residents to remain food secure, more infrastructure around locally produced food is imparitive. I support this bill to help facilitate the growing and distribution of locally produced food.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 4:48:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Havilah Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Food Hubs are at the core of connecting the community to their food and to local farmers. Funding and supporting food hubs in Hawaii is an integral step on the path to becoming feed secure. The pandemic showed us just how far we are from food secure. Impromptu food hubs that were born from the pandemic served a vital role in providing our communities with food and our farmers with a way to sell their product. We need this now more than ever!

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 4:55:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I support SB2982 because as a state we need to be much more food sustainable. The food hub concept will allow the small growers to have a place to consolodate their produce for sale elsewhere. The farmer can then concentrate on farming instead of sales.

This would be wonderful for our small local farmers and to those of us who want to easily support local food. It is healthy and smart.

Kind regards,

Pamela Burrell,

Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 4:55:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brian "Ioane" Jahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing to express my SUPPORT for SB2982. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, food hubs have been proven extremely useful in helping to improve access to healthy, nutritious, culturally appropriate foods for Hawai'i residents, while providing employment for those affected by tourism industry layoffs. Many local farmers have found food hubs to be an excellent way to introduce their produce to market while building better relationships with each other and the community. According to a survey taken by Dr. Saleh Azizi, food hubs have increased total sales by more than 209% with total sales over \$10 million (2020). I believe food hubs are important resources to help improve food systems in Hawai'i nei. Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

Me ke aloha,

Ioane

References

[Food Hub Heroes- Covid-19 responses by Hawaii's Food Hubs. \(2020\). YouTube. Retrieved February 1, 2022, from https://youtu.be/yZ3hOTVGTfw.](https://youtu.be/yZ3hOTVGTfw)

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 6:02:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a registered voter in Hakalau HI 96710. Please support this bill. Mahalo

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 6:54:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Any avenue for organic, locally grown food is a major plus, economically, socially, and health-wise.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:44:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer McGurn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill. Hawaii's food system is broken and we need to mend it from the ground up. Food hubs are an excellent way to start - they allow small farmers to market their products without all the overhead and work of selling on their own. The Maui Food Hub was created early in the pandemic and is now thriving. We could use more of them, on all islands, and make shopping local the new normal. #fixourfoodsystem

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:03:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robert Bence	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha I support SB 2982 Food Hubs are great Mahalo

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 6:56:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill! Mahalo!

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:10:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
pat gegen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support local farming!

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 8:06:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and AEN Committee Members,

I support this bill for Hawaii's farmers, families, and 'āina. In conjunction with bills supporting farm-to-table programs, healthy soils, and sustainable agriculture, SB2982 can advance public, ecological, and even economic health.

Mahalo,
Dylan Ramos

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:29:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan Margaret Lawson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please vote to support legislation. Mahalo.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 12:25:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anna Symonds	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a crucial program for health, food access, and self-sufficient Hawaiian agriculture.
#fixourfoodsystem

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:49:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
lauren bell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

#fixourfoodsystem

Help support local food hubs that support the health of our community!

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 10:09:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
yuko ishimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm writing in support of Food Hub Pilot Program. I would like to see more locally grown produce readily available.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 10:15:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
shantee brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

i support this.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:52:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2982 that would require the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. Food hubs provide markets for small farmers and food producers to sell their produce and food products, connecting them with customers who want to support local and sustainably grown food. Supporting small, local farmers builds our food security and resiliency, and reduces our carbon footprint, something that is critical as we face the climate crisis.

Please pass this important bill!

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture And Environment, Committee Chair Senator Mike Gabbard/Committee Members

SUBJECT: SB2982 Relating to a food hub pilot program, Committee Hearing - Wednesday February 2, Conference Room 224.

I'd like to share my testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB2982 as it relates to food hubs in Hawai'i. Food hubs are a great way to support local farmers and consumers. During COVID-19, food hubs were essential to the continuance of local producers. They create jobs and help to provide economic sustainability for a more suitable future for the Hawai'i. Local food hubs are focused around connections between producers and consumers, essentially encouraging local growth and production.

