

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, VICE CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: February 5, 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:** DOH supports Senate Bill 338 (S.B. 338) to establish a five-year food  
5 hub pilot program under the DOA to increase access to locally produced food products.

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

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

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

<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup> 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).<sup>7</sup>

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.<sup>8</sup>  
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.<sup>9</sup> DOH  
8 supports S.B. 338 as one component of a comprehensive approach to improve the availability  
9 and accessibility of healthy foods to improve health outcomes for people in Hawaii, especially  
10 for those who face greater health disparities.

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

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<sup>6</sup> United States Department of Agriculture: Official USDA Food Thrifty Plans

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

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

<sup>9</sup> United States Department of Agriculture. The Role of Food Hubs in Local Food Marketing. 2013.

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2021  
1:00 P.M.  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

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

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 338, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub program to increase access to local food. It provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub, requires reports to the Legislature, and appropriates funds.

The Department supports this measure provided it does not adversely impact priorities in the Executive budget and offers supporting 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 had the luxury of focusing on single crops and built the required infrastructure to effectively and efficiently process and package their production. 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 ~~on Oahu~~ throughout the State with the grant funding would ensure that the required planning and community facilitation are conducted before project implementation.

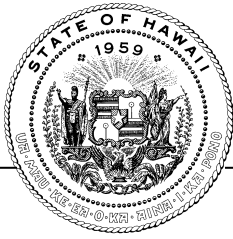
The Department is now aware of four food hubs on Oahu, four on Hawaii Island, two on Maui and one on Molokai that are providing jobs, representing hundreds of small to medium sized farms, serving thousands of customers and producing over \$10.1 million in annual gross income. They are:

- Oahu: Kahumana Farm Hub (Waianae), Farmlink Hawaii (North Shore), Kookua 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 local food to the consumers and institutions of the State. Food hubs can also serve as “back-up” infrastructure for food systems. This measure addresses the challenge of local small farmers to scale-up production by providing a pathway to the larger purchasers of safe and marginally processed, locally grown, fresh fruits and vegetables.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# 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  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**  
Friday, February 5, 2021  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**SB 338**  
**RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.**

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

The Office of Planning supports the intent of this measure. The purpose of SB 338 is to require the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. SB 338 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, public participants 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.

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



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Friday, February 5, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

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

### SB 338 – RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of SB 338 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 grants and gifts, but by sound management.

SB 338 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 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.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Friday, February 5, 2021; 1:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 0338, RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM**

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

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 0338, 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 appropriate \$1,000,000 in 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.

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.

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. It is shocking yet uplifting to see that people do care for their fellow citizens.



**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 0512**  
**Friday, February 5, 2021; 1:00 p.m.**  
**Page 2**

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.

The HPCA understands that the State is experiencing its worst financial crisis since the Great Depression and appreciates how difficult your job will be to decide where very limited resources will go over the next two years. But to merely perpetuate the status quo will fail to address the underlying problems that created the situation that we currently find ourselves in.

Support for agriculture is bold. Support for this bill in our time of crisis is bold.

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](mailto:eabe@hawaiiipca.net).

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 7:42:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
keith kropf	Testifying for Manowaiopae Excellent Adventure Farm	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kekou,

I am asking for your support of SB338 We need to help small farmers like me to provide more locally grown food for the people of Hawai'i as well as helping to export more farm products. I believe this will benefit many of Hawaii's people.

Mahalo for your support.

Keith Kropf

Manowaiopae Excellent Adventure Farm

Laupahoehoe, HI

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 8:10:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai Climate ACtion Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

There has probably been no louder cry during CoVid than to improve our food independence. Food hubs support small local farmers, promote the local economy, reduce emissions in relation to shipping & farming techniques, and make healthy food more readily available for a greater number of people.

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 12:23:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Mulinix	Testifying for Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou Members of the Agriculture & Environment committee

On behalf of our 7,000 supporters and members statewide, Our Revolution Hawaii strongly supports SB 338.

