

OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, March 17, 2021
10:00 AM
State Capitol
in consideration of
SB 338, SD 2
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

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

The Office of Planning **supports** the intent of this measure. The purpose of SB 338, SD 2 is to require the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. SB 338, SD 2 provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub.

The Office of Planning's newly-established [Statewide Sustainability Program](#) recently held a series of public meetings in the Fall of 2020 to update the [Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan](#), which was revised by [Act 146, SLH 2019](#) to "serve as the state's climate and sustainability strategic action plan."

Through this timely statewide public outreach during the COVID-19 global pandemic and its corresponding economic impacts to Hawai'i, residents raised the vital importance of and need for: community food security, access to locally-produced food, and the availability of USDA certified food processing facilities. The need to improve Hawai'i's local food production and rural community food security was prevalent in nearly every Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan public meeting.

Recently the State of Hawai'i also enacted [Act 151, SLH 2019](#), one of the state's sustainability targets, which required the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor, to develop a strategic plan to achieve the goal of doubling food production and increasing food exports by 2030.

Food hubs may become a more important link in the supply chain to channel more local food to the consumers and institutions of the state. Food hubs, as centrally located facilities with a business management structure that facilitates the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution and marketing of locally grown produce, are an integral but missing piece of agricultural infrastructure required to achieve and sustain the doubling of local food production in Hawai'i.

The Office of Planning looks forward to supporting the Department of Agriculture in these sustainable endeavors to increase Hawai'i's food security and sustainability.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 338, SD 2.

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**MARCH 17, 2021
10:00 A.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 338 S.D. 2
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM**

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 338 S.D. 2, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to nutritious 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, appropriates funds, and authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds.

The Department supports 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 sugar and pineapple plantations built the required infrastructure to process and package their single crop production effectively and efficiently. Supporting diversified crop production requires a more flexible and coordinated operation which no small, local farmer can afford individually.

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, establishing new or improving existing qualifying food hubs throughout the State with the grant funding would ensure that the required planning and community facilitation are conducted before project implementation.

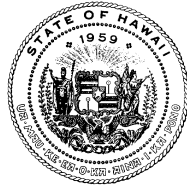
The Department is now aware of four food hubs on Oahu, four on Hawaii Island, two on Maui and one on Molokai that are providing jobs, representing hundreds of small to medium sized farms, serving thousands of customers and producing over \$10.1 million in annual gross income. They are:

- Oahu: Kahumana Farm Hub (Waianae), Farmlink Hawaii (North Shore), Kokua Kalihi Valley Cultural Food Hub (Kalihi), and Oahu Fresh (Honolulu);
- Hawaii Island: Adaptations (Kona), The Ulu Producers Cooperative (Kona), The Food Basket (Kona), and The Kohala Food Hub (Kohala);
- Maui: Local Harvest (Lahaina) and Maui Food Hubs (Haiku); and
- Molokai – Sustainable Molokai.

Improving the visibility of food hubs or assisting with the planning and community involvement to establish food hubs on Kauai and Lanai are strong possibilities with this measure.

The Department agrees that food hubs may become a more important link in the supply chain to channel more nutritious local food to the consumers and institutions of the State. As demonstrated in the coronavirus pandemic, food hubs can also serve as “back-up” infrastructure for our local 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, nutritious, locally grown, fresh fruits and vegetables.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 338, S.D. 2
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM**

REPRESENTATIVE MARK J. HASHEM, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Hearing Date: March 17, 2021

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the Department of Agriculture
2 (DOA) regarding the implementation and fiscal impacts of this bill, and to the priorities set forth
3 in the Executive Budget Request.

4 **Department Testimony:** The DOH supports Senate Bill 338, Senate Draft 2 (S.B. 338, S.D. 2)
5 to establish a five-year food hub pilot program under the DOA to increase access to locally
6 produced food products.

7 Major health authorities (including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Centers for
8 Disease Control, and the World Health Organization) recommend increasing fruit and vegetable
9 intake as a means to prevent chronic disease and improve overall health.^{1,2,3} However, access to
10 fresh produce for income-limited individuals can be difficult and is one of the reasons why they
11 often have poorer diets and higher rates of chronic disease than middle class and wealthy
12 individuals.^{4,5} Hawaii has the highest cost of living in the nation with food costs that are 82%

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture. *2015 – 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. 8th Edition. December 2015.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Strategies to Prevent Obesity and Other Chronic Diseases: The CDC Guide to Strategies to Increase the Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables*. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2011.

³ World Health Organization. *Healthy Diet Fact Sheet N°394*. Web. Updated September 2015.

⁴ Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Hawaii State Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2016.

⁵ Simmet, Anja et al. *The Dietary Quality of Food Pantry Users: A Systematic Review of Existing Literature*. Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Volume 117, Issue 4, 563 – 576.

1 higher than the national average.⁶ In Hawaii, less than one in five adults reported eating five or
2 more fruits and vegetable a day (2015 Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System).⁷

3 The pandemic increased attention to the vulnerability of food systems and nationally
4 local food hubs demonstrated the ability to shift and meet the needs of growers and consumers.⁸
5 According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, food hubs may improve local and regional
6 food systems, increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables in low-income communities, and
7 facilitate fruit and vegetable purchases by institutions such as schools and hospitals.⁹ The DOH
8 supports S.B. 338, S.D. 2 as one component of a comprehensive approach to improve the
9 availability and accessibility of healthy foods to improve health outcomes for people in Hawaii,
10 especially for those who face greater health disparities.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

⁶ United States Department of Agriculture: Official USDA Food Thrifty Plans.

⁷ Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Hawaii State Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2016.

⁸ [Local Food Systems Response to COVID, Building Better Beyond](#), accessed 2/2/2021.

⁹ United States Department of Agriculture. The Role of Food Hubs in Local Food Marketing. 2013.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

SB 338 SD2 – RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of SB 338 SD2 relating to the development of a food hub pilot program.

According to the 2017 NASS Agriculture Census, approximately 87% of Hawai'i farms produce just 10% of total agriculture sales. Twelve percent of Hawai'i farms sell food crops directly to local sources and represent just 22% of total sales; and 96% of sales to local sources (2% of all farms) comes from farms with more than \$50,000 in total sales.

These data point out the poor platform from which Hawai'i strives for food security; and that food security will come from larger operations. Agriculture is a business of scale, hence the need for food hubs.

These data represent the situation prior to the pandemic, which no doubt has made the situation worse.

