

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

FEBRUARY 13, 2023
2:20 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 312 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1248
RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
INCENTIVES

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

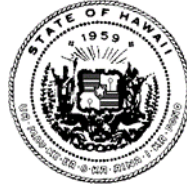
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1248. This measure appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) for the continued administration of the Hawaii Healthy Food Incentive Program (HHFIP) and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program. The Department is in strong support of this bill and offers comments.

The Department is in strong support of this measure commenting that the DOA served as the administrator of the HHFIP, partnering with The Food Basket in Hilo, Hawaii, Ulupono, The Hawaii Good Food Alliance, and other food system groups addressing food insecurity in Hawaii. The Department looks forward to continuing the effort to provide nutrition to the food insecure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 11, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1248 – RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCENTIVES.**

Hearing:

Monday, February 13, 2023, Time 2:20 p.m.
Conference Room 312 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill, and defers to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) as to administrative and budget needs. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The bill's purpose is to appropriate funds to DOA for the continued administration of the Hawaii healthy food incentive program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

The Hawaii healthy food incentive dollar-for-dollar matching program helps SNAP participants double their purchasing power. Especially during this time of elevated food costs, continuing the program doubles the value of SNAP participants' benefits spent on Hawaii-grown fresh fruits and vegetables. This supports local farmers and keeps food dollars in the local economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 3:06:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB 1248, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the continued administration of the Hawaii healthy food incentive program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program. This program has proven to be exceptionally successful in developing a food security system for low to moderate income populations in all counties.

We strongly encourage the Committee to move HB 1248 forward with a POSITIVE recommendation for House passage.

very respectfully

Douglass S Adams

Director, Dept of Research & Development

County of HawaiiHeather



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

February 13, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1248
RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
INCENTIVES

Conference Room 312 & Videoconference
2:20 PM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1248, which appropriates funds to DOA for the continued administration of the Hawai'i healthy food incentive program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

SNAP offers nutrition assistance to eligible, low-income individuals and families, increasing their food purchasing power and improving their nutrition. SNAP also provides economic benefits to farmers participating at farmers' markets, roadside stands, CSA programs, grocery stores, and other food retailers.

Some of HFB's farmers' markets participate or have participated in the SNAP program. We believe that access to locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables, and protein to low-income individuals and families provides benefits to both SNAP participants and Hawai'i farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 5:10:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

Mahalo!

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 9:08:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Fox	Malama Kaua'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This program is a double win by supporting our farmers and families alike.

Monday, February 13, 2023, at 2:20 PM
Via Video Conference; Conference Room 312

House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

To: Representative Cedric Gates, Chair
Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

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

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1248
Relating To The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives**

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

HPH writes in SUPPORT of HB 1248 which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the continued administration of the Hawai'i healthy food incentive program, and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

HPH recognizes the strong connection between access to healthy foods with health and wellness. Adults who eat a healthy diet live longer and have a lower risk of obesity, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and certain cancers. Healthy eating can help people with chronic diseases manage these conditions and avoid complications. However, many low income families continue to struggle to put food on the table.

HPH has supported the Double Up food bucks program since 2019 to both foster strengthening local food systems and allow SNAP recipients to access good nutrition. The program has been successful in encouraging SNAP recipients to make healthy food choices. Fresh fruits and vegetables are an integral part of a healthy diet and central to the prevention of obesity and chronic disease. While every community should have access to fresh and healthy dietary options, the high cost of fresh produce often makes that difficult. This challenge is felt acutely by participants in the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program, a low-income population that struggles to afford healthy food. The double up food bucks program is a viable model that supports local farmers, helps low-income families that receive double the purchasing power for healthy, Hawaii-grown produce, and benefits Hawaii by keeping dollars in the local economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HIPHI Board

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May Okihiro, MD, MS
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Department of Pediatrics

Titiimaewa Ta'ase, JD
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public
Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: February 11, 2023

To: Representative Asuega Gates, Chair
Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Re: Strong Support for HB1248, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program Incentives

Hrg: Monday, February 13, 2023, at 2:20 PM, Conf Rm 312

The Obesity Prevention Task Force (OPTF), a program of the Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ (HIPHI), is in **Strong Support of HB1248**, which provides continued funding for the Hawai'i Healthy Food Incentive Program.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy.

The Hawai'i Healthy Food incentive program, also known as DA BUX, provides a dollar-for-dollar match on locally produced fresh fruits and vegetables for SNAP recipients. Through this program, SNAP recipients can bring home healthy food, local farmers gain new customers and increased income, and more money goes into and grows our local economy.

Incentivizing SNAP dollars for fresh fruits and vegetables stretches food dollars for families, especially with increasing food costs. Furthermore, the doubling effect that DA BUX has on SNAP dollars gives families more room in their budgets for other necessary expenses.

Double Up Food Bucks demand has risen significantly over the last several years.

Year after year, this program has grown its impact making a significant impact on SNAP recipients. In 2019, SNAP shoppers spent \$87,359 through the DA BUX program; by 2022, SNAP shoppers spent \$2,275,460 through the DA BUXⁱⁱ. That money has brought healthy foods to homes while positively impacting our local economy.

Double Up Food Bucks provides a strong return on investment.

SNAP is proven to stimulate the economy by being an economic multiplier. For every SNAP dollar spent, it generates \$1.79 in economic activity. These dollars ripple out throughout the supply chain, supporting farmers, retailers, and food distributor employees; these people, in turn, spend their dollars to help support economic activity further and so on. If the state provides \$3 million in funding for this program, the federal

government could provide up to an additional \$3M of matching funds. This \$6M would result in over \$9.9M of total economic activity. In other words, the \$3M investment has a return of over 230%.

Health and food security are positively impacted.

Double Up Food Bucks' focus on locally grown produce helps to bring healthy foods to homes and supports the local agricultural industry. Studies have found that a lack of food security is associated with diet-related chronic diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressureⁱⁱⁱ. Supporting local agriculture also aligns with the renewed calls to increase local food production and decrease Hawai'i's dependence on imported goods for a more sustainable and resilient food system.

A \$3 million investment can help expand the program to more stores.

The Double Up program has seen significant growth. It started with KTA in Hawai'i County and is now accessible statewide through Times, KTA, Foodland, and participating farmers' markets. These stores are locally based and operated, ensuring the economic impact is amplified. There are still ways for the program to grow its impact.

The \$3M will increase the program's reach and participation by engaging more people through educational campaigns in areas where there has been stalled growth, as well as provide the ability to engage more retail outlets that were unable to participate due to a limit of SNAP funding for participants.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for health, agriculture, and the local economy and is a lifeline for many during the pandemic. We strongly support this measure and respectfully ask you to **pass HB1248**.