Mahalo,

Rainbow Uli'i

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 7:28:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Merideth	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There is so much opportunity to utilize AG-zoned land to grow food and sustain ourselves as an Island. Having a food pilot program will increase farmer success and revitalize our local economies. There are many people who are interested in farming but lack the educational background or support. #fixourfoodsystem

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:02:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nicole Hyde	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SP2982, because food security is one of the utmost importance for our ability to survive in our islands. 90% of our food consumed in Hawai'i is imported. We are blessed with year-round cultivating weather, why are we not utilizing that? It is scary that food imports is what fills our shelves. To be so vulnerable and not have any plans in place to solve that issue is irresponsible. Please pass SP2982, because food security should be just as important as natural water for the people of Hawai'i.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 11:02:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joshua Black	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Food Hubs on the Island of Hawaii were able to generate and distribute food allocation to rural, lower economic, and populations isolated during the COVID-19 pandemic. The distribution and success of the program solidified a process of local resources and food sustainability during a disaster. A principle supported by the local government in Hawaii County and created future partnerships between Hawaii County Civil Defense and the food hubs.

- Food Hubs employed displaced workers
- Food Hubs encourage local growth of food production for smaller lots creating a multiverse food species as well as reducing the centralization of crop diseases and bug infestation impacting larger producer crop growth.
- Provides a consumer to producer connection
- Local investment returns to food quality and production

Thank you.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:06:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sunny Savage	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Am in strong support for this much needed addition to our communities.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 11:38:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jessica	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

It has been my experience, working in the agriculture and food systems sector in Hawai‘i for almost a decade, that the largest barrier for our small, local farmers is the lack of regional and island-based distribution infrastructure. Food hubs are crucial for making it easier for farmers to bring their product to stable markets so that they may focus on agricultural production instead of wasting precious hours and money dealing with the marketing and distribution of their products. Food hubs also make it easier for institutional purchasing for larger entities such as schools, hospitals, and other large clients. Increasing state support for food hubs is the key to increasing the strength of our local food system, while supporting agriculture as a viable career path.

Mahalo,

Jess

SB-2982

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:50:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Judith E. Levy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a "small Kine" farmer in Haiku, Maui. I definitely SUPPORT this important bill to HELP small farmers be able to sell and share their crops so we can mvoe towards COMPLETE FOD SOVEREIGNTY on in Hawaii, like we were "before contact." I want the State Dept. of Agriculture to do EVERYTHING POSSIBLE to support small local farmers to have an easy and still profitable outlet for their produce. WE MUST HAVE A VIABLE AGRICULTURE ECONOMY IN HAWAII!! WE MUST NOT ONLY DEPEND ON TOURISM TO SUPPORT US!

PLEASE PASS this bill and you will all sleep well tonite!

Judy Levy , Tutu, school teacher and small farmer in Haiku, Maui

February 1, 2022

To: Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee

Subject: Testimony in **support** of SB2982 relating to a food hub pilot program

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Kerstyn Afuso, I am currently a student at the University of Hawai‘i West O‘ahu in the Sustainable Community Food Systems concentration. Constantly learning of the fragilities of our food system, witnessing the change of our food system towards supporting more local vendors, produce, and products through the growth of food hubs was refreshing.

The growth of food hubs since the beginning of the pandemic was of undeniable value for growers and producers across Hawai‘i. Without our normal flow of visitors, food hubs provided new markets for farmers to sell their food and ensured that it was distributed to vulnerable communities and local residents through various ways.

The food crisis initiated by the pandemic allowed food hubs to step up and support the economically vulnerable small producers on our island. As the initial shock of the COVID-19 crisis weans, Hawai‘i will likely be bracing for another crisis with climate change creating unpredictable events. Continued support for food hubs and the creation of new ones, will therefore be invaluable in creating a stable and resilient food system where local growers and producers have an outlet to Hawai‘i consumers. Therefore, I fully support SB2982.

Mahalo,

Kerstyn Afuso

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2982

February 2, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Room 224 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. 2982 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; and appropriates \$1,000,000 in general funds in FY 23 to effectuate the pilot program.

B&F notes that 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.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:05:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lauren Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Food Hubs create new careers, support small businesses and provide essential help to our local farmers, which is needed now more than ever. Help Hawai'i's farmers, support SB2982.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 4:45:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ramona L. Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in favor of using tax dollars to use the lessons learned by the successful food hub in established Kona and further improve according to the unique situations in each county. If this could also incorporate education and perhaps grant provision hinged on regenerative agriculture and gardening for those involved in supplying local produce, and if a certain percentage of the produce reached locals (not just business/restaurants) I would even more strongly support this bill.

I come from a healthcare provider background, caring for people with multiple chronic diseases. Living within our local means by prioritizing the quality of our soil, food, grown organically, locally, minimizing processing and waste while maximizing nutritional content of foods directly from nature is a big part of maintainng health of our bodies, air, water and land. Collective effort in this direction deserves pilot support as long as prospectively monitored for predetermined quality measures and outcomes.. In my humble opinion.