Food hubs are represented by a wide range of business models. Thus, developing a food hub means asking “what kind of a hub” is wanted. A study by the National Good Food Center notes that profitability is marginal - that a “typical food hub operates at a close to break-even level. The highest performing 25 percent posted a 4 percent profit, compared to the average of -2 percent”. The top 25 percent of food hubs “may have earned their 4% profit through 3 percent lower cost of goods sold...and through greater labor productivity”. Clearly, food hub management is the key to success.

Given the nature of Hawai'i agriculture, food hubs would be an obvious advantage if they can be made economically solvent, which means eventually not operating by grants and gifts, but by sound management.

SB 338 SD2 proposes a food hub pilot program to be “administered” by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). We defer to HDOA's opinion on whether that is possible given the resources available. Our recommendation is that HDOA should not

administer, but more correctly help “initiate” food hubs; and document the success or failure of the subsequent management. This is more in line with the intent of the bill and puts the responsibility of success in the hands of the entrepreneurs.

The University supports the intent of SB 338 SD2 with comments but is aware of the current financial climate of the State of Hawai'i and realizes that state funding is reduced. For the next fiscal biennium, the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents approved a budget request for the University that was flat, and did not seek any increased funding to the University. UH defers to HDOA on their priorities.

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

M ATTHEW GONSER, AICP, CFM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

STATE OF HAWAII
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 338, SD2
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** Senate Bill SB338, SD2, which establishes and appropriates funding for a five-year food hub pilot program under the Department of Agriculture to award grant funds to applicants establishing or expanding food hub infrastructure.

The City's O'ahu Resilience Strategy¹ notes Hawaii'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. SB338, SD2 represents a step forward in addressing these challenges by investing in our local food economy with grant funding for construction or improvement of facilities and technical assistance to those seeking to establish or expand food hubs. In this way, SB338, SD2 also helps to promote the statewide *Aloha+ Challenge* goal of doubling local food production by 2030,² as well as the City and the state's statutory goals of achieving net-negative carbon emissions by 2045.

SB338, SD2 is also essential to pandemic recovery efforts, complementing work being done at the City level to invest in local agriculture. Unlike other distributors, food

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 Hawaii'i Green Growth, *Aloha + Challenge*, Local Food, <http://aloha-challenge.hawaiiingreengrowth.org/aloha-goals/local-food/>.

hubs, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), facilitate the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and 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. Additionally, unlike more traditional models of outreach and marketing in the agricultural sector, food hubs provide a reliable and consistent source of income to farmers, further contributing to the economic security of agricultural producers hard hit by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. 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, SB338, SD2 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 SB338, SD2.

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/AqCensus/2017/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Hawaii/cp150_03.pdf.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 325
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.**

To The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair;
The Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

COMMENTS SB338 SD2 RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

My name is Pamela Tumpap. I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, in the county most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of our dependence on the visitor industry and corresponding rate of unemployment. I am writing to share our comments on SB338 SD2.

We love the idea of this bill and supported it in the past (with concerns about the appropriation amount). We desperately need to support our Ag Industry, who saw huge losses with visitor industry declines and restaurants and the Department of Education purchasing far less. We are looking for more ways to do more value-added manufacturing and making sure we can package, refrigerate and warehouse food here longer for our overall sustainability. In Maui County, we need solid economic development solutions and shoring up our Ag Industry is a key component of that.

However, we are providing comments today because we do not feel there is enough money appropriated to achieve what you are looking for. The \$1,000,000 appropriation for the whole state equates to \$250,000 per county, which we believe is inadequate for the type of facilities described in the bill. We suggest a minimum of \$2,000,000, but if the State is really serious about this effort, we recommend \$1,000,000 per County to establish a location, get something built and consider this an ongoing investment.

This is a time when we need to look at top priorities and if this is one of the state's top priorities, we urge you to allocate more funding to this program.

Mahalo for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

Michael P. Victorino
Mayor

Sananda K. Baz
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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March 16, 2021

TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
MAUI COUNTY MAYOR

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, March 17, 2021
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

SB338 SD2 RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

Representative Mark J. Hashem Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Honorable members of the Committee on Agriculture

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** for **SB338 SD2**.

The purpose of this Bill is to establish a five-year food hub pilot program under the department of agriculture to award grant funding to food hubs which often encounter financial obstacles when seeking to launch or expand their operations. Therefore, a funding source is needed to support the establishment and growth of food hubs on a scale that meets demand by state institutions such as schools, hospitals, and correctional facilities.

The County of Maui notes that SB338 SD2 is essential to pandemic recovery efforts and complements the Counties investment in local agriculture. In Fiscal Year 2021 alone the County of Maui has invested \$2.5 million in an agriculture micro-grant program and \$1.9 Million in direct grants to non-profits that provide support services to local producers. These investments benefit local consumers by improving the availability of local produce, livestock and poultry in Maui County, while also increasing farm capacity, productivity, name recognition and income for farmers.

This Bill seeks to actively coordinate aggregation along the value chain, citing that food hubs may 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 and "food deserts". The County of Maui supports the investment of food hubs in "food deserts" to increase access to fresh, healthy, and nutritious food to underserved

March 16, 2021
Page 2

populations. This initiative is in line with the Federal Administration's focus on socially disadvantaged farmers. President Biden signed an Executive Order¹ calling upon all departments, including USDA, to conduct an equity assessment and evaluate opportunities to increase engagement with underserved communities

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** for **SB338 SD2**.

¹ Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government/>



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March 17, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 338, SD2
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Conference Room 325
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Persusso, 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 338, SD2, 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 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.

The Hawaii '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 Hawaii '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.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 6:24:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Teresa Gardner | Artfarm808 | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing today in support of the Food hubs. As a small farmer this will be immense helpful in bringing the food grown on the islands to the marketplace. Good hubs could be a vital

component for both the producers and consumers in making it easier to eat what is locally grown. Please pass this bill as a testament to the states support of growing and eating local produce. It's just common sense!

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 6:26:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| pamela burrell | apollo kauai, zero waste kauai | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Senators..

This is a brilliant concept and so very necessary for Hawaii.

Food. We all need it and what better than supporting our local farmers? Our daily food does not need to travel from afar. We just need to coordinate the growers..who's got what.. for our local grocery stores, restaurants,and resorts.. what better then to promote local !

Let's make a system that supports our local people trying to give us this food accessibility from our island ohana. Support local jobs first. It is the right thing to do.