Mahalo,



Peggy Mierzwa
Policy & Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

ⁱ Created by the legislature in 2012, the Obesity Prevention Task Force is comprised of over 60 statewide organizations and works to make recommendations to reshape Hawai'i's school, work, community, and healthcare environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents. The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) convenes the Task Force and supports and promotes policy efforts to create a healthy Hawai'i.

ⁱⁱ https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bca7bc67eb88c2e986a5203/t/62f6dc8f8e3f8d1a809e2e9a/1660345536073/2020-2021_Outcomes_Report_0.9.8.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4584410/>



House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB308

Monday, February 13, 2023 2:20 p.m. Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

We support HB308 which appropriates funds to the department of agriculture to provide grants to Hawai'i farming groups to be disbursed to taro farmers.

A sustainable food system is one in which producers, retailers, members of the community, non-governmental organizations, and government agencies partner to create a vibrant and resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community.

Developing a more sustainable food system for Hawaii represents an opportunity to create a new food economy that integrates the objectives of "green" job creation, sustainable economic development, land stewardship, food security, environmental protection, and climate change resiliency with community health and well-being.

Please support HB308.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems
Monday, February 13, 2023; 2:20 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1248, RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCENTIVES.

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, 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** House Bill No. 1248, RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCENTIVES.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate an unspecified amounts of general funds for fiscal years 2023-2024, and 2023-2025, to be expended by the Department of Agriculture, for the continued administration of the Hawaii Healthy Food Incentive Program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

This bill would take effect on July 1, 2023.

SNAP, formally known as the "Food Stamps Program", is the largest federal food assistance program that is currently in operation. It provides food-purchasing assistance for low- and no-income people. SNAP provided assistance to approximately 40 million persons in 2018, at an expenditure of \$57.1 billion. Approximately 9.2% of American households received SNAP benefits at some point during 2017, with approximately 16.7 of all children living in households receiving SNAP benefits.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1248
Monday, February 13, 2023; 2:20 p.m.
Page 2

Founded during the height of the Great Depression, SNAP is the cornerstone of our national social safety net. It is intended to prevent mass starvation precipitated from unemployment and homelessness. The program was also seen as a way of helping the poor while boosting the economy and ensuring that America's farmers would obtain a fair price for their labors by allowing government to purchase and distribute excess goods in time of crisis.

The COVID-19 Pandemic demonstrated how food scarcity and poverty threatened the health and welfare of our citizens in times of dire crisis. With so many people unemployed, entire families struggled to put food on the table on a consistent basis. Lines at the food bank and food drives stretched for miles and people waited for hours to receive surplus food.

The HPCA has strongly endorsed this Program in previous years and we continue to urge your support. Additional SNAP benefits for a recipient can mean the difference between having to decide whether someone's last amount of cash will go for food or rent or medications or other necessities.

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.

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 5:35:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikos Leverenz	Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center supports HB 1248, which appropriates funds to DOA for the continued administration of the Hawaii healthy food incentive program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

HHHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those relating to substance use and underlying mental health conditions, and have been deeply impacted by trauma from physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



THE FOOD BASKET

HAWAI'I ISLAND'S FOOD BANK

February 12, 2023

To: The Honorable Representative Cedric Gates, Chair
The Honorable Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

From: Kristin Frost Albrecht
Executive Director, The Food Basket, Hawai'i Island's Food Bank

Chelsea Takahashi
Director of Healthy Food Access Initiatives, The Food Basket, Hawai'i Island's Food Bank

Subject: **Testimony in Strong Support of HB1248, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives**

We are in strong support of HB1248 and the appropriation of funds for the continued administration of the Hawai'i Healthy Food Incentive Program, otherwise known as DA BUX Double Up Food Bucks, or DA BUX.

In keeping with The Food Basket's (TFB) overarching mission to "end hunger", we are the statewide administrator for DA BUX. TFB established DA BUX as a statewide program upon receiving a \$985 K federal grant through the USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP). Additionally, we secured the 100% non-federal matching funds that GusNIP requires. We scaled the program in 2021 after receiving two additional GusNIP awards totaling \$7.6 M in federal dollars. Today, TFB administers DA BUX at 57 food retailers across 100+ locations statewide, including grocery stores, farmers markets and food hubs. DA BUX partner retailers continue to offer 50% discounts on Hawai'i grown fruits and vegetables solely to low-income customers paying with SNAP food dollars (formerly known as food stamps).

Philanthropy has largely carried the weight of our GusNIP match needs over the years; however, we cannot expect philanthropy to meet this need over the long term. We are humbly requesting the State to invest \$3 M per year in DA BUX to support program sustainability and continuous affordable healthy food access to SNAP recipients. Furthermore, a State commitment will be leveraged in our FY '23 GusNIP application to unlock \$3M in federal funds to meet the grant's requirement of a 100% non-federal match.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

KRISTIN FROST
ALBRECHT

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WARREN LEE

SAMANTHA
COLLINS

WWW.HAWAIIFOODBASKET.ORG

Administration and East Hawai'i Warehouse
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808-933-6030 Phone | 808-934-0701 Fax

West Hawai'i Warehouse
73-4161 Ulu Wini Place, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
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THE FOOD BASKET

HAWAI'I ISLAND'S FOOD BANK

While a wide range of financial support and programs were available during the pandemic, Hawai'i's low-income residents are perhaps now more in dire need of this support as pandemic relief wanes and inflation rates have soared above historical averages. Sustained high participation in SNAP above pre-pandemic levels and climbing food insecurity in Hawai'i are indicative of the widespread economic hardship residents continue to face. The Food Basket remains steadfast in our commitment to ensuring DA BUX savings for local fruits and vegetables will be continuously available for these households.

We respectfully ask your committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kristin Frost Albrecht
Executive Director

Chelsea Takahashi
Director of Healthy Food Access Initiatives

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

KRISTIN FROST
ALBRECHT

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HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:42:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leanne Kami	Kohana Family Farms	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Cedric Gates

House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

House Bill No. 1248 -- Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Hearing date: Monday, February 13, 2023

Hearing time: 2:20 P.M.

Hearing location: Conference Room 312 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

IN STRONG SUPPORT

Dear Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and members of the committee,

Aloha kākou, my name is Leanne Kami. I was born and raised in Pāhoa on Hawai‘i island and now work in Hilo as a strategy consultant for Kamehameha Schools, focused on sustainable food system development in Hawai‘i. I also own and manage Kohana Family Farms, a small organic farm in Pana‘ewa. I am writing this letter as a farmer and member of the Hawai‘i Farmers Union United and the Hawai‘i Farm Bureau Federation.