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

31 January 2022

To: Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Clarence Nishihara, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Re: SB2982, RELATING TO FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

I, Kahealani Acosta, testify **IN SUPPORT** of **SB2982**, relating to a food hub pilot program.

The global pandemic made evident the weaknesses of Hawai'i's local food system, in which reliance on Hawai'i's tourism industry has proven the misplacement of food system and security priorities. The main resiliency factor of our food system is emphasized in the success of our food hubs to provide food for the many hungry families that lost their jobs and could not afford a basic meal during this unprecedented time. The economic impacts of the pandemic continue to burden our working class families, and it is our due diligence to consider shifting to a sustainable and resilient food system model for the future of our island community.

Azizi and Lincoln (2021) [1] conducted a study on the success of food hubs as a pandemic response to food distribution in Hawai'i, and highlighted their key performance indicators before and during the global pandemic, in which annual revenue and number of jobs significantly increased by 197% and ~115%, respectively (table 1).

Table 1: Key performance indicators of the 11 food hubs surveyed that represent their operations prior to March 2020 and After June 2020, *adapted with permission from Azizi and Lincoln (2021)*.

	Before March 2020	After June 2020	Change (%)
Annual revenue	USD\$3.28M	USD\$9.75M	197%
No. part-time jobs	42	93	121%
No. full-time jobs	25	53	112%
No. Suppliers	664	900	36%

Additionally, Azizi and Lincoln showed the significant increase in direct to consumer sales through CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) (figure 1), which exemplifies an opportunity to provide organic, locally-sourced, and nutrient-rich foods to our local families; communities. Given the safety concerns of the pandemic, we see a sharp decrease in the institutional

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

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

purchases of our local foods, however Hawai'i's local food hub distribution channels possess the opportunity to increase local food access for these institutions.