Thank you for representing Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Pamela Burrell,

Kalihiwai, Kauai



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, March 17, 2021 — 10:00 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 338 SD 2, 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 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 338 SD 2, 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 recognize that you face many difficult decisions this year to balance the budget in the midst of this economic crisis, but we hope that this support for local agriculture can be considered.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

TESTIMONY OF PLANIT
IN REGARD TO **SB 338 SD2** RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM
TO BE HEARD BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
MARCH 17 AT 10:00AM VIDEO CONFERENCE

Dear Chair Mark Hashem, Vice Chair Amy Perruso and Members of the Committee,

My name is Daniela Torres, and I am the manager of PlanIt. We are a Hawai'i-based environmental branding agency that works with businesses whose mission include sustainability. Our clients focus not only on being role models for their community, but also providing education to their customers and community as well. Many of our clients would prefer to source all their ingredients locally, however, a lack of local ingredients and processing facilities makes it necessary to import most of what they need.

PlanIt **supports SB 338 SD2**, relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program requiring the Requires the department of agriculture to establish a 5-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, for the following reasons:

Help Achieve State Sustainability Goals

Food security and sustainability is of critical importance for Hawaii. The State Department of Agriculture estimated that 80 - 90% of food in Hawaii is imported. Should an interruption occur due to natural disaster or other external factors beyond the State's control, current food sources would last just 3-10 days.

The Aloha+ Challenge aims to improve this by calling for the doubling of local food production by 2030. In order for farmers to produce more food, they need logistical assistance to focus on what they do best; producing more local food. Without this support, it is unlikely Hawaii can achieve its sustainability goals.

Farmers Can't Do This on Their Own

Large obstacles currently exist for small farmers to get their food to market. A full time employee would be required to engage in market research, marketing of their farm, pitching or altering crops and services, negotiating contracts, balancing supply and demand, and maintaining relationships. Many farmers don't have the resources to showcase their products

at just one farmer's market on one island, let alone connect with larger grocery chains and hundreds of restaurants, schools and businesses.

Additional resources and manpower is required for processing, certification, insurance, accounting, refrigeration, and transportation. Consolidating these efforts not only removes barriers for farmers who wouldn't have been able to scale before, while providing the economic benefit of new jobs.

Small Farms are Instrumental to Hawaii's Soil & Ecosystem Integrity

According to the 2017 USDA NASS Census of Agriculture, 66% of farms in the State of Hawaii are small, ranging between 1–9 acres. Small farms usually have a more diverse cropland, while large producers tend to focus on monoculture (single crop production). Allowing small farmers to participate in larger markets will ensure their economic survival and subsequently Hawaii's long term ecosystem survival.

The negative effects of monoculture are far reaching, compounding, economically unsustainable in the long term, and in some cases can cause irreversible damage to ecosystems. When a single crop is grown, biodiversity is compromised, crops are more susceptible to harmful organisms, pesticide and synthetic fertilizer use increases, top soil degradation occurs, groundwater pollution of chemicals is prevalent, and surrounding ecosystems are compromised. The EPA reports that although coral reefs face numerous threats, many come directly from agricultural pollution.

Helps Businesses & Families Choose Local

Families access to local food is limited to what items are stocked in large chain grocery stores, or select few farmers markets on certain days of the week. Virtual food hubs can be set up to allow families to order food online at one place but receive products from a variety of farmers. Barriers for businesses to source from small local farms would also be lowered. Instead of being forced to work with the products of one large supplier of often imported products, food hubs would open the doors to resources and competition from a variety of local farms.

PlanIt **supports SB 338 SD2** and thanks you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Daniela Torres
PlanIt, Environmental Vision + Branding

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 8:06:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| laurel brier | Kauai women's caucus | Support | No |

Comments:

For greater self sufficiency, food security and for a healthier people and environment.



March 15, 2021

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

Support of SB 338, S.D.2 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program (Requires the Department of Agriculture [DOA] to establish a 5-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; makes an appropriation; effective 7/1/2050.)

Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 10:00 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 338, S.D.2** 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 338, S.D.2. 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 currently 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 338, S.D.2 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 338, S.D.2**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

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

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 10:59:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ted Bohlen | Climate Protectors Hawaii | Support | No |

Comments:

To: The Honorable Mark Hashem, Chair, The Honorable Amy Perruso, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

From: Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **SB338 SD2– RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 10:00 a.m., by videoconference

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

The Climate Protectors Hawaii is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis. The Climate Protectors Hawaii **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB338 SD2!**

As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, food insecurity, loss of protective coral reefs, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

Facilitating more local food production, as this bill would do, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions released in transporting food to Hawaii, reduce our food insecurity, and help local farmers.

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for a five-year food hub pilot program under the Department of Agriculture to increase access to local food.

Farmers in Hawaii face many challenges in achieving economic sustainability, including the limited availability of reliable markets and food hubs, which are facilities used to secure food and process value-added products. Food hubs, as centrally located facilities with a business management structure that facilitates the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of locally grown produce, are an integral but

missing piece of agricultural infrastructure required to achieve and sustain the doubling of local food production in Hawaii.

State supported food hubs may give Hawaii's producers the opportunity to compete with local markets, while also remaining financially viable. Hawaii's agricultural producer majority is small farmers who struggle with access to facilities and infrastructure to aggregate, process, and distribute products to local consumers and face high costs in land, labor, energy, and limited access to water supply for irrigation. Allowing small farmers to participate in larger markets will ensure their economic survival and Hawaii's long-term ecosystem survival. Therefore, a food hub pilot program will help lower costs for and increase revenue to farmers in the State, help farmers become or remain economically sustainable, and ensure public access to locally grown food and value-added products.

Please pass this bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and food insecurity by facilitating more local food production in Hawaii. Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 11:23:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Thomas Brandt | Foresight/Policy Analysis | Support | No |

Comments:

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Hawaii can and should substantially increase local food self-reliance for numerous reasons, in my opinion, and can do so in several ways I think will be a net positive for Hawaii's medical, environmental, and economic health--

e.g. the increased local economic multiplier effect of NOT exporting billions of dollars annually to import food.

I also think this can be done without requiring perpetual subsidization of local food producers by local consumers and/or taxpayers to keep them competitive with artificially cheaper imported food,

which enjoys an unfair competitive advantage due to being externally subsidized in several ways, both direct and indirect, from production to shipment to Hawaii.

The pandemic has also put renewed focus on the Governor's goal to double local food production, and the need to increase local food self-reliance and resiliency to better prepare for a wider range of both predictable and unpredictable possible causes of future import supply disruptions and cost increases.