Malama Pono, Dave Mulinix,

Statewide Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 11:02:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicole Galase	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 12:10:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Regina Gregory	Testifying for EcoTipping Points Project	Support	No

Comments:

This is a good idea.

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 1:25:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ming Wei Koh	Testifying for Center for Getting Things Started	Support	No

Comments:

Center for Getting Things Started supports SB 338. Our small non-profit based in Hawaii Island serves the whole state with Educating for Sustainability programming and consultancy. Food hubs are a model of sustainability.

- Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce from small local farmers to help bring produce to market.
- Food hubs promote local production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Food hubs will create local jobs
- Local aggregation helps to decrease in carbon emissions related to transportation and shipping
- Food hubs will help to relieve pressure in emergency situations, such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on supply systems during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Food hubs will provide greater food system equity, by decentralizing the food system, taking better care of those living in “food deserts”

Mahalo for your consideration,

Koh Ming Wei, PhD

Executive Director/Ecoliteracy Educator



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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OFFICERS	DIRECTORS		MAILING ADDRESS	
John Bickel, President	Melodie Aduja	John Miller	Bill South	P.O. Box 23404
Alan Burdick, Vice President	Juliet Begley	Jenny Nomura	Zahava Zaidoff	Honolulu
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Doug Pyle, Secretary	Jan Lubin	Lyn Pyle		

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February 3, 2021

TO: Chair Gabbard and members of AEN Committee

RE: SB 338 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program

Support for hearing on Feb. 5

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 SB 338 to establish a food hub pilot program as we support efforts to make us more reliant on sustainable agriculture. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce from small local farmers to help bring produce to market. They promote local production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods. Therefore, they support local jobs. In addition, they help decrease carbon emissions.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,  
John Bickel, President







## **Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment**

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

Friday, February 5th, 2021 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara 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<sup>[1]</sup>.

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<sup>[2]</sup>.

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<sup>[1]</sup>.

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<sup>[3]</sup>.

Research has indicated that consumers are willing to pay a premium if they know the origins of their local and regional foods<sup>[2]</sup>. 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>



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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT  
Friday, February 5, 2021 — 1:00 p.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports SB 338, Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program.**

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve 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**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a 5-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food.

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*



February 3, 2021

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

**Support of SB 512 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives (SNAP) (Removes the \$10 per visit per day cap on the dollar-for-dollar match received by SNAP beneficiaries under the Hawaii Healthy Food Incentive Program, also known as the Double Up Food Bucks Program; makes an appropriation to the Department of Agriculture [DOA] to expand funding for the program.)**

**Friday, February 5, 2021, at 1:00 p.m., 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 512** 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 for them to work together cooperatively to improve the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry.

**SB 512.** This purpose of this measure is to expand the Double Up Food Bucks Program administered by the DOA to remove the \$10 per visit per day cap on the dollar-for-dollar match received by SNAP beneficiaries, thereby making fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables sold at farmers' markets and grocery stores accessible to families or individuals who receive assistance through the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program.

**LURF's Position.** Expansion of the Double Up Food Bucks Program not only helps low-income Hawaii residents by promoting the consumption of healthy, locally grown food, but also assists farmers, ranchers and other stakeholders who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider incentives such as that proposed by this bill significant to the

conduct of their operations to help sustain their businesses, as well as to increase local food self-sufficiency and significantly heighten local food production in this State.

As this Committee is aware, the unsustainable costs which have already been cast upon agricultural stakeholders over the past years by various safety and security standards, programs and regulations, as well as the enactment of onerous regulations relating to water systems, infrastructure, and growing and processing machinery and facilities, are now greatly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, proving to be overwhelming, if not devastating to the agricultural industry and the long-term objective of sustainable agriculture.

Agricultural stakeholders therefore believe SB 512 will assist in the effort to achieve long-term sustainability of Hawaii's food supply and economic growth.

By promoting consumption of healthy food, recognizing the significance of assisting the local agriculture industry, and implementing incentives 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 512**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

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



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

February 5, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON SB 338**  
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Via Videoconference  
1:00 PM

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

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

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 338**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food and provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub.