I strongly support HB1248, which appropriates funds to DOA for the continued administration of the Hawai‘i healthy food incentive program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

The Double Up Food Bucks program administered under the Hawai‘i healthy food incentive program is an important tool to leverage federal funding by doubling the value of federal SNAP benefits spent at participating farmers' markets and grocery stores. Investing in programs like Double Up Food Bucks creates a ripple effect of benefits. Low-income families bring home more healthy food, local farmers gain new customers and make more money, and more food dollars stay in the local economy.

Promoting the consumption of local produce also has a ripple effect on the health of our low-income communities, which are most susceptible to diet-related health issues such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. Fruits and vegetables begin to lose their nutrients 24 hours after harvest. Local produce is fresher and picked closer to ripeness when nutrient levels are at their peak.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Mahalo,

Leanne Kami

Kohana Family Farms

Leanneokamoto@hotmail.com

126 Awa Street, Hilo HI 96720



February 12, 2023

Rep. Cedric Gates, Chair
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

RE: Testimony in support of HB 1248, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Foodbank, I **support HB 1248**, which would appropriate funds to Department of Agriculture for the continued administration of the Hawai'i healthy food incentive program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

Food security is a critical issue in Hawai'i, where one in six residents lacks comprehensive access to healthy, nutritious food. SNAP is one of our most important anti-hunger programs, offering choice and healthy options for families who need extra support putting food on the table. We strongly support DA BUX, which doubles the purchasing power of SNAP when it is used for locally produced food.

- **DA BUX increases consumer purchasing power.** Locally grown produce is often more expensive than imported items. DA BUX stretches dollars farther and makes it possible for more people to choose local.
- **DA BUX advances nutrition, health and well-being.** Healthy food can also be more expensive, and we consistently hear requests for more produce and healthy proteins from our distribution partners and the people we serve. DA BUX makes these desired, healthier food items more affordable.
- **DA BUX invests in farmers and statewide food security.** With an estimated 85%-90% of our food imported, programs that support Hawai'i farmers are important to us all. The Hawai'i Foodbank regularly purchases from local farmers, and programs that invest in local production capacity help us better support those we serve.

The Hawai'i Foodbank gathers donated, rescued, and purchased food and distribute it to those in need through our network of more than 200 agency partners. We also advocate for policies and programs that end hunger, and we strongly support DA BUX as a critical food security effort that advances the health and well-being of the people we serve.

Mahalo for your consideration.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Miller Marvin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Amy Miller Marvin
President and CEO, Hawaii Foodbank



February 11, 2023

To: The Honorable Representative Cedric Gates, Chair
The Honorable Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

From: Kit Okimoto
CFO
Okimoto Corp dba Waianae Store, Nanakuli Super and
Friendly Market Center

Subject: **Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1248, Relating to Supplemental
Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives**

I am in strong support of bills HB1248 and SB1259 and the appropriation of funds for the continued administration of the Hawai'i healthy food incentive program, otherwise known as DA BUX Double Up Food Bucks, or DA BUX.

DA BUX benefits the state's food system through three different ways. First, DA BUX offers discounts on Hawai'i grown fruits and vegetables to low-income recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, allowing them to purchase more, healthy food. Second, DA BUX helps farmers increase their customer base and compete with imported produce. And third, DA BUX supports the local economy, generating increased revenue for 57 participating food retailers across 100+ statewide locations.

DA BUX has proven to be beneficial for Hawai'i's economy. According to a study conducted by Colorado State University, each program dollar used to incentivize local produce contributes \$2.10 to Hawai'i's economy. Additionally, if DA BUX was further scaled to food retail locations statewide, the potential economic contribution would be \$14-\$22 million in one year.

Furthermore, a \$3 million State investment will serve as significant match funds needed to unlock federal grant dollars from the USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP). As the GusNIP only accepts proposals that have secured 100% non-federal matching funds, a State investment will strengthen the program's FY '23 application.

State investment is critical to the long term sustainability of DA BUX and its ability to provide positive, lasting impact both economically, and on the well-being of individuals across the state.

Sincerely,

Kit Okimoto
Okimoto Corp



To: The House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Monday, February 13, 2023, 2:20pm

In strong support of HB1248

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Agriculture & Food Systems Committee members,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **strongly supports HB1248.**

The Hawaii Healthy Food Incentive Program helps keep federal funding circulating in the local economy and incentivizes the use of SNAP benefits for the purchase of fresh local produce. HB1248 will help low-income families bring home more healthy food, area farmers gain new customers and make more money, and more food dollars stay in the local economy.

Supporting this successful program makes good sense. It promotes good health for families and our local economy, as well as improving the health of our planet by avoiding the greenhouse gases that would have been emitted from shipping produce in.

Please pass HB1248 so that we can reap all these benefits!

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this very important bill.
Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
Monday, February 13, 2023 — 2:20 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative strongly supports HB 1248, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives.

Dear Chair Gates and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono strongly supports HB 1248, which appropriates funds to the State Department of Agriculture (DOA) for the continued administration of the Hawai'i Healthy Food Incentive Program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

Ulupono strongly supports the Hawai'i Healthy Food Incentive Program within the DOA. The "DA BUX" Double Up Food Bucks Program, administered by The Food Basket, Hawai'i Island's food bank, is a triple-win solution for our communities as SNAP-eligible recipients double their spending power at point of purchase with healthy local produce, local farmers are able to expand their markets, and all money spent is kept right here in our state. In addition, this program leverages federal funding at a 1:1 match.

From 2020-2021, DA BUX has supported more than 470 farm producers and eight distributors through farm product sales. With rising inflation and Hawai'i's high cost of living, SNAP participation and benefits continue to climb since 2019 levels.¹ These numbers substantiate the need to support our local community as food insecurity continues to increase.

We are hopeful that the State can consider a \$3 million appropriation, per year, for the DOA program to support the continued efforts of DA BUX. A \$3 million investment by the State would receive a direct match of \$3 million in federal funding. Furthermore, our analysis shows that with that level of state funding in place, the potential economic impact created by DA BUX in Hawai'i reaches nearly \$19 million.

¹ 9% increase for those receiving benefits; 100% increase in total annual SNAP benefits paid; and, 26 times increase in the annual amount of DA BUX discounts issues to SNAP shoppers since 2019.

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



We appreciate the Legislature's attention to this highly impactful program and look forward to sustained funding to support our SNAP community and our local producers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs



**American
Heart
Association.**

**American Heart Association testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1248,
“Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives”**

The American Heart Association strongly supports HB 1248 and asks that the legislature fully fund the \$3 million, two-year funding request.

Chairman of the Board

Jason Fujita

President

Zia Khan, MD

Board Members

Rick Bruno, MD, FACEP

Greg Christian

Jackie De Luz

Michael Lui, MD

Ben Morgan

Michael Rembis, FACHE

Andrew S. Rosen

Ben Salazar

David Underriner

Jennifer Walker

For more than 50 years, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP – formerly Food Stamps) has been vital in addressing food insecurity and nutrition in the United States. It has an impact on health, educational attainment and economic self-sufficiency. The program helps more than 45 million Americans struggling through underemployment and low or stagnant wages. The majority of benefits go to households with children, older adults or those with disabilities.