SB338 provides one tangible way to do this. Food hubs help small local farmers more cost-effectively compete with artificially cheaper imports by sharing production, distribution, and marketing expenses to reduce per unit costs,

thereby improving economies of scale and the economic viability of local food producers, while improving Hawaii's food security and increasing local access to more affordable healthy food which, in turn, can help reduce acute and chronic health care costs, while also helping local environmental protection and restoration efforts.

I would also add that any mandated set-aside of state-owned ag lands for food producers who intend to primarily sell to local buyers should not simply be

auctioned to the highest bidders, but should be designed to support a wide variety of producers at the lowest possible land rental costs, perhaps starting at zero and increasing on a sliding scale as net revenues increase.

In conclusion, I think the combination of:

- food hubs,***
- below fair-market land rental or purchase costs,***
- one-time upfront ag infrastructure subsidization,***
- exemption from state and local taxes on in-state food sales, and***
- "buy local first" mandates for taxpayer-funded institutional food buyers***

all could help level the playing field for local food producers relative to artificially cheaper imported food

but without asking local consumer and/or local taxpayers to perpetually pay more to "buy local."

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Thomas Brandt

Foresight/Policy Analysis

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 11:29:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Mulinix | Our Revolution Hawaii | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 7,000 members and supporters statewide, we stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** for SB338 relating to Food Hubs.

Food hubs provide essential resources to help small farmers prepare their produce for market. By helping these small farmers we help support the growth of our local food economy. Supporting Food Hubs provides greater food system equity, and access to healthy food in local "food deserts." Food Hubs are a win/win for everyone.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dave Mulinix, Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:06:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nancy Redfeather | Ka Ohana O Na Pua | Support | No |

Comments:

This is one of those "essential bills" if we are ever to have a working local food system that can provide both space, infrastructure, and personnel to work with small and medium size farms to aggregate for institutional purchasing, and provide new markets and marketing assistance for our small family farms that make up the vast majority of the farms in the State. If we get food hubs in all regional areas of the State there will be new markets available for farmers, and more farmers will farm. We can grow Hawaii's food system and build our agricultural economy with regional Food Hubs. Mahalo!



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 23404
Honolulu
Hawaii 96823

March 16, 2021

TO: Chair Hashem and members of Agriculture Committee

RE: SB 338 SD2 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Project Program

Support for hearing on March 17

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB338 SD2 as it would 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. This would help achieve the statewide Aloha+ Challenge goal of doubling local food production by 2030, as well as the City and the State's statutory goals of achieving net-carbon negative emissions by 2045.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,
John Bickel, President



SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:44:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Jeff Mcknight | DPH Environmental Caucus | Support | No |

Comments:

The Democratic Party of Hawaii Environmental Caucus **STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 338 SD1!** As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, food insecurity, loss of protective coral reefs, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

Facilitating more local food production, as this bill would do, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions released in transporting food to Hawaii, reduce our food insecurity, and help local farmers.

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for a five-year food hub pilot program under the Department of Agriculture to increase access to local food.

Farmers in Hawaii face many challenges in achieving economic sustainability, including the limited availability of reliable markets and food hubs, which are facilities used to secure food and process value-added products. Food hubs, as centrally located facilities with a business management structure that facilitates the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of locally grown produce, are an integral but missing piece of agricultural infrastructure required to achieve and sustain the doubling of local food production in Hawaii.

State supported food hubs may give Hawaii's producers the opportunity to compete with local markets, while also remaining financially viable. Hawaii's agricultural producer majority is small farmers who struggle with access to facilities and infrastructure to aggregate, process, and distribute products to local consumers and face high costs in land, labor, energy, and limited access to water supply for irrigation. Allowing small farmers to participate in larger markets will ensure their economic survival and Hawaii's long-term ecosystem survival. Therefore, a food hub pilot program will help lower costs for and increase revenue to farmers in the State, help farmers become or remain economically sustainable, and ensure public access to locally grown food and value-added products.

Please pass this bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and food insecurity by facilitating more local food production. Mahalo!



Food+ Policy Internship 2021

food@purplemaia.org

March 16, 2021

To: Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB338, Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Brian "Ioane" Jahn and I am writing on behalf of the UH West Oahu Food+ Policy Internship to express our collective and unequivocal SUPPORT for SB338, Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program.

SB338 requires the department of agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food, and it 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, and requires reports to the legislature.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (1996), "Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."

In 2020, Feeding America.org stated, "In Hawaii, 159,040 people are struggling with hunger - and of them 55,710 are children." In other words, one in every nine people in Hawai'i are struggling with hunger, and one in every five of those struggling people are keiki.

Eia kekahi 'ike kupuna mai ko Pukui puke, 'Ōlelo no'eau (1983), "E kanu mea'ai, o nānā keiki i kā ha'i. #317 (Plant edible food plants lest your children look with longing at someone else's.)"

Food hubs promote the local production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods. This measure will not only contribute to more local jobs in hub processing and distribution centers,

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 2021, the pilot cohort of interns are juniors, seniors, and recent graduates of the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems program. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, and Hawaiian culture.



Food+ Policy Internship 2021

food@purplemaia.org

but it will also serve to connect more smallholders and small businesses to larger stores, thereby improving the local economy by keeping money in Hawai'i. This will result in a closer connection between producers and consumers, decreasing the time it takes to receive fresher, more preservative-free foods. This is extremely important because many populations in Hawai'i live in areas called "food deserts," where access to healthy food is almost nonexistent.

Aside from the several health and economic advantages to Food Hubs, the lessened impact on the natural environment will be substantial as well. There is a true environmental cost associated with importing food to Hawai'i via long, fossil fuel-powered voyages across the Pacific on ships that pollute the very water in which they travel. Food Hubs will also help contribute to the reduction of carbon and methane emissions, and packaging will be substantially less, resulting in less impact on local landfills.

Finally, the creation of Food Hubs will provide Hawai'i residents with a more secure, sustainable means of healthy food provision, less likely to be so drastically affected by shipping issues, natural disasters, or global pandemics such as COVID-19.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Food+ Policy Internship, I would like to thank Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture for considering the comments made herein.

Me ke aloha,

Ioane & the Food+ Interns

Sources

FAO (1996) Declaration on world food security. World Food Summit, FAO, Rome.

Hunger in Hawai'i. (2020). Retrieved March 01, 2021, from <https://www.feedingamerica.org/>.

Pukui, M. K. (1983). *Ōlelo No'eau: Hawaiian proverbs and poetical sayings*. Honolulu (Hawaii): Bishop Museum Press.