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

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

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



February 3rd 2021

Honorable Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

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**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 12:36:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hunter Heavilin	Testifying for Supersistence	Support	No

Comments:

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

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





PO Box 1177 Koloa HI 96756  
808.652.5286 hawaiiSEED.org

February 4, 2021

**Hawai`i SEED Supports: SB338**

**Senate Committee on Agriculture**

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

We strongly support SB338, relating to the Department of Agriculture establishing a food hub pilot program. The food hubs that are currently up and running by private groups are very additive to our community needs and desires to increase access to local grown food. Food hubs are a great benefit to the farmers and provides a practical and time saving opportunity for marketing their products. We will gain a great deal of knowledge by starting more food hubs and documenting operations, successes, and management tools.

Mahalo,  
Jeri Di Pietro, President



TESTIMONY OF THE KAHANA FOUNDATION  
IN REGARD TO **SB 338** RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM  
TO BE HEARD BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
FEBRUARY 5 AT 1:00PM VIDEO CONFERENCE

Dear Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Clarence Nishihara and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alexandra Kahn, and I am the Founder of Kahana Foundation. We are a Hawai'i-based environmental awareness organization working to improve our community's understanding and support for sustainable change.

Kahana Foundation **supports SB 338**, relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program requiring the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. Provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub, 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.

Kahana Foundation **supports SB 338** and thanks you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Alexandra Kahn  
Kahana Foundation  
Contact@KahanaFoundation.org



# MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2021 AT 1:00 P.M.**

To The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair;  
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair; and  
Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

### **COMMENTS SB338 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.

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.

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.

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 3:54:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 6:07:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cathy lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB338 as sustainability should be top of mind and access to local food is critical to that effort.

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 6:53:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael deYcaza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**TESTIMONY IN REGARDS TO SB338 RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM BEFORE THE  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ON  
FEBRUARY 5, 2020 1:00PM**

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

My name is Tenaiya Brookfield, and I fully **support** SB338, relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program requiring the Department of Agriculture to establish a 5-year food hub pilot program, 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<sup>1</sup>. 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<sup>2</sup>.

The Aloha+ challenge aims to improve this by calling for the doubling of local food production by 2030<sup>3</sup>. 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<sup>4</sup>. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> "Increased Food Security And Self Sufficiency - Hawaii.gov."  
[http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/spb/INCREASED\\_FOOD\\_SECURITY\\_AND\\_FOOD\\_SELF\\_SUFFICIENCY\\_STRATEGY.pdf](http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/spb/INCREASED_FOOD_SECURITY_AND_FOOD_SELF_SUFFICIENCY_STRATEGY.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> "hawaii emergency management agency - Hawaii DOD." 7 Mar. 2018,  
[https://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/files/2018/04/Hi\\_EMA-vulnerability-presentation.pdf](https://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/files/2018/04/Hi_EMA-vulnerability-presentation.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> "Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona ...." 30 Jun. 2016,  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=8026>.

<sup>4</sup> "Food Value Chains and Food Hubs | Agricultural Marketing ...."  
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/food-hubs>.



## 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<sup>5</sup>. Small farms usually have a more diverse cropland, while large producers tend to focus on monoculture (single crop production)<sup>6</sup>. 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<sup>7</sup>. 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<sup>8</sup>.

## 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<sup>9</sup>. 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.

I **support** SB338 and thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,



Tenaiya Brookfield  
tenaiya@gmail.com

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<sup>5</sup> "228 Hawaii 2017 Census of Agriculture - National Agricultural ...."  
[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_2\\_County\\_Level/Hawaii/st15\\_2\\_0008\\_0008.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_2_County_Level/Hawaii/st15_2_0008_0008.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> "Crop Species Diversity Changes in the United States ... - PLOS." 25 Aug. 2015,  
<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0136580>.

<sup>7</sup> "The Dangers of Monoculture Farming - Challenge Advisory." 7 Oct. 2018,  
<https://www.challenge.org/knowledgeitems/the-dangers-of-monoculture-farming/>.