For more than a decade, SNAP nutrition incentive programs across the country like Hawaii’s DA BUX program have existed to reduce hunger and improve nutrition among low-income families while also supporting local agriculture and the economy. The DA BUX program works by providing matching dollars to SNAP recipients to purchase additional fresh fruits and vegetables at participating retailers and farmers markets.

DA BUX directly addresses nutrition insecurity by helping families stretch their food dollars and incentivizing them to buy healthier options. The program helps families teach their children healthy behaviors, establishing lifelong habits that will support their overall health and wellness. Roughly half of all SNAP recipients have children in their homes. In addition, DA BUX acts as a catalyst for the local economy. Farmers and retailers alike benefit from increased sales of local produce.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated a problem that has long existed in Hawaii – nutrition insecurity, or a household’s inability to provide enough nutritious food for every person to live an active, healthy life. Today, local families are finding it harder than ever to put nutritious food on the table. According to data from Feeding America, the number of Hawaii residents dealing with food insecurity has grown by 51 percent since 2019. In addition, about 81,000 keiki across the state are food insecure this year.

Food insecurity and poor nutrition remain problems for millions of American households. Research shows that SNAP benefits are often not adequate to last a family the entire month. A 2016 report by the Food Research and Action Center summarized the important role SNAP plays in addressing food insecurity. **Importantly, the majority of SNAP recipients who are eligible for work do so while on the program, underscoring that many recipients are using the program to overcome underemployment or temporary job loss.**

Although diet quality has been steadily improving in the U.S. during the past two decades, overall dietary quality is still poor. Most significantly, there is a widening gap associated with education and income. Despite the important role SNAP plays in

Serving Hawaii since 1948

Our Mission:

“To be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives.”

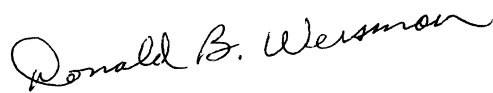
For more information on the AHA’s educational or research programs, visit www.heart.org or contact your nearest AHA office.

addressing hunger, additional data indicate that SNAP recipients have worse diet quality than income-eligible non-participants.

The DA BUX program is already successfully in place at a number of retail and farmers market locations across the state. However, current funding does not allow for expansion of the program to all geographic areas of the state meaning that not all in need have access to its benefits. The proposed funding would allow the DA BUX program to expand more broadly across the state, reaching thousands of additional residents in need, and to sustain existing programs. HB 1248 would also allow the state to draw down matching federal funds doubling the health and economic benefits to Hawaii.

The American Heart Association urges legislators to support HB 1248 and to fully fund the \$3 million request to help reduce health disparities in our state by expanding access to fresh fruit and vegetables to those who might be economically challenged to afford access to those foods vital to improved health and reduced obesity.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald B. Weisman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small horizontal line above the "n" in "Weisman".

Donald B. Weisman
Hawaii Government Relations/Communications and Marketing Director



To: The Honorable Chair Cedric Gates and the Honorable Vice Chair Kirstin Kahaloa and Members of the Committees on Agriculture and Food Systems

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing HB1248 **RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCENTIVES**

Hearing: Monday February 13, 2023 2:20 p.m.

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems:

The mission of the Climate Protectors Hawai'i is to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i show the world the way back to a safe and stable climate.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1248!

Hawaii needs to support the program to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to recipients under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This bill would provide funding for the Department of Agriculture to continue to administer the excellent healthy food incentive program "Da Bux."

Providing local food also helps with the climate crisis by reducing transportation costs for imported food.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



February 11, 2023

To: The Honorable Representative Cedric Gates, Chair
The Honorable Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

From: Ryan Earehart
Farm Owner
Okō'a Farms

Subject: **Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1248, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives**

I am in strong support of bills HB1248 and SB1259 and the appropriation of funds for the continued administration of the Hawai'i healthy food incentive program, otherwise known as DA BUX Double Up Food Bucks, or DA BUX.

DA BUX benefits the state's food system through three different ways. First, DA BUX offers discounts on Hawai'i grown fruits and vegetables to low-income recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, allowing them to purchase more, healthy food. Second, DA BUX helps farmers increase their customer base and compete with imported produce. And third, DA BUX supports the local economy, generating increased revenue for 57 participating food retailers across 100+ statewide locations.

Its a win win when i am watching a Young child's face light up when their parent says yes we can buy you that special local fruit or when an elderly customer on a fixed income comes to our farmers market stand every week and thanks you for participating in this program that extends their food dollars and helps to keep them healthy by eating fresh vegetables and fruits every week.

DA BUX has proven to be beneficial for Hawai'i's economy. According to a study conducted by Colorado State University, each program dollar used to incentivize the purchase of local produce contributes \$2.10 to Hawai'i's economy. Additionally, if DA BUX was further scaled to food retail locations statewide, the potential economic contribution would be \$14-\$22 million in one year.

Furthermore, a \$3 million State investment will serve as significant match funds needed to unlock federal grant dollars from the USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP). As the GusNIP only accepts proposals that have secured 100% non-federal matching funds, a State investment will strengthen the program's FY '23 application.

State investment is critical to the long term sustainability of DA BUX and its ability to provide positive, lasting impact both economically, and on the well-being of individuals across the state.

Sincerely,
Ryan Earehart (Partner- Okō'a Farms)



Food+ Policy Internship 2023

food@purplemaia.org

February 12, 2023

To: Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and the House Committee and Agriculture and Food Systems

Subject: **HB1248**, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Food+ Policy strongly supports HB1248.

This bill would appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for the continued administration of the Hawaii Healthy Food Incentive Program, locally called DA BUX. This program has been proven to be a great success in promoting healthier eating habits and increasing access to nutritious food for those who participate in SNAP.

By providing matching funds to beneficiaries of SNAP, this program helps stretch their food budgets further, allowing them to purchase more fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and other healthy options. The result is a healthier, more sustainable diet for those who need it most, and a reduced burden on the healthcare system.

In addition, the Hawaii Healthy Food Incentive Program supports local farmers and the state's agriculture industry, creating a virtuous cycle of economic and health benefits.

We strongly urge the legislature to support this bill and provide continued funding for this important program. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,
Kelsey Amos & the Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

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

In 2023, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Mon. February 13, 2023, 2:20 p.m.