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 2021, the pilot cohort of interns are juniors, seniors, and recent graduates of the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems program. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, and Hawaiian culture.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, March 17, 2021; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 0338, SENATE DRAFT 2, 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. 0338, Senate Draft 2, RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would create a five-year food hub pilot program, under the Department of Agriculture, for the establishment of food hubs throughout the State. Specifically, this bill would:

- (1) Appropriate unspecified amounts of general funds for fiscal year 2021-2022, and the same amount for fiscal year 2022-2023, to provide grants and technical assistance for the establishment and expansion of food hubs to promote locally grown food; and
- (2) Authorize the issuance of an unspecified amount of general obligation bonds for fiscal year 2021-2022, to complete critical infrastructure upgrades at Honalo Marshalling Yard.

This bill would take effect on July 1, 2050, to facilitate continued discussion.

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

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 0512, Senate Draft 2
Wednesday, March 17, 2021; 10:00 a.m.
Page 2

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 the next global pandemic 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.



March 16, 2020

To: Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perusson, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture

Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB338, Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Tiare Ka'ōlelopono and I am writing on behalf of Kāpili Like (KL) and Kāpili Like Hawai'i (KLH), a non-profit 501(c)(3) alternative education program (Trades Academy) that services Hawai'i's most vulnerable populations who often live in "food deserts". In 2021, with the support of our funders Kamehameha Schools and Castle Foundation we have expanded our academy offerings to Sustainable Agriculture offering skills training and job placement in the industry.

On behalf of KL and KLH we would like to express our organization's emphatic SUPPORT for SB338, Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program.

As you are aware SB338 requires the DOA to create a five-year food hub pilot program which seeks to increase access to local food by providing grant awardees the funding to establish or expand a food hub. It also authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the Honalo Marshalling Yard and requires entities to submit reports to the Legislature.

According to the 2017 Agricultural Census by the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) Hawai'i faces the following challenges:

1. Just 1.2% of Hawai'i farms produced over 63% of all agricultural sales. Since these are farms that represent over \$1M in sales, it shows that commercial agriculture is a business of scale.
2. 87% of Hawai'i farms, which had less than \$50K in sales produced less than 10% of all agricultural sales.
3. Since we are concerned with food sales to local markets, 96% of local sales came from just 14% of all farms – farms that had over \$50K in total sales. Therefore 86% of farms produced only 4% of local sales.
4. Assuming that Hawai'i farms produce just 10% of the food sales in the state (as stated in the bill), the vast majority of Hawai'i farms (87%) produced less than 1% of the total food sales in the state.
5. The pandemic made the situation worse.

Food hubs are crucial missing links in the supply chain from local farm to retailer to consumer. These facilities ensure the proper management and distribution of locally sourced nutritious produce into our communities. We need to consider the above statistics and consider the potential for low producing farms and the impact

they could have on closing the gap on food scarcity in Hawai'i. Many small farms utilize their own sales channels and may be utilizing open markets. Transferring the responsibility of marketing, sales and distribution to a trusted local agent such as a Food Hub will boost overall production and access thus alleviating the challenges experienced in Hawai'i's *food deserts*.

Farmlinks Hawai'i is one such Food Hub that we utilize and name as a bright spot, Food Hub currently active in our community that we hope you will consider funding. The organization's patronage is currently word of mouth and with the correct leverage in the form of funding and expert support, could be the solution we are seeking. I have included a link to their website here: <http://www.farmlinkhawaii.com>.

Many say our greatest resource is our children, we agree and further add that it is the peoples of Hawai'i that are our truest resource; may be always aloha and act on behalf of them everyday. So today, KL and KLH write on behalf of our 500+ participants over the past five years in the hopes that their children may live in a Hawai'i that nourishes them and supports their futures with sustainable, locally grown foods and indigenous starches. And we add that with the prospect of our forthcoming farm at our Sustainable Agriculture Academy, we seek to be agents of change in Hawai'i's *food deserts* by growing local foods, educating the community and supplying future Food Hubs born of this bill to move the needle on affordable produce, food sustainability and accessibility in Hawai'i.

On behalf of Kāpili Like and Kāpili Like Hawai'i, I would like to mahalo Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and the Members of the House Committee on Agriculture for considering the comments made herein.

Ke aloha 'āina,

Tiare Ka'ōlelopono
Operations + Career Pathway Manager
Kāpili Like Hawai'i
www.kapililike.org
(808) 375-2049
kapililikehawaii@gmail.com



House Committee on Agriculture

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB 338

Wednesday, March 17th, 2021 10:00 a.m.

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

HAPA strongly supports SB 338 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 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 healthful 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.

SB 338, 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 SB 338 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>



March 16th 2021

Honorable House Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for considering Kaua'i Food Hub's testimony.

The Kaua'i Food Hub strongly supports SB 338. As a growing food hub we see the vision and understand our role as a catalyst in expanding local food production agriculture and supporting farmers. With support we can become a real asset for the community, the local agriculture sector and food sovereignty in Hawai'i.

The Kaua'i Food Hub acts as a facilitator that connects people, restaurants, schools and other institutions directly to produce and foods from farmers, ranchers and value added producers.

We currently provide online food hub aggregating and purchasing services and are looking to expand island wide and to physical locations as permanent outlets for consumers to access fresh local produce and locally sourced foods of all kinds.

With support the Kaua'i Food Hub, and other food hubs throughout the islands, can expand to physical locations, get delivery trucks and create jobs in the local food sector, widen our service island wide and expand on marketing .

We play a critical part in advancing our food security goals and helping our islands better prepare for emergency situations. The Kaua'i Food Hub was born in 2020 out of a dire need for farmers to sell produce and for families to get safe access to food during lock down orders and COVID concerns. In 2021 and beyond we can grow into much much more

Please support SB 338 and food hubs in the islands! We are part of the solution.

Sincerely,

Paulina Ann

Paulina Ann
Executive Director

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:52:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dr. Kioni Dudley | Save Oahu Farmlands Alliance | Support | No |

Comments:

I see this effort as absolutely essential to advance local farming. If we don't have 100% food self sufficiency by 2050 we will have hundreds of thousands of islanders starving. Please vote yes on this bill.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 4:01:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marion McHenry | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

A food hub program in Hawaii would be so helpful to our local farmers. The pandemic has shown us more than ever, how important our small local farmers are to our state.

Please pass this bill.

Thank you,

Marion McHenry

Princeville, Kauai

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 4:06:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Nanea Lo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I come from Papakālea, O‘ahu now residing in Mā‘ili‘ili in my ancestral homeland. I'm writing in support of SB338.