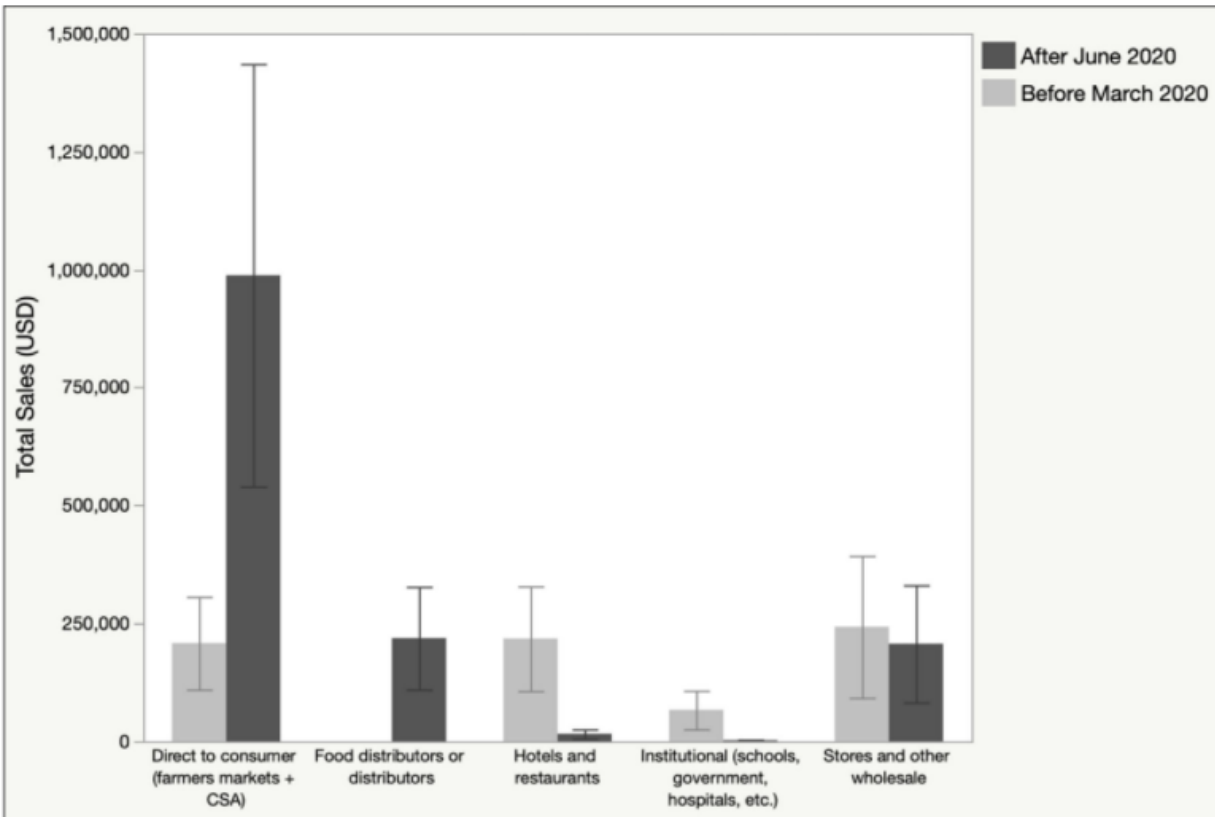


Figure 1: Shifts in total sales outlets (including standard error bars) for 7 food hubs that contributed their sales data, adapted with permission from Azizi and Lincoln (2021).

Food hubs across Hawai'i have proven their resiliency in response to an unprecedented time in history, in which the investment into this avenue of food processing and distribution elicit the significant gains to Hawai'i's agricultural economy. It is our kuleana (responsibility) to ensure the prosperity of our predecessors and future generations through access to locally-sourced and nutritionally abundant foods.

As a graduate student of indigenous cropping systems, a budding farmer, and advocate for sustainable and resilient food systems, I urge the committee to pass SB2982. On behalf of the Hawai'i Food+ Policy Internship, I would like to thank Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, for considering the comments made herein.

Me ka mahalo nui (with deep gratitude),
Kahealani & the Food+ Interns
#fixourfoodsystem



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

References

[1] Azizi Fardkhales, S., & Lincoln, N. K. (2021). Food hubs play an essential role in the COVID-19 response in Hawai'i. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*.

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

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

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:10:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
scott lacasse	Testifying for Grow Some Good	Support	No

Comments:

Grow Some Good supports increasing the capacity and resiliency of our local food system through the creation and secure establishment of regional food aggregation and distribution centers across Hawai'i that serve producers and consumers at a variety of scales.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:56:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ariana Datta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. Food Hubs are an essential part of Hawaii's food system. Hawaii's Food Hub Hui connects more than a dozen regional hubs across the state to share abundance, knowledge, resources and market for locally grown food. A food hub is an exclusively regional aggregation and distribution center. A food hub is a local produce company that facilitates food grown within about 250 miles from the farm gate to the consumer. Food hubs allow farmers and gardeners the time they need on the 'aina by providing the infrastructure of aggregation, marketing and distribution. Food hubs get local products to market so the food producers can focus on growing their production. And food hubs return to the producer a greater portion of every dollar value, about 70%, than conventional distributors of imported food do. Imagine multiplying the effect one food hub has by a factor of 15 or more. This bill's impact will resonate across our state and empower a resilient, regenerative local food system.

Mahalo,

Ariana Datta

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:14:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Steven Whaley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:20:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sage Loomis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. Food Hubs are an essential part of Hawaii’s food system. Hawaii’s Food Hub Hui connects more than a dozen regional hubs across the state to share abundance, knowledge, resources and market for locally grown food. A food hub is an exclusively regional aggregation and distribution center. A food hub is a local produce company that facilitates food grown within about 250 miles from the farm gate to the consumer. Farmers for food hubs range in scale from backyard gardeners to a 20-acre lettuce farm to a 1000-acre fruit farm. They're practicing regenerative agriculture. They're employing residents, they're dealing with the adaptations needed to cope with climate change. Food producers are seat-of-the-pants researchers, they're MacGyvers, constantly having to put out fires and solve problems. Food hubs allow farmers and gardeners the time they need on the ‘aina by providing the infrastructure of aggregation, marketing and distribution. Food hubs get local products to market so the food producers can focus on growing their production. And food hubs return to the producer a greater portion of every dollar value, about 70%, than conventional distributors of imported food do. Imagine multiplying the effect one food hub has by a factor of 15 or more. This bill’s impact will resonate across our state and empower a resilient, regenerative local food system.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:14:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Felix D'Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support new and existing food hubs, and all the benefits they bring to community members accessing fresh local food. #fixourfoodsystem

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:23:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ashley Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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

Food hubs also assist with the development of resilient and equitable local food systems which provide greater access to healthy foods for those living in “food deserts”, where people have limited access to a variety of healthy produce.

Support of food hubs will actively help to increase local food security.