RE: H.B. 1248: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1248: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Incentive Program Incentives, which would appropriate funds to the department of agriculture for the continued administration of the Hawai'i healthy food incentive program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

The DA BUX Double Up Food Bucks program has been running successfully in Hawai'i since 2012, beginning with two retailers (Kokua Kalihi Valley on Oahu and The Kohala Center on Hawai'i Island) to now more than 50 participating food retailers statewide in 2022. While increasing food access for thousands of low-income households statewide, the positive impact of this program on Hawai'i's food system and economy has been documented consistently and successfully by The Food Basket and food system advocates:

- In FY2021, DA BUX supported 470 local farm producers and 8 distributors across the state, providing unprecedented opportunity to feed local residents and increase production towards a self-sufficient local food supply for Hawai'i. (1)
- Each dollar reimbursed to participating DA BUX food retailers generates \$2.10 in Hawai'i's economy. (1)
- In FY2021, local produce sales to SNAP shoppers at participating farm direct retailers increased an average of 531% from 2019 (increases ranged from 84% -1505%). (1)

Aloha Harvest

County of Hawai'i

Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development

Hawai'i Appleseed

Hawai'i Children's Action Network

Hawai'i Food Bank

Hawai'i Good Food Alliance

Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Health Center

Lanakila Pacific

Malama Kua'i

Maui Food Bank

Parents and Children Together

The Hawai'i Food Basket

Supersistence

Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center



Aloha Harvest

County of Hawai'i

Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based
Economic Development

Hawai'i Appleseed

Hawai'i Children's Action Network

Hawai'i Food Bank

Hawai'i Good Food Alliance

Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Health
Center

Lanakila Pacific

Malama Kua'i

Maui Food Bank

Parents and Children Together

The Hawai'i Food Basket

Supersistence

Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health
Center

DA BUX Double Up Food Bucks program has only been able to expand to reach more SNAP households thanks primarily to the tireless fundraising efforts and dedication of The Food Basket and Hawai'i's nonprofit and philanthropic communities, but we cannot rely on these revenue streams forever. The legislature has the opportunity to provide meaningful funding to the Hawai'i Healthy Food Incentive Program which would then allow the state to leverage a federal grant match that would contribute \$12.6M in Hawai'i's local economy annually through DA BUX. Please invest in Hawai'i's food system and community through passing H.B. 1248.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(1) [Double Up Food Bucks - 2020-2021 outcomes report www.dabux.org/for-advocates](http://www.dabux.org/for-advocates)

The Hawai'i Hunger Action Network is composed of advocates statewide dedicated to connecting communities and taking action to ensure all people in Hawai'i have enough food to live healthy, dignified, productive lives.



Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Re: **HB 1248 - Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives**
Hawai'i State Capitol and Via Videoconference
February 13, 2023, 2:20 PM

Dear Chair Gates Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of HB 1248**. This bill appropriates funds to DOA for the continued administration of the Hawai'i healthy food incentive program ("DA BUX") and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

Investing DA BUX is investing in our keiki, as more than 60% of SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants in Hawai'i are in families with children¹ and the program has been shown to increase the fruit and vegetable consumption of its participants.²

Especially with high inflation and the most expensive groceries in the nation,³ it is nearly impossible for low-income families in Hawai'i who qualify for SNAP to afford to buy healthy food, such as fresh fruits and vegetables.

That's where DA BUX comes in. It is designed to help low-income families afford fresh produce, by doubling the value of their SNAP benefits when they purchase Hawai'i grown fruits and vegetables.

DA BUX truly is a triple-win for our state. First, it helps families afford healthier food, which benefits their health and well-being.⁴ Second, it helps local farmers by growing their sales. And third, it helps our local food stores and markets by bringing more dollars to them and keeping those dollars in the local economy.

SNAP shoppers' local produce purchases at DA BUX grocery stores nearly tripled in January 2022 compared to 2019, and at DA BUX farm direct retailers local those sales were more than five times larger. And every \$1 spent on DA BUX is estimated to create \$2.30 in local economic activity.⁵

Mahalo the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass this bill.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo
Director of Research and Economic Policy

HCAN Speaks! Board
of Directors

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President

Nick Kacprowski, J.D.
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Mandy Fernandes
Secretary

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Jasmine Slovak
Erica Yamauchi

¹ https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/snap_factsheet_hawaii.pdf

² <https://dabux.org/for-advocates>

³ <https://meric.mo.gov/data/cost-living-data-series>

⁴ <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/what-should-you-eat/vegetables-and-fruits/>

⁵ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oU3wNy7IKmJ4ITLEgR6Td-o1_DscDPzX/view



LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

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Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Immediate Past Chair*

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

TO: Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: Monday, February 13, 2023
TIME: 2:20pm
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: SB1248 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Position: Support

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

The Double Up Food Bucks program is important as a means to combat food insecurity, support healthy eating, and as a way to support Hawaii's agricultural sector. During the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis, food insecurity in our state soared to unprecedented levels, at the same time the local agricultural sector suffered disproportionate economic losses. The Double Up Food Bucks program has been a vital tool to increase the produce buying power of Hawaii consumers who use the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and helps grow our local agricultural sector. Continuing to fund this important program will ensure that the many benefits continue.

Fruits, vegetables, and healthy proteins tend to be more expensive per calorie than less healthy foods, which makes eating healthy a challenge for those with limited food budgets. Doubling the purchasing power for SNAP users makes it easier to choose fruits, vegetables, and healthy proteins when shopping. Data has shown that families use the Double Up Food Bucks Program eat more fruits and vegetables, a greater variety of fruits and vegetables, and fewer unhealthy foods. Getting more fruits and vegetables for each SNAP dollar also means that low-income families will have more in their budget to spend on things like housing and healthcare.

By prioritizing locally grown agricultural products this program also helps Hawaii farmers and encourages retailers to stock Hawaii grown produce and protein. This helps promote a resilient food economy where local farmers are selling to local stores that sell to local customers.

Each dollar spent in this program goes into Hawaii's agricultural sector and circulates from there into the larger local economy. This is a win for SNAP users, a win for Hawaii farmers, a win for Hawaii retailers, and a win for Hawaii's economy.

We urge you to vote yes on this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 12, 2023

HB1248

Title: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

The **Pioneering Healthier Communities Initiative** brings together local, diverse leaders to discuss and support strategies, policies and programs that we can accomplish together to build healthier communities in our island home. The members of PHC Honolulu are involved in supporting efforts that enable children and families to become healthier through schools, afterschool programs, healthcare and more.

We strongly support HB1248.

The DA BUX program has been extremely successful in increasing access to fresh, healthy produce for food insecure families. This bill will provide \$3M in funding to support families, local farmers, and our economy.

Helps Families Eat Healthy

- Food insecurity has soared with the onset of COVID-19 pandemic.
- This program helps SNAP recipients buy more fresh fruits and vegetables by doubling their purchasing power.