<sup>8</sup> "Threats to Coral Reefs | Coral Reefs | US EPA." 3 May. 2018, <https://www.epa.gov/coral-reefs/threats-coral-reefs>.

<sup>9</sup> "Virtual food hubs tap into local food markets - USDA Rural ...."  
<https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/CoopMag-may11.pdf>.

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 4:11:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Noelani Ahia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill. Food Security and the health of our ohana is critical, especially at this time with climate change and the current and possible future pandemics. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Noelani Ahia

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 4:38:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill. Mahalo.

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 4:57:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I am writing in support of SB338. Food Hubs are a proven approach to supporting and encouraging small farmers. Our islands desperately need more small farmers and we need better means to distribute available food to local families who need it. Creating this infrastructure will greatly improve our local agriculture.

Mahalo,

Susan Stayton

Lawai, HI

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 5:25:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Koohan Paik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill.

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 6:27:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Increase Local farmers with support of food hubs!

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 6:29:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sharon douglas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COVID19 emphasized what many wise people have been saying for years: it is critical that our island become more sustainable and encourage local food security.

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 8:35:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a wonderful opportunity to promote local jobs/small farmers & improve our food security!



**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 9:47:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the passage of this bill because it requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. Provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub.

- Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce from small local farmers to help bring produce to market.
- Food hubs promote local production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Will promote local jobs
- Local aggregation helps to decrease in carbon emissions related to shipping
- Would help to relieve pressure in emergency situations, such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on supply systems during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Will provide greater food system equity, taking better care of those living in “food deserts”.

Please pass SB338.

Thank you,

Mary Lu Kelley

3644 Lawaiuka Road

Lawai, HI 96765

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:01:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Meredith Cross	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Meredith Cross, a resident of Kapa'a Kaua'i. I am in support of this bill in order to, most importantly, begin to create a more independent food system on the island. Also, please see the bulleted points below for additional reasons for support:

- Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce from small local farmers to help bring produce to market.
- Food hubs promote local production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Will promote local jobs
- Local aggregation helps to decrease in carbon emissions related to shipping
- Would help to relieve pressure in emergency situations, such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on supply systems during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Will provide greater food system equity, taking better care of those living in "food deserts"

Mahalo nui loa,

Meredith Cross

Kapa'a, HI 96746

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:33:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 338 for so many reasons. These food hubs are really great for farmers and communities. They have been around for a while small scale and have been shown to work. Time to ramp it up. We can and must do a lot more to make it easier to buy local. My husband and I have a small farm, and we have to grow, pick, load and deliver a long way before the food rots. The hubs need support to become known and for people to be close enough to walk or ride a bike.  
R.N.

Mahalo, Laura Gray

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:46:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erin Drayer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I very strongly support this!

Thank you,

Erin

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 5:33:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support!

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 8:48:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Johanna Stone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

support the bill because we need to invest in our local food systems, the pandemic has highlighted [the need to Fix Hawaii's Food System](#), there are several legislative proposals that provide tangible solutions. A package of good food and agricultural bills will have a cumulative impact in helping to [address gaps and missed opportunities in our local food system](#), while supporting our farmers and food producers.

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 8:56:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Food hubs are imporant for disaster preparedness for our communities. And even in normal times, food hubs are an important way to increase access to healthy and locally grown food. Please support this bill.

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:16:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Michele	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Another smart sustainable Hawaii supporting Hawaii economy. PLease support this.



**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:39:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
john kochiss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern, I strongly support this bill, which supports food hubs. So important on this island... these islands, where our food sources are so fragile, we need all the help we can get working towards sustainability. Mahalo for reading my comment, Aloha!

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:59:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am strongly in favor of this bill. We must make the transition to sustainable local agriculture. Not only will it be vastly healthier for the islands' population than importing most of our food, but it will be critical to our survival if, as is not unlikely, food supplies should be interrupted. This bill represents a creative approach to moving toward agricultural self-sufficiency.