The pandemic has put a renewed emphasis on the need to fix Hawai‘i's food system. SB338 provides one tangible solution to this by establishing a food hub, a business/org that connects farmers with local buyers by helping with production, distribution, and marketing. They serve as an important tool for strengthening local food economies, improving food security, and giving more people access to healthy food that's both local and affordable.

Also because of these reasons below:

- Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market.
- Promote the productions of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Will support the growth of our local food economy
- Would help relieve pressure in emergency situations such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on the national food supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Please support SB338.

Me ke aloha ‘Āina,

Nanea Lo

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 4:27:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary Susan Sults | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I hope this email finds you all well. Please log my testimony in support of Bill SB338 SD2 and the Food Hub Pilot Program.

As we have seen this past year with the pandemic, focusing more on local food sourcing and growing programs and on local food security options in Hawaii is a necessity and a wise path to take for all.

We must start supporting the growth of our local food economy and addressing food security and local avenues of answers so that we can become more independent and stable as a state.

Thank you for your time and for allowing us to voice our support of this important bill and measure for our Hawaii communities.

Mahalo and Warmest Regards,

Mary Susan Stults

3/15/21

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 4:37:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chris Santomauro | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support SB338 SD2. Here are some reasons why:

- Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market.
- Promote the productions of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Will support the growth of our local food economy
- Would help relieve pressure in emergency situations such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on the national food supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local "food deserts".

Please pass SB338. Mahalo.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 4:40:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John NAYLOR | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha ,

We all know Hawai Nei needs to be more food secure and that we need to support farmers here is one way. Please support it and other ways as well.

Mahalo, JN

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 4:44:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| B.A. McClintock | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please support this important bill. I think the pandemic has proven the absolute need for this.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 4:48:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| L. Osterer | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Thank you for considering this important bill to ease the pandemic crisis and promote food sustainability in Hawaii.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 4:58:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tiana Laranio | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please support this bill. Thank you

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 4:59:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Patricia Blair | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support growing our own food.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 5:20:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John Fitzpatrick | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill because it helps us build food hubs throughout the state of Hawaii. Here on Maui the food hub that has been started truly helped getting locally grown food from farmers onto our table. I really appreciate this program and the more locally grown food we can get on our tables the more sustainable and food secure we will become.

Mahalo,
Fitz

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 5:33:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Janet Pappas | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear AGR Chair Hashem, AGR Vice Chair Perruso and AGR Committee members,

I strongly support SB338 to create a 5-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. However, I would like to echo some testifiers who stated that management and accountability are key elements in food hubs.

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.

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 change things up. Food hubs can help immensely with food preparation and distribution, bringing jobs to a community and ensuring food security where there was none. For these reasons, now is the perfect time to initiate this program.

Right now, many farmers are producing food, but have no outlet for their product. This bill can be the catalyst that shows them a way forward. Please support this very important bill that can lead Hawaii toward a sustainable food supply.

Thank you for listening and for the opportunity to testify.

Siincerely,

Jan Pappas - Aiea, Hawaii 96701

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 5:39:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jeffrey Henderson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

This is a great idea that deserves our support!

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 6:10:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| cheryl B. | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Supporting

Local food 100% let's do this.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 6:22:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sabrina Baker-Laulu | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha! I am a regular middle class citizen who lives on Oahu Kaimuki and like to share my opinion from the recent years. I feel the state should have more locally produced foods instead of transferring from the mainland where most of them are from. Not to mention, the cruelty in some of the mainland factories causes us to intake unhealthy (stressed animals) meats which I strongly believe it affects our health. This can give more jobs to the locals, citizens will have better quality foods and we will have a healthier state. Animals can be treated right and let them live freely like they are supposed to be. Let's make our economy better by starting with healthier foods chains in Hawaii! This can lead to happier families and future. Thank you for taking your time to read this.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 6:40:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary Lu Kelley | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support the many benefits by passing SB338:

- Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market.
- Promote the productions of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Will support the growth of our local food economy
- Would help relieve pressure in emergency situations such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on the national food supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. Thank you.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 6:43:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| j Williams | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Sirs ,

This bill is a Great Start toward a much cleaner environment in Hawaii for our food sources.

Hopefully can lead to a much better approach to managing Sprays and less Contaminatio of crops in Hawaii. Many young people could have their lives saved as a result of where this could lead!

J Williams

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 6:55:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lorraine Newman | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the passage of this bill.

It is a wonderful step forward in supporting local agricultural development and food security at the local level.

Plesse pass this bill.

Mahalo nui loa,

Lorraine Newman

Kilauea , Kauai

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 6:56:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jasmine Balangitao | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha please pass this bill. It would be wonderful for us to have more access to locally grown food. Whenever possible I try to only buy local but it's hard when theirs not enough access to get it. My family and I are in strong support of this bill. This would be so great for our communities.

Mahalo, Jasmine Balangitao

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 7:12:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Henri Etta Schmitz | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As a resident of the Hamakua Coast it has always struck me that the plenty we have is mostly wasted due to poor coordination of resources. It's feast or famine too often. This food hub program could be a good beginning to help rectify that problem. Mahalo, Henri Etta Schmitz, Paauilo, HI

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 7:34:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Judith White | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

This will benefit our Kauai farmers and Ohana. Please support!

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 7:50:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| kai nishiki | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

- Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market.
- Promote the productions of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Will support the growth of our local food economy
- Would help relieve pressure in emergency situations such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on the national food supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 7:56:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| marcy cayton | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support this strongly.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 8:21:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marlies Lee | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

yes I strongly support SB 338

we need to grow our own food and connect farmers

to shops, restaurants and homes.

Mahalo

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 8:36:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Laura Ramirez | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this bill.

Hawai'i has a serious problem with food security. Over 85% of our food being imported, leaving the islands one emergency port closure away from starvation. There isn't an easy fix to this complex issue, but establishing a food hub can provide the necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market and promote the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods. Supporting the growth of our local food economy would also relieve pressure in emergency situations such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on the national food supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic and road closures due to flooding and landslides that are again affecting the north shore of Kauai.

Mahalo!

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 8:41:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Emily Olson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha everyone,

My name is Emily and I have spent my entire 19 year career in the food business and the last 2 years on Kaua'i creating a regenerative plant-based ice cream business called Rainbow Road. We make our ice cream with coconut, ulu, and honey and we have spent the last two years learning how to grow a thriving food business to support our community on this island. We see just how vital it is for a publicly supported food hub. With land costs being high and space being limited, it's very difficult to secure the space necessary at an affordable rate. A hub where these spaces can be shared with many is necessary to allow us to create with the abundance that we have here growing on our island. We have just moved into the kitchen at Common Ground, which could be an excellent place to serve as one of these hubs. I fully support the investment in a food hub.