Helps Local Farmers and Businesses – numbers are from dabux.org site

- DA BUX supported 470 farm producers and 8 distributors.
- Local produce sales increased 531% at Farm Direct Retailers.
- Helps to grow our local food supply and put more money into our economy.
- The general sentiment from recipient interviews was that DA BUX is giving farmers the opportunity to feed local residents (rather than exporting products to the mainland) and increases production toward a self-sufficient local food supply for the state.

Helps Hawai'i's Economy

- SNAP Benefits are shown to have a large multiplier effect. For every dollar that is spent by a SNAP recipient, an additional \$0.79 moves throughout the economy.
- Farmers use that money to pay workers or buy other goods and services, continuing the benefit of SNAP dollars down the line.
- A \$3M dollar investment in Double Up Bucks would result in over \$9.9M in economic activity.

Opportunity for Federal Match

- If Hawai'i allocates \$3M for the DA BUX program, it could apply for an additional \$3M in federal matching funds, totaling \$6M.

Thank you very much for allowing us to testify.

May Okihiro

Paula Adams

Stacy Evensen

Ray L'Heureux

Diane Tabangay

Tina Tamai

Greg Weibel



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Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki
Kauai

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU strongly supports HB1248.**

Not only is this program beneficial to SNAP recipients, but it has a huge impact on our local agricultural industry in Hawaii. This incentive program helps to bridge the gap between small farms and access to nutritious food for SNAP beneficiaries, by providing an incentive for purchasing locally grown products. It also increases economic opportunities for small farms and farmers, providing an additional source of income and increased rural jobs. The Hawaii-grown products purchased through this program serve to improve healthy diets, and the financial support helps to ensure a secure local source of food.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaipo Kekona".

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 6:49:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. Thank you.

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 6:57:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, & Committee Members:

I write in strong support of HB 1248. Incentivizing SNAP recipients to procure fresh produce, eggs, and other food from local farmers benefits each party to the transaction and the larger local economy.

It is also sound public health policy, and the Legislature should explore addition ways to encourage the purchase and consumption of locally produced agricultural foods by residents in the private and public sectors.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 7:13:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noa Lincoln	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1248 for the "Da Bux" program to impact both local health and equity and to provide direct market support for local agriculture. This has been an extremely impactful program in the state over the past many years. I urge the legislators to continue to support this program.

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 7:45:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
maureen Langberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Help to fund and grow the DA BUX program. We are requesting the state to support the DA BUX program with \$3M in funding to support families, local farmers, and our economy. For more information, visit dabux.org.

Helps Families Eat Healthy

- A survey conducted among DA BUX participants (n=436) revealed that 59% of participants are food insecure (dabux.org).
- This program helps SNAP recipients buy more fresh fruits and vegetables by doubling their purchasing power.

Helps Local Farmers and Businesses – numbers are from dabux.org site

- DA BUX supported 470 farm producers and 8 distributors.
- Local produce sales increased 531% at Farm Direct Retailers.
- Helps to grow our local food supply and put more money into our economy.
- The general sentiment from recipient interviews was that DA BUX is giving farmers the opportunity to feed local residents (rather than exporting products to the mainland) and increases production toward a self-sufficient local food supply for the state.

Helps Hawai‘i’s Economy

- SNAP Benefits are shown to have a large multiplier effect. For every dollar that is spent by a SNAP recipient, an additional \$0.79 moves throughout the economy.
- Farmers use that money to pay workers or buy other goods and services, continuing the benefit of SNAP dollars down the line.
- A \$3M dollar investment in Double Up Bucks would result in over \$9.9M in economic activity.

Opportunity for Federal Match

- If Hawai‘i allocates \$3M for the DA BUX program, it could apply for an additional \$3M in federal matching funds, totaling \$6M.

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 8:10:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a SNAP recipient and I find DaBux is so helpful in attaining fresh fruit and veggies. With an increase in non local produce, it's becoming harder and harder to purchase produce.

Lately the last 4months I have been purchasing produce from local farmers from FARM LINK, a company which delivers to my home all the stuff I ordered- they incorporate DaBux in discount on fruits and veggies which are grown locally from all islands. I'm loving it so much as it helps me to make healthier choices. Keep it going for future generations living in Hawaii. Mahalo

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 9:24:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunny Savage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support! Up next, cooking classes so people know what to do with it all.

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 5:07:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Shon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and the members of the Agriculture Committee,

I strongly support this effort to strengthen food security in Hawaii by increasing access to healthy food.

As a current master's student in Food Security who cares deeply about food systems, I have learned the importance of addressing multiple food system challenges simultaneously through effective policy.

Da Bux is a win for food security, public health, and equity. It increases access to healthy food for those who need it and can benefit from it the most.

Da Bux is also critical to furthering Hawaii's progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including:

- SDG #1: No Poverty
- SDG #2: No Hunger
- SDG #3: Good Health and Well-Being
- SDG #10: Reduced Inequalities

It also aligns with Aloha+ goals related to local food production and consumption, and sustainable smart communities.

Please support and boldly fund this important program. Mahalo.

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 8:59:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Kobayashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

to whom it may concern,

I would like to support nutrition, agriculture, and the local economy all in one bill by keeping this program alive.

mahalo,

Michelle Kobayashi DDS, MSD

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 12:03:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

It is an ABSOLUTE NO BRAINER to continue to support EBT/SNAP

Far too many folks continue to be food insecure and the BEST way to support these folks and our future health care costs is to ensure that access to healthy fruits and veggies is in place.

Clearly, supporting DA BUX benefits many sectors of our community:

Helps Local Farmers and Businesses – numbers are from dabux.org site

- DA BUX supported 470 farm producers and 8 distributors.
- Local produce sales increased 531% at Farm Direct Retailers.
- Helps to grow our local food supply and put more money into our economy.
- The general sentiment from recipient interviews was that DA BUX is giving farmers the opportunity to feed local residents (rather than exporting products to the mainland) and increases production toward a self-sufficient local food supply for the state.

Helps Hawai‘i’s Economy

- SNAP Benefits are shown to have a large multiplier effect. For every dollar that is spent by a SNAP recipient, an additional \$0.79 moves throughout the economy.
- Farmers use that money to pay workers or buy other goods and services, continuing the benefit of SNAP dollars down the line.
- A \$3M dollar investment in Double Up Bucks would result in over \$9.9M in economic activity.

Opportunity for Federal Match

- If Hawai‘i allocates \$3M for the DA BUX program, it could apply for an additional \$3M in federal matching funds, totaling \$6M.

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HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 7:02:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica La Rue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Your Honorable judge:

My family is a recipient of this program and are extremely in need of accessible fresh produce. Our nutrition and health has risen since being members of this program. Thank you

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 9:15:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, please support this bill. The **Double Up Food Bucks Program** is a state program that incentivizes the use of SNAP benefits for the purchase of fresh produce. This bill secures \$3M in funding for this state program, so that SNAP purchasing power can be doubled when purchasing locally sourced produce and proteins.