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 11:07:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Whether we're talking about supporting farmers, creating jobs, promoting local food production and consumption, nutrition and public health, food security and food sovereignty, reducing carbon emissions from shipping, or meeting the needs of all Hawai'i's people, a food hub pilot program could be a huge boon to our economy and society at large. I won't pretend to know all best practices or specific ways to bolster this program, but I can confidently say that initiatives like this are a step in the right direction. Thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Dylan Ramos

96816

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 12:26:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jacqueline kippert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There is enough evidence from around the globe to KNOW that food hubs work for supporting local food movements. This is really not experimental, it is a tried and proven next step in support of local resiliency!

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 6:53:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lorn Douglas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As an Island state we need to do everything to enable sustainability. Please vote yes on this vital bill.

Mahalo,

Lorn Douglas, Big Island

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 8:02:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Long	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass SB338, which will help our islands' small local farmers market their produce as well as promote local jobs and help strengthen food system equity.

Thank you,

James Long

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 9:28:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nathan Leo Braulick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee:

I come from a long line of family farmers but I have lived in urban areas most of life, and I am writing to support SB 338 (Food Hub Pilot Program) because it will:

- provide necessary aggregation of produce from small local farmers to help bring produce to market.
- promote local production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- promote local jobs
- decrease in carbon emissions related to shipping
- relieve pressure in emergency situations
- provide greater food system equity, taking better care of those living in “food deserts”

I hope you will also support SB 338.

Sincerely,

Nathan Leo Braulick

2333 Kapiolani Blvd., #1604

Honolulu, HI 96826

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:38:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christopher Boscole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce from small local farmers to help bring produce to market.
- Food hubs promote local production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Will promote local jobs
- Local aggregation helps to decrease in carbon emissions related to shipping
- Would help to relieve pressure in emergency situations, such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on supply systems during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Will provide greater food system equity, taking better care of those living in “food deserts”



**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:42:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roger Harris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support and pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Roger Harris

Kapaa

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:58:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alani Bagcal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair**

**Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair**

**Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment**

**Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and esteemed members of the committee:**

**My name is Alani Bagcal and I am writing today in support for SB338.**

**I am very supportive of this bill's ability to increase access to local food and promote local jobs. I think it is very necessary to provide an equitable food system for our communities.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,**

**Alani Bagcal**

**96815**

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 11:26:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kahealani Acosta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Food security and resiliency is bolstered when local programs and organizations can work together to provide nutritious, locally produced foods to our Hawaiian island community. The Farm Hub Hui is a prime example of resilience in the face of formidable challenges.

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 11:42:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Morgan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food and to create or expand local food hub activity. This will stimulate our local economy and provide business opportunities for our small farmers here at home; creating jobs for residents. There is no need to import the majority of our food when we can grow it here in Hawaii. This is a safety measure, as COVID-19 has shown us the need for sustainability outside of tourism.

Thank you,

Andrea Morgan

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 12:27:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jared Brewer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Establishing a five-year food hub pilot program will increase access to local food and expand local food hub activity. This will stimulate our local economy and provide business opportunities for our small farmers here at home; creating jobs for residents. There is no need to import the majority of our food when we can grow it here in Hawaii. It is better for the environment and our health to grow and eat local. - Jared Brewer

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 12:30:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sierra Sonene Donnelly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food and to create or expand local food hub activity. This will stimulate our local economy and provide business opportunities for our small farmers in Hawaii. There is no need to import the majority of our food when we can be growing more locally, all while creating jobs for residents. -Sonene Donnelly

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 4:28:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

Please support SB338. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce from small local farmers to help bring produce to market. They promote local production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods, and they promote the creation of local jobs, especially in agriculture, a sector in which we need to increase our output quickly.

There are other associated benefits with food hubs as well. Local aggregation helps to decrease in carbon emissions related to shipping, helping us reduce our impact on the climate. Food hubs would help to relieve pressure in emergency situations, such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on supply systems during the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing our level of disaster preparedness. And food hubs will provide greater food system equity, taking better care of those living in “food deserts” and improving our state's quality of public health, which will in turn reduce longterm healthcare costs.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 5:52:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Fern Anuenue Holland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support for this bill! Mahalo Senators.