Mahalo for your time and consideration!

-Emily

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 8:56:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Naomi Melamed | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

- This is a no-brainer:
Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market.
- Promote the productions of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Will support the growth of our local food economy
- Would help relieve pressure in emergency situations such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on the national food supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.
- Mahalo, Naomi Melamed

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 8:59:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Paul Miller | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please support SB338. The Food Hub Pilot Program will contribute stimulate monies in the local economy, decrease out dependency on food from off island and provide jobs here in Hawaii. I worked on a farm for a while here on Kaua'i and there is nothing better tasting and nuritious than locally grown fresh produce. Peoples faces light up at the markets.

We live in a very remote place and we can be vulnerable to food availability. Hurricanes, covid, airline and ship shut downs. Let's become more independent!

Thank you,

Paul Miller. Kapaa, HI

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 9:07:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Raelyn Reyno Yeomans | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Strong support

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 9:14:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sherry Pollack | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

IN STRONG SUPPORT!

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 9:20:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Meredith Buck | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support SB338.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 9:42:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Clair Mason | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for hearing this measure. I am in strong support of this Bill. Access to local produce and goods is imperative to the wellness to the community and our environment.

Mahalo,

Clair Mason

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 10:06:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kelsey Amos | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Food hubs are important infrastructure for emergencies and for food security and equity

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 10:08:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jonathan Cender | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Food hubs are a great idea. They give me better access to food grown on Kauai especially with fewer farmers markets. Please support foo hubs by supporting this bill.

Sincerely, Jonaan

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 10:11:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eliel Starbright | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support the growth of our local food economy it would help relieve pressure in emergency situations such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on the national food supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic. Eliel, Kapaa, Kauai

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 11:11:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cory Harden | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please support food hubs! They help small farmers and the local food economy, and are invaluable in emergencies.

mahalo,

Cory Harden

.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 11:47:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jason Medina | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

This measure (SB338) is vital to our food economy here in Maui. This measure will not only help gather the produce from small farmers so they can bring their goods to market, it will also provide access to culturally appropriate foods to us all, creating an example of health and harmony with the land. This is how to respect the land and create value, both culturally and financially, allowing Maui to shine as a food hub, one step closer to sustainability. I have access to 2 food trucks, and would be happy to get involved in the transportation of produce from farm to market, driving to new designated areas that need the resources (Wailuku, Waihe'e, Kihei, etc.). Passing this Bill would greatly ease the pressure on the food supply chain and impact residents' health in a positive way.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jason Medina

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:53:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Peggy McArdle | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support this measure and support local food crop production and distribution in Hawaii. Mahalo.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:54:38 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Nathan Leo Braulick | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

March 16, 2021

Members of the Committee:

The pandemic has put a renewed emphasis on the need to fix Hawai'i's food system. **SB338 provides one tangible solution to this by establishing a food hub, a business/org that connects farmers with local buyers by helping with production, distribution, and marketing.** They serve as an important tool for strengthening local food economies, improving food security, and giving more people access to healthy food that's both local and affordable.

I support SB338 SD2 because it:

- Promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Will support the growth of our local food economy
- Relieves pressures on the food supply chain in emergency situations
- Will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local "food deserts".

Sincerely,

Nathan Leo Braulick

2333 Kapiolani Blvd., #1604

Honolulu, HI 96826

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:57:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jessica Kuzmier | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB338, a bill that supports establishing food hubs across the state.

I am a resident of Hawaii and I am very concerned about food security here on our island residency, and the pandemic and the economic shutdown of our state, as well as high unemployment and long food lines due to our overreliance on tourism has only highlighted how precarious our food security situation is. Our food supply as a state is a 'just-in-time' policy, which could have had disastrous consequences for us during COVID-19. With climate change posing an even more luminous threat, we need to do all we can to promote food security here.

Food hubs established by local farmers will be a major aid in this fight. Even when economic times are good, many people are far away from nutritious food and living in food deserts, which is a travesty in a state that can grow food year-round. There are many places in both urban and rural districts which need this kind of access to affordable, local and nutritious food. Not to mention, the farmers could benefit by having a local market to sell to, and without all the bureaucracy involved with middlemen and massive distribution centers farmers could garner more of the profits of their work. This also helps with local jobs that are sustainable not only economically but ecologically. Please pass SB338

Mahalo for your time to this issue.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:12:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Neil Frazer | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

We support this bill, and say mahalo to its sponsors for promoting food security through local food production.

Sincerely/ Neil Frazer

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:17:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stuart Coleman | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha, Chair, Vice Chair & Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB338 SD1 because we need independent food hubs to increase our food security, stimulate the economy and create good jobs for our people. Mahalo for your support of this bill.

Aoha, Stuart Coleman

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:26:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Donna K Santos | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a Native Hawaiian from the island of Kauai.

Food hubs help relieve the pressure in emergency situations or interruptions in food supply chains, provide food system equity, and help small farmers to bring their produce to market.

I urge your SUPPORT for SB338.

Mahalo piha,

Donna Kaliko Santos

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:28:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lorilani Keohokalole | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of myself and my Family. We are in strong support of **SB 338 SD2**. As residents of Kauai, we have seen and experienced the positive ways in which Kauai Food Hub, has supported our local Farmers; Ranchers; Poultry producers; Poi producers and Bee keepers. Even though, this Food Hub functions as a Aggregation center... the possibilities to grow this are exponential.

We have been recipients of the Food Hubs Generous programs from free CSA produce bags (during the start of the pandemic) to purchasing and supporting the many, many vendors that work within the Food Hub. When we, as a family CHOOSE to shop local... this is like a one-stop shop. Literally. I don't have to get into my car and strategize 4 to 5 stops to stores and/or farmers markets. The quality of the products are amazing. There is something for everyone in our household of 7, and we appreciate the Aloha provided when our items are delivered.

We support our local Food Hub here on Kauai. We need it to stay and grow. We need to facilitate opening more, so people can obtain this service, Bottom line: I know when I SHOP at my Food Hub, item(s) were grown/produced HERE on Kaua'i. It was cared for by people in MY community. It creates a Circular economy. Again, we strongly **SUPPORT SB 338 SD2** .