Mahalo for your consideration

Elizabeth Hansen, Hakalau HI 96710

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 9:32:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, please support this bill.

Kalo farming is a practice that has been *integral to the Hawaiian islands for centuries* and has provided an abundance of food and ecological health. Providing a tax exemption for Hawaii farmers can help spur economic growth and provide economic incentives for existing and new kalo farmers.

Mahalo for your consideration and your mālama of our ‘āina!

Rodger Hansen, Hakalau HI 96710

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 8:26:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keomailani Hanapi Hirata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1248.

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 12:31:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB1248 as an individual citizen for the following reasons:

Helps Families Eat Healthy

- A survey conducted among DA BUX participants (n=436) revealed that 59% of participants are food insecure (dabux.org).
- This program helps SNAP recipients buy more fresh fruits and vegetables by doubling their purchasing power.

Helps Local Farmers and Businesses – numbers are from dabux.org site

- DA BUX supported 470 farm producers and 8 distributors.
- Local produce sales increased 531% at Farm Direct Retailers.
- Helps to grow our local food supply and put more money into our economy.
- The general sentiment from recipient interviews was that DA BUX is giving farmers the opportunity to feed local residents (rather than exporting products to the mainland) and increases production toward a self-sufficient local food supply for the state.

Helps Hawai‘i’s Economy

- SNAP Benefits are shown to have a large multiplier effect. For every dollar that is spent by a SNAP recipient, an additional \$0.79 moves throughout the economy.
- Farmers use that money to pay workers or buy other goods and services, continuing the benefit of SNAP dollars down the line.
- A \$3M dollar investment in Double Up Bucks would result in over \$9.9M in economic activity.

Opportunity for Federal Match

- If Hawai‘i allocates \$3M for the DA BUX program, it could apply for an additional \$3M in federal matching funds, totaling \$6M.

Marian Huff

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 1:10:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerné Willis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of further funding for the continuation of "Da Bux" program. This program has not only helped my family and I, but so many others on our island. I personally believe now would be a terrible time to cut funds to this program as our economy is still trying to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.

What I love about "Da Bux" is that it is encouraging families and SNAP recipients to purchase fresh (healthy) produce, locally grown here in Hawai'i, which is mutually beneficial for both consumer and our farmers. I also utilize this savings for my CSA produce bag, which alone is a savings of \$20+ a month. The savings from "Da Bux" program is significant for our family of four.

We were also able to participate in a family bonding, educational cooking class series, which gave us recipes and ideas on how to use the fresh produce to make tasty treats. My children and I have really enjoyed the experience. This would not have been possible without funding for this program. I am hopeful they can receive additional funding to extend this opportunity to another round of families. We are so very grateful for the "Da Bux" and really hope it is renewed for the next year+. I believe this program positively impacts many members of our community. I strongly encourage you folks to vote in support of further funding in order for this program to continue. Thank you.

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 1:28:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Representative Cedric Gates, Chair
The Honorable Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

From:

Dana Keawe
P.O. Box 492316, Kea'au/Ola'a, HI 96749

I am in very strong support of bills HB1248 and SB1259 and the funding of DA BUX Double Up Food Bucks, otherwise known as DA BUX.

DA BUX provides my family with an affordable and accessible option to purchase local, fresh fruits and vegetables. I have used DA BUX program since February, 2020 and have accessed and used DA BUX every month since then. I have saved hundreds of dollars over the last 3 years. The savings DA BUX offers leaves more money for my family to spend on other household costs such as rent, utilities, medical perscriptions and gas. With food costs in Hawai'i 91% higher than the national average, DA BUX is a crucial supplement to my family's budget and provides reassurance knowing we can purchase twice as much produce than we normally would be able to.

My health has improved tremendously because i have had access to healthy, nutritious, locally produced fruits & vegetables from DA BUX/local farmers; Produce i would not have been able to normally afford or purchase before i had DA BUX, have been and are available to me now. And with DA BUX we are supporting and helping the State of Hawai'i to meet the Govenors 2030 goals towards food sustainability in Hawai'i.

This bill will continue to help families like mine purchase more Hawai'i grown fruits and vegetables and support not only our local retailers and farmers but support my family's healthy lifestyle.

I strongly support these very important bills. HB1248 and SB1259.

Sincerely,
Dana Keawe

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 7:17:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawai‘i Healthy Food Incentive Program—DA BUX double up food bucks program—first started with a pilot program in 2012 through Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services on O‘ahu and The Kohala Center on Hawai‘i island. The program provides a dollar-for-dollar match to supplemental nutrition assistance program beneficiaries who purchase locally grown fruits, vegetables, and proteins at participating farmers’ markets, grocery stores, and community-supported agriculture projects.

By the end of 2021, the pilot program was available at 57 food retailers across 98 market sites and pick-up locations that include grocery stores, farmers markets, community supported agriculture programs, and other farm direct retailers. From 2020–2021, DA BUX supported 470 farm producers and 8 distributors.

Each dollar reimbursed to participating DA BUX food retailers for their issued discounts on local produce has an economic multiplier of 2.1 times. This means that each program dollar issued for local produce incentives contributes \$2.10 to Hawai‘i’s economy. A \$3,000,000 investment by the state in this program would allow for a federal funding match that will contribute at least \$12,600,000 to our local economy annually.

This is a triple win for the state because it supports families, farmers, and the local economy. Please support HB1248!

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:43:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Helps Families Eat Healthy

- A survey conducted among DA BUX participants (n=436) revealed that 59% of participants are food insecure (dabux.org).
- This program helps SNAP recipients buy more fresh fruits and vegetables by doubling their purchasing power.

Helps Local Farmers and Businesses – numbers are from dabux.org site

- DA BUX supported 470 farm producers and 8 distributors.
- Local produce sales increased 531% at Farm Direct Retailers.
- Helps to grow our local food supply and put more money into our economy.
- The general sentiment from recipient interviews was that DA BUX is giving farmers the opportunity to feed local residents (rather than exporting products to the mainland) and increases production toward a self-sufficient local food supply for the state.

Helps Hawai‘i’s Economy

- SNAP Benefits are shown to have a large multiplier effect. For every dollar that is spent by a SNAP recipient, an additional \$0.79 moves throughout the economy.
- Farmers use that money to pay workers or buy other goods and services, continuing the benefit of SNAP dollars down the line.
- A \$3M dollar investment in Double Up Bucks would result in over \$9.9M in economic activity.

Opportunity for Federal Match

- If Hawai‘i allocates \$3M for the DA BUX program, it could apply for an additional \$3M in federal matching funds, totaling \$6M.

This is a triple win bill with fabulous potential to help the people of Hawaii.