The more we support local food production, aggregation and consumption the more we decrease our carbon footprint, support our small-scale food producers and keep dollars in our local economy.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:24:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Reba Lopez	Testifying for Birds With Arms Farms	Support	No

Comments:

As president of the Haleakala Chapter of the Hawaii Farmers Union United, and a family farmer at Birds with Arms Farms, I would like to testify in support of this bill. Mahalo.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:46:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Chelle Galarza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2982. I stand for sustainably grown food and support small local farms and farmers. Food hubs provide markets for these food producers to sell their food to the community. It can be challenging for small food producers to find retail outlets and markets to sell their goods. Food hubs level the playing field for the smaller-scale producers by connecting them with customers who want to support sustainably grown local food. Food hubs aggregate produce and added value products and often provide delivery and pick-up options. Being we are an island community it is emensely important that small local food producers and farners are supported. They can provide food to support the local community if we have any food shortages or food transportation delays due to storms or other issues in getting food to the island.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:34:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
joann sarubbi md	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

FIX OUR FOOD SYSTEM



February 1, 2022

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

RE: Testimony in support of SB2982, Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawaii Foodbank, **I am writing in support of SB2982**, which would establish a five-year food hub pilot to increase access to local food. Food security is a critical issue in Hawai'i, where one in six residents lacks comprehensive access to healthy, nutritious food.

At Hawaii Foodbank, we have partnered successfully with food hubs to provide fresh, healthy, local produce and proteins to those we serve. We support SB2982's intention to increase local food production, support small farmers, and increase our residents' access to local food.

Mahalo for your consideration.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Marvin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Amy Marvin
President and CEO, Hawaii Foodbank

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 1:35:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tara Waller	Testifying for Ho'ola Farms, 501(c)(3)	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important legislation to begin or expand our state's food hubs. It is now more important than ever to broaden access to locally produced food, and this bill will support organizations already doing this critical work.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:49:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jesse Kealiinohomoku	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to support SB2982 as Food Hubs are an important infrastructure that is the foundation to advancing Hawaii towards a more sustainable and equitable food system. Food hubs also create local jobs and add to economic sustainability following the economic rebuild of the pandemic. Food hubs also encourage local growth and production. It is critical that we encourage local growth of the food system as it builds resiliency within the food system. Following local growth, we can see many benefits in health ecologically as we move towards less imports.

It is very important that we start to invest into our food systems now and start building a more resilient food production and economic system. Through supporting SB2982 we are also making a statement to the farmers that we care about their service while encouraging new farmers to grow food.

Thank you for listening and reading through my testimony.

Me ke aloha,

Jesse Kealiinohomoku

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:56:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keoni DeFranco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

i support this bill

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022

1:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**SENATE BILL NO. 2982
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2982, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub program to increase access to local food. It provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub, requires reports to the Legislature, and appropriates funds.

The Department supports this measure provided it does not adversely impact our priorities in the Executive budget request and offers supporting comments and amendments.

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

The Department recognizes 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~~ As the current pandemic has demonstrated, food hubs can also serve as "back-up" infrastructure for food systems in times of crisis. 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.

Grant of public moneys can only be made pursuant to standards prescribed by law. Since no specific standards for expenditure are provided by this measure, it may be



more appropriate to use the term “award” instead of “grant” to best achieve the intent of this bill. As such, the Department suggests that the term “grant” be replaced with “award” on Page 2, line 16, p.3, line 7 and p. 5, line 15.

Additionally, the Department requests that the rulemaking provision in page 4, line 12 of the bill be made discretionary by replacing “https://capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=3197&year=2022shall” with “may.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 1:59:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joseph Kohn MD	Testifying for We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Support **SB2982 SUPPORT FOOD HUBS**

www.WeAreOne.cc

Shops at Paia Bay, LLC
Statement of Revenues and Expenses
Cash Basis
For the Period Ended December 31, 2016