Aloha,

Lorilani keohokalole and James Kapule Torio

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:09:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Will Caron | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha committee members,

Please support SB338 SD1, which would establish a 5-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. Food hubs provide the necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market and promote the productions of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods.

Supporting food hubs will support the growth of our local food economy and help relieve pressure in emergency situations by reducing dependence on lengthy food supply chains.

Finally, this bill will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local "food deserts," boosting public health and reducing hunger in our underserved communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:28:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Helen Cox | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I urge you to support SB338-SD2

As Hawaii seeks to diversity its economy as well as increase resilience in the face of the climate crisis, producing local food becomes even more important than it has in the past. Food hubs support local farmers at the same time as increasing local food production. Hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market and promote the productions of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods.

In the event of emergency situations, which will definitely occur with greater frequency due to the climate crisis, food hubs can keep food available. Both the pandemic and recent flooding situations speak to this need.

Finally, food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local "food deserts".

Again, please support SB338 SD2. Mahalo,

Helen A. Cox

Kaua`i resident and chair of Kauai Climate Action Coalition

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:41:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brian Jahn | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I am writing to express my full support for SB338. Hawai'i needs more access to local foods and this will greatly help to advance this goal in order to become a more self-sustainable nation. Mahalo.

Me ke aloha,

Brian "loane" Jahn

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:52:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mikyla Thomas | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Date: March 15, 2021

To: The Honorable Mark Hashem Chair

The Honorable Amy Perruso Vice Chair

Members of the Agriculture Committee

From: Mikyla Thomas -Sustainable Community Food Systems

Re: Strong Support for SB 338

Hearing: Wednesday, March 17th 10:00

Aloha nui kakou,

My name is Mikyla Hi'ilani Thomas and I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in SUPPORT of SB 338.

I am currently a Sustainable Community Food Systems student at the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu, a local vegetable farmer, a writer of Farm to School curriculum and a Mother of two.

I choose to advocate for Farm to School programs because it is a tangible solution towards community healing and building generational Food Justice for the people of Hawai'i. As we move collectively towards the localization of Hawai'i's Food System our keiki will have increased access to both nutritious and culturally appropriate foods.

When I was in public school, I was alienated from making healthy connections with locally grown foods because my family did not have the financial means to

afford it and decision making adults did not make it a priority to perpetuate health. I recall feeling sick after eating school lunch and was unable to focus because it.

This bill will create the spaces for small farmers to process, store and market their produce. These pilot programs will grow the people who will solve the many of the problems and barriers to getting local produce to local people.

Currently there are many bills being proposed that if passed would greatly benefit Farm to School programs.

However, without sufficient infrastructure such as Food Hubs on EVERY island and investing in the education and experience of the people managing and marketing for small scale farmers, the Farm to School programs will always be missing out on a key component to the end goal- Fresher Food for all people.

This bill would provide the data needed to eventually replicate these valuable spaces from every island to every district. This bill will allow more children to connect with foods that are grown well here in Hawai'i and these opportunities are beyond quantifiable.

I am a 2009 graduate of Hawai'i's Public School System and I stand before you exuding my General Learner Outcome of a Community Contributor. I realized at a young age that my education system and the food put on my plate in the school cafeteria were decisions made for me by people from far away places who saw food as an expense with no return. I see things differently. Food plays a critical role in identity, public health, behavior, attention spans and academic success, it should be our top priority to adopt the responsibility to adequately nourish Hawai'i's students. For Me, as a product of the public school system, farmer, and Native Hawaiian mother of two who finds it challenging to afford her cultural foods, I can say that supporting this bill, SB 338 is a crucial step towards a healthier Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time and careful consideration,

Mahalo,

Mikyla Thomas, 29

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:26:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rayleen Egami | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill! I feel that establishing food hubs will absolutely increase access to locally grown and produced food items. I feel that this bill would also increase pathways for small farmers that do not have the means to have their items introduced and sold in larger grocery chains.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:48:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Fern Anuenue Holland | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha representatives. My 'ohana and I are in strong support of SB338 and the expansion of food hubs. Please support this measure. Mahalo! Fern

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 12:10:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joan Lander | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please pass this important bill to encourage more farmers and growers. Mahalo.

Shane Akoni Palacat-Nelsen
82-6026 Manini Beach Road
Captain Cook, HI 96704
shane.nelsen@gmail.com

March 16, 2021

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, March 17, 2021, Rm.# 325 10:00 a.m.

RE: SB338 SD2, RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the committee,

I would like to encourage this committee to **SUPPORT SB388 SD2**. Based on previous testimonies given by the UH, DOH, and DOA, the benefits from this pilot project would address economic resilience, support the revenue cycles within our State, and provide healthy lifestyle options in our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment and I urge this committee to **SUPPORT SB388 SD2**.

Mahalo,
Shane Akoni Palacat-Nelsen

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 12:40:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| COLLETTE J KUBOTA | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As a Big Island resident, I fully support the passing of this bill now.

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 1:37:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Hunter Heavilin | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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

This bill would provide support for the network of food hubs across the state to expand their work, in doing so farmer incomes and consumer food access will be enhanced. For these reasons **I strongly support SB338.**

Food hubs play the critical role in our food system of connecting small farmers with a diversity of markets. In decades past, farmer cooperatives were a strong tool for smallholders to get to market. As cooperatives fell apart so did the small farm economy. Food hubs are a new approach to that collective work to increase market access for groups of farmers, even more crucial now because the marketplace that farmers must interface with has changed drastically. Local grocers have been replaced by big box operations with global supply chains and producers need social-organizational tools like food hubs to interface with the primary places where most consumers access their food. The mismatch between parcel sizes (and farm output) and the purchasing scale of many food buyers is bridged by food hubs.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

-Hunter Heavilin

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:51:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| James McCay | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha & Mahalo for your service !

I'm in strong support for SB338 & while I live in town, I joined Hawaii Farmers Union United to support regenerative ag and local food. After years of active involvement, Food Hubs have proven to be one of the amazing programs supported by HFUU. These Hubs have more than proven their value over these times of Covid, and will be critical to Hawaii's food sovereignty.

HAWAI'I must support small and diversified, regenerative farmers.

Mahalo & Malama Pono,

James McCay

2957 Kalakaua Ave, HNL 96815

SB-338-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:00:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melissa Verbena | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing in support of a food hub pilot program to support local food infrastructure & food security. I feel this is a very good step to support the true needs of people and want to see more intentional organized ways like this to help ourselves have locally available nutrition.