Please support HB1248

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:14:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am **strongly supportive** of this bill because many low income folks will continue to benefit when the DA BUX program is sustain to feed them. In addition, local businesses also benefit as listed below on all the positive outcomes. Please do the right thing by providing the \$3M in funding because this program is a win-win for everyone participating. Thank you for your kind consideration!

Helps Families Eat Healthy

- A survey conducted among DA BUX participants (n=436) revealed that 59% of participants are food insecure (dabux.org).
- This program helps SNAP recipients buy more fresh fruits and vegetables by doubling their purchasing power.

Helps Local Farmers and Businesses – numbers are from dabux.org site

- DA BUX supported 470 farm producers and 8 distributors.
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- The general sentiment from recipient interviews was that DA BUX is giving farmers the opportunity to feed local residents (rather than exporting products to the mainland) and increases production toward a self-sufficient local food supply for the state.

Helps Hawai‘i’s Economy

- SNAP Benefits are shown to have a large multiplier effect. For every dollar that is spent by a SNAP recipient, an additional \$0.79 moves throughout the economy.
- Farmers use that money to pay workers or buy other goods and services, continuing the benefit of SNAP dollars down the line.
- A \$3M dollar investment in Double Up Bucks would result in over \$9.9M in economic activity.

Opportunity for Federal Match

- If Hawai'i allocates \$3M for the DA BUX program, it could apply for an additional \$3M in federal matching funds, totaling \$6M.

Mahalo,
Michelle

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:49:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello,

The Da Bux program partners with food retailers to make Hawai'i grown fruits and vegetables more affordable for SNAP-EBT cardholders. Through DA BUX, SNAP benefit dollars are doubled when they're spent on qualifying local food items at more than [70 participating retail locations statewide](#). Those items tend to be healthier produce and fresh foods and being locally sourced directly supports Hawai'i's food economy.

Even before the pandemic DA BUX program was succeeding. Now more than ever, it is changing lives for the better in four very tangible and important ways including:

- It's putting more food on the tables of local families in need.
- It's providing incentives that encourage people to buy locally grown and produced food.
- It's strengthening the local economy by keeping more dollars in the Islands.
- It's improving local health by providing incentives to eat fresher, unprocessed foods.

The DA BUX program works and should be continued and expanded upon where possible. The program is a tangible solution to supporting local food production and helping families have access to quality fresh food.

Please support HB1248.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili

Dear Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of H.B. 1248: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Incentive Program Incentives, which would appropriate funds to the department of agriculture for the continued administration of the Hawai'i healthy food incentive program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

The DA BUX Double Up Food Bucks program has been running successfully in Hawai'i since 2012, beginning with two retailers (Kokua Kalihi Valley on Oahu and The Kohala Center on Hawai'i Island) to now more than 50 participating food retailers statewide in 2022. While increasing food access for thousands of low-income households statewide, the positive impact of this program on Hawai'i's food system and economy has been [documented consistently and successfully](#) by The Food Basket and food system advocates:

- In FY2021, DA BUX supported 470 local farm producers and 8 distributors across the state, providing unprecedented opportunity to feed local residents and increase production towards a self-sufficient local food supply for Hawai'i.¹
- Each dollar reimbursed to participating DA BUX food retailers generates \$2.10 in Hawai'i's economy.¹
- In FY2022, local produce sales to SNAP shoppers at participating farm direct retailers increased an average of 531% from 2019 (increases ranged from 84% -1505%).¹

As someone who has personally been affected by the ineffectiveness of our current SNAP system, I urge all members of the committee to put yourselves in the shoes of someone who cannot afford to feed themselves or their family at the end of the day. The DA BUX program allows families to feed themselves with local, nutritious food that simultaneously creates a healthier community and economy in Hawai'i'. It is, in its most literal sense, a win win.

DA BUX Double Up Food Bucks program has only been able to expand to reach more SNAP households thanks primarily to the tireless fundraising efforts and dedication of The Food Basket and Hawai'i's nonprofit and philanthropic communities, but we cannot rely on these revenue streams forever. The legislature has the opportunity to provide meaningful funding to the Hawai'i Healthy Food Incentive Program which would then allow the state to leverage a federal grant match that would contribute \$12.6M in Hawai'i's local economy annually through DA BUX. Please invest in Hawai'i's food system and community through passing H.B. 1248.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ [double up food bucks - 2020-2021 outcomes report](#)

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:14:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hauoli Kahaleuahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1248 because DA BUX provides a dollar-for-dollar match on fresh, locally-grown produce for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants. This program is a “triple win” for Hawai‘i: making healthy food more accessible for families in need, supporting agriculture and farmers, and keeping money within the local economy. Continued funding is needed to support this important program.

Mahalo.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai‘i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Support for H.B. 1248 – Relating to SNAP Incentives
House Committee on Agriculture
Monday, February 13, 2023 at 2:20PM

Dear Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **H.B. 1248**, which would provide matching funds to appropriate funds to the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (DOA) for the continued administration of the Hawai‘i healthy food incentive program and beneficiaries who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

In 2022, nearly 170,000 Hawai‘i residents drew down over \$900 million in federal SNAP funds to purchase food. While SNAP is an important program for ensuring the food security of low-income Hawai‘i households, the benefit is often still not enough to afford fresh fruits and vegetables. This results in most of these economic stimulus funds leaving the islands—right into the pockets of major mainland food companies, rather than getting channeled into our local agriculture industry.

SNAP incentives provide an additional subsidy for SNAP users when they purchase fruits and vegetables. The federal program that funds this requires a one-to-one match, meaning that every dollar the state invests will be matched by federal funding. Furthermore, the USDA estimates that every dollar in SNAP generates an additional \$0.79 in economic activity.¹ Therefore, a \$3 million investment by the state would not only be doubled with matching federal funds, but it would ultimately result in \$9.9M million in economic impact, after factoring in this multiplier effect. Passing this bill would be an impact investment for the State, channeling much-needed capital into local businesses and farms.

Hawai‘i’s existing SNAP incentive program, known as DA BUX, has already been enormously successful and popular among SNAP users, retailers, and farmers alike. According to the program’s website, DA BUX has directly supported 470 farm producers, eight distributors, and increased local produce sales by 531% at farm-direct retailers.

SNAP incentives are a win for everyone—families, farmers and local businesses. There is no downside. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

¹ Hanson, Kenneth. (2010) *The Food Assistance National Input-Output Multiplier (FANIOM) Model and Stimulus Effects of SNAP*. United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Report Number 103. Available online at <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=44749>.

HB-1248

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 4:18:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ming Wei Koh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1248.

DABUX is a needed program to support both local farmers and to feed our community.

Koh Ming Wei PhD

12-7106 Puna Kai St.

Pahoa HI 96778.