**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 6:05:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support.

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:00:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ezikió Quintana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am born and raised in Hawai'i, a farmer, and student at UH MÄ• noa studying Natural Resource and Enviro Mangement. This proposed food hub would be directly in line with the direction of sustainability being discussed and worked on in my community and in the university, and is necessary to strengthening our local food system and supporting our farmers.

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:15:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

A food hub pilot program will help move Hawaii toward food self-sufficiency.

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 8:37:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kiana Otsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kiana Otsuka, and I am writing in strong support of SB 338. The establishment of food hubs would help to increase access to local food, support small local farmers, the production of culturally appropriate and nutritious food, promote local jobs, and promote greater food system equity.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,

Kiana Otsuka

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 9:38:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I'm a Kanaka Maoli and a lifelong resident of the Hawaiian Kingdom. I'm writing in of full support of Sb338. I believe that this bill will provide stability here, influence, and promote good food sustainability practices like:

- Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce from small local farmers to help bring produce to market.
- Food hubs promote local production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Will promote local jobs
- Local aggregation helps to decrease in carbon emissions related to shipping
- Would help to relieve pressure in emergency situations, such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on supply systems during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Will provide greater food system equity, taking better care of those living in “food desserts”

Please support this bill too.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 12:12:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Regina Peterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:37:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Dandurand	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

"In any great disaster, lies opportunity"

Ley's sieze this opportunity to make the change needed to reduce our reliance on shipped in food. Let's take this pandemic as an opportunity to build a better Kaua'i (Hawaii).

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, widden our service island wide and expand on marketing .

Food Hubs can play a critical part in advancing our food security goals and helping our islands better preprare 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!

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:14:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Committee Members,

I am respectfully asking you support this bill.

Thank you,

Melissa Barker

6230 Hauiki Road Apt C Kapaa, HI 96746



**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:25:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Food hub programs must flourish here in Hawaii. Food Hubs provide the opportunity for farmers and producers to unite and get paid full value for their produce. Food Hubs provide an alternative to going to stores and yet pre purchase all local sources items to nourish the family. Where grocery stores are very limited in local produce and often are competing with off island growers. Going to a grocery store to buy mangos and the ones from Maui are more expensive than ones from Mexico and Chile is absurd. As a consumer i can shop at my local Food Hub to buy my mangos and I know that the farmer is getting the money directly and not having to watch produce go to waste in the stores. Food hubs offer an opportunity regular people to sell their produce and watch it feed their community. The Food Hub that was established during this pandemic is amazing. Dedicated loving people showing that life is changing and transformation in our systems is a must and it TOTALLY POSSIBLE!! The ground work has been laid. The rise of and financial support of Food Hubs is an efficient way to support local health and economy. I support the growth of this concept and want to see more days and communities that can go pick up. Traveling and fixed Food Hubs can transform the way people eat and how families can share the food they grow in town and rural areas.

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 3:24:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Jahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing to express my support for SB 338. “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” (World Food Summit, 1996). Food hubs promote local production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods, and will help promote local jobs. Environmentally, there would be a significant decrease in carbon emissions related to shipping. This would also help to relieve pressure in emergency situations, such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on supply systems during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, it will serve to provide greater food system equity, taking better care of those living in “food deserts,” such as high populations of kanaka maoli in the Wai‘anae moku. Mahalo for taking the time to read this testimony.

**LATE**

**SB-338**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 10:50:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dana Shapiro	Testifying for Hawaii Ulu Producers Cooperative	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of the Hawaii Ulu Co-op, I am submitting testimony in support of SB338 to establish a food hub pilot program that will facilitate expansion of existing Hawaii food hubs as well as development of new ones. Food hubs have played a critical role during the pandemic to ensure the continuation of market access for island farmers and the distribution of nutritious local food to communities in need around the state. These grassroots organizations fill gaps and provide essential services that fuel operation of our local food system. They also increasingly help the state to meet its agricultural development goals - such as achieving greater food security and economic resilience.