	<u>1 Month Ended</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2016</u>	<u>12 Months Ended</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2016</u>
Revenue		
Rental Income	\$ <u>28,543.50</u>	\$ <u>350,322.20</u>
Total Revenue	28,543.50	350,322.20
Operating Expenses		
CAM-Operating Supplies	0.00	595.35
CAM-Professional Fees	442.71	5,154.09
CAM-Repairs & Maint-Electrical	0.00	316.67
CAM-Repairs & Maint-Gate	0.00	390.62
CAM-Repairs & Maint-Handyman	374.40	5,525.12
CAM-Repairs & Maint-Landscapng	208.33	2,239.60
CAM-Repairs & Maint-Misc	79.99	2,470.48
CAM-Repairs & Maint-Pest Cntrl	0.00	624.99
CAM-Repairs & Maint-Treertrimng	0.00	780.00
CAM-Waste Removal	737.24	8,392.23
CAM-Utilities	132.60	1,557.88
Entertainment	52.94	52.94
Office Expense	38.13	64.97
Operating Supplies	6,640.58	6,640.58
Professional Fees	0.00	2,312.36
Rent	1,600.85	28,678.59
Repairs & Maintenance	166.40	7,574.21
Taxes - General Excise	995.28	13,558.16
Utilities	164.77	1,844.82
Telephone	51.72	621.28
Depreciation	<u>1,834.06</u>	<u>22,008.66</u>
Total Expenses	<u>13,520.00</u>	<u>111,403.60</u>
Operating Income	15,023.50	238,918.60
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net Income	\$ <u><u>15,023.50</u></u>	\$ <u><u>238,918.60</u></u>

See Accompanying Accountant's Compilation Report



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

February 1, 2022

To: The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Subject: SB 2982, Support

Aloha,

We appreciate you reading this testimony in **support of SB2982**.

Food hubs are an essential part of creating a productive system in Hawai'i that is able to support local farmers while making fresh and healthy food available to consumers in need. This bill provides the essential funds to further develop current food hubs while establishing new ones to meet the growing needs of the state.

During the Covid-19 pandemic food hubs were able to create positive impacts to address food and job insecurity. Survey statistics from Dr. Saleh Azizi show that employment pre-pandemic to present has increased over 100% in both full- and part-time, by 112% and 121% respectively. The importance of and demand for food hubs is highlighted by the drastic increase in sales from \$3.28 million growing to currently \$10.1 million.

As a state, we should be investing our resources into programs we know have the potential to create a greater impact in helping Hawai'i food communities.

Mahalo,
Lauren Horita & the Food+ Interns
#fixourfoodsystem

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

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

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:59:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dave Mulinix	Testifying for Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 5,000 members and supporters statewide, we stand in support of SB2982 that will support local food hubs that will increase access to locally grown food.

Mahalo for your kind attention,

Dave Mulinix, Our Revolution Hawaii



Farmer owned, 'āina grown

Testimony In Support of SB 2982 Food Hub Pilot Program
Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee
February 2, 2022

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

Dear Chairman Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Ulu Producers Cooperative strongly supports SB 2982 Food Hub Pilot. A food hub is an exclusively regional aggregation and distribution center that efficiently facilitates consumer access to local food. Most of Hawaii's farmers are small scale and highly diversified. Food hubs allow farmers the time they need on the 'āina by providing the infrastructure of aggregation, processing, marketing and distribution. Food hubs get local products to market so the food producers can focus on growing their production. Food hubs return greater portion of each dollar of value, about 70%, to the farmer - far more than conventional distributors of imported food do.

The Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative is an existing food hub for producers of our local starches, 'ulu, kalo, 'uala, and pala'ai, on Hawai'i Island, Maui and Oahu. We have over 110 farmers and have harvested over 800,000 lbs. of local produce. Thanks to the legislature's appropriation in 2019 of \$1.25 million for infrastructure improvements at our Honalo facility on Hawai'i island, we are increasing the facility's ability to process food by a factor a 10: from 200,000 pounds to 2 million pounds per year. The project will take approximately two years from inception, and thus, the impact will be realized in three to four years (2024/2025).

SB 2982 provides food hubs across the state additional funding to help them grow and expand. The five-year pilot program allows enough time to measure the effectiveness of the pilot program and disseminate lessons learned to help accelerate these business endeavors. This bill's impact will resonate across our state and empower a resilient, regenerative local food system.

We commend the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee for its forward-thinking approach to supporting local food and local farmers.



Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

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

Sincerely,



General Manager



SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 4:08:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
"Phil" Augustus Acosta	Testifying for Aloha Harvest	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill to increase access to local food and provide funding support to establish/expand a food hub. This is in alignment with our organizational mission and long-term strategic plan.

Respectfully,

"Phil" Augustus Acosta

Executive Director, Aloha Harvest

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

SB-2982

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:40:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Fiona Fong Weingartner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai, I am writing in support of SB 2982 to establish a food hub pilot program. Since 2020, I have volunteered at a few food hubs in Hilo and Hamakua districts. Through these programs, I witnessed people in my community with no previous interest source more local foods for personal cooking, and provide more consistent nutrition to their children. Mahalo for your consideration - Fiona at Honokaa Elementary