In addition, we strongly support inclusion of a project-specific CIP within this bill, for expansion of a well-established food hub at the state-owned Honalo Marshaling Yard, which is managed by the Dept of Agriculture. Since 2017, the Hawaii Ulu Co-op (HUC) - a farmer-owned social enterprise with 100 family farmer members located on Hawaii Island and Maui - has operated out of this facility to aggregate, process and market breadfruit and other indigenous local staples statewide. In 2019, the legislature appropriated \$1.1 Million to the Dept of Ag to work with HUC to retrofit this facility for expanded production of up to 2 million pounds of local staple crops per year. A recently completed Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) solicited by the DOA indicated a \$1.5 Million budget shortfall needed to complete this project. This outstanding funding amount is now being requested under SB338 to accomplish this food hub expansion and modernization project, which will support the food hub pilot program by demonstrating early success and viability of concept - thereby fostering increased public support for other food hubs and showcasing an effective public-private partnership model that benefits many small diversified farmers.

Please contact me with any questions about our support for this bill.

-Dana Shapiro, HUC Manager

[eatbreadfruit.com](http://eatbreadfruit.com)

238-8869, [info@eatbreadfruit.com](mailto:info@eatbreadfruit.com)

2/5/2021

Public Testimony in Strong Support of SB 338  
with Suggested Amendment  
before the Senate AEN Committee  
As an individual and as an expert in my field

**LATE**

Aloha Chair Gabbard and members of AEN Committee,

This measure would help the state to be much more proactive in support and in enabling food hubs to enhance linkage between small producers and consumers in rural, suburban, and urban areas thus mobilizing hidden human and unused farming resources. Food hubs are a missing link in the island local food chain and a key strategy to increase food security and agricultural self-sufficiency.

In 2018, I worked with the Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation as a statewide Food Hub Coordinator and started the Food Hub Hui- currently a group of 14 food hubs statewide including one on Kauai (Malama Kauai), five on Oahu (Kahumana, Farm Link, Oahu Fresh, Kokua Kalihi Valley Roots Cultural Food Hub, and Pacific Gateway Center), two on Maui (Local Harvest and Maui Hub), one on Molokai (Sustainable Molokai), and five on Hawaii Island (The Food Basket, Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative, Adaptations, Kohala Food Hub and Hawaii Eco). Five of these food hubs started as a direct response to the pandemic, and three of the Food Hubs utilize State leased lands or property and have submitted CIP projects in the Ag Hui survey.

In 2020, food hubs provided several complementary functions for multiple food systems stakeholders in Hawai'i including: reducing the risk for the public to go to the grocery store by offering greater assortment of local produce, proteins, and value-added items through online purchasing and home delivery; providing local starches such as breadfruit during rice shortages; supporting farmers who lost their markets with restaurant closures by finding new markets for their excess produce; providing jobs for unemployed tourism workers in community food distribution; and assisting in government and foodbank emergency food distributions in times when a record number of people were suffering from food insecurity in Hawaii.

During the pandemic, Hawaii's food hubs doubled employment of full-time and part-time workers, triples sales (now over \$10M annually), and are aggregating and distributing produce on behalf of over 1,000 small farmers in Hawaii. The efforts of Hawaii's Food Hubs were considered so significant to be featured in a publication in a forthcoming article called "Food Hubs Play an Essential Role in the COVID-19 Response in Hawai'i" with the Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development. On behalf of the food hubs in the hui, I suggest the following amendment to SB 338:

1. Appropriation level of \$2 million annually

The food hubs in the hui recognize that there are severe budget constraints in this time of Covid-19. A \$2 million dollar annual investment in our food hubs will have multiple and cascading return for multiplying dollars in our local communities, rehiring our local people, and providing fresh local food directly from our small farmers.

Saleh Azizi Fardkhales, PhD  
Facilitator  
Food Hub Hui  
808 383 5224  
sazizi@asi-hawaii.org