

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
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023
ROOM 325
9:30 A.M.

SENATE BILL NO. 420, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 420, SD2. There is a companion measure, House Bill 308. This measure requires the Department of Agriculture (Department) to establish a 25-member "Sustainable Food Systems Working Group" (Working Group) that is responsible for creating an "Interagency Food Systems Plan" linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for a more sustainable, resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community. The Plan is to focus on the following issues:

- (1) Food as a human right and healthy food for all;
- (2) Social equity and food justice;
- (3) Food system resilience;
- (4) Agriculture and food system sustainability;
- (5) Food at the center of a circular economy;
- (6) Sustainable education, workforce development, and fair labor; and
- (7) Good food governance.

The Department is to provide necessary staff support. There are two appropriations to the Department in support of the Working Group and its efforts, and the hiring of an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions. The Plan is to



be submitted to the 2025 Legislature. The Department offers a comment and a recommendation.

The Department has been directed by the legislative and executive branches to focus on increasing local food self-sufficiency and we will expect the outcome required in this measure to comport with this goal. Perhaps the 7 issues that are the focus of the proposed 25-member Sustainable Food Systems Working Group could be best approached first by a smaller group who can bring unambiguous definition to the issues, outline Plan deliverables, and make coherent and tangible recommendations to the Working Group. Additionally, while the measure proposes the creation of additional specialist positions to the Department, the Department currently lacks adequate staffing to host and support a working group of this size and importance at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



SB420 SD2
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

March 17, 2023

9:30 AM

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers its **STRONG SUPPORT** for SB420 SD2, which would establish the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to develop a plan for a more sustainable and resilient local food economy. **OHA appreciates the Legislature’s amendment to this measure, which would ensure that Native Hawaiian interests will be represented in Hawai‘i’s sustainable food systems.**

He ali‘i ka ‘āina; he kauwā ke kanaka. OHA wishes to express its strong support for this measure to establish a robust network of partners “to create a vibrant and resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community.” As the principal public agency in the State responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians,¹ OHA represents a vast community of hānai ‘ai (food producer-practitioners), a great many of whom are kahu holoholona (ranchers), mahi‘ai (farmers), lawai‘a (fishers), kanaka hahai holoholona (hunters), and hānai ‘ai (food producer-practitioners). Our traditional Native Hawaiian cultural practices are deeply rooted in familial bonds with the natural world and the cultivation of these connections over the span of millennia now serve as exemplary models for any sustainable Hawai‘i-based food system.

Unfortunately, the fetid flow of historical injustice over the past 130 years has systemically severed Native Hawaiians from their ‘āina (the natural world), their traditions, and their cultures. Accordingly, Native Hawaiians now endure some of the worst socio-economic conditions among all peoples in this State, with ongoing inequities and disparities that continue to undermine Native Hawaiian existence. One of the most challenging social determinants of health for Native Hawaiians is economic well-being,² where Native Hawaiians have the highest rate of poverty and unemployment among Hawai‘i’s major ethnic groups, and “lower average annual earnings than statewide averages for both men and women.”³ Once again, at the highest rate among the State’s major ethnic groups, 63% of Native Hawaiians are finding it difficult to survive,⁴ with a 60% majority of Native Hawaiians unable to make ends meet.⁵

¹ Id.

² Dept. of Native Hawaiian Health, John A, Burns School of Medicine, *Assessment and Priorities for the Health and Well-Being in Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders*, 2020, p. 12

³ Id.

⁴ Aloha United Way, *Alice in Hawai ‘i: 2022 Facts and Figures*, Nov. 2022, p.9.

⁵ Id. at 6.



SB420 SD2
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

The late Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli once observed, “the health of the land is the health of the people.” Native Hawaiians, i ka wā kahiko (in the time long before), intimately understood the need to develop systems and practices – like mālama ‘āina – that would ensure the survival of the people into perpetuity. It has become preeminently clear, over the long struggle to address the inequities and disparities associated with the disturbing status of Native Hawaiian health, that the greatest hope for recovery is through the dismantling of these tangled systems that have kept Native Hawaiians landless and impoverished.

Widespread Native Hawaiian participation in a far-reaching Hawai‘i-based sustainable food system economy would be integral to achieving vast improvements in Native Hawaiian health and well-being by reconnecting Native Hawaiians with ‘āina and their traditional cultures, while simultaneously elevating Native Hawaiian socio-economic conditions through potentially limitless economic development opportunities. Na ke kanaka mahi‘ai ka imu ō nui (the well-filled imu belongs to the person who tills the soil).

Since its establishment in 1978, OHA has made substantial contributions toward the preservation and protection of agricultural lands and the perpetuation of hānai ‘ai cultures and practices. Through meaningful participation in this Working Group, OHA will continue to meet its strategic goals to address health outcomes and economic stability for the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians.

Finally, OHA appreciates and supports this provision for its insight into the value of Native Hawaiian representation and the potential contribution of Native Hawaiian knowledge to advance the purpose and function of this working group. **OHA is certain that its contribution to this Working Group would be unique, as OHA is best-positioned to represent the interests and aspirations of the Native Hawaiian people as the only entity with the constitutional and statutory mandate to serve the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians.**

OHA appreciates the opportunity to support this measure and asks the Legislature to **PASS SB420 SD2**. Mahalo nui loa.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems
Friday, March 17, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

By

Anna Wieczorek, Interim Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 420 SD2 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 420 SD2 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). The purpose of this working group is to develop an interagency food systems plan linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for a more sustainable, resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of our community.

A sustainable food system is defined as one that provides sufficient food to meet current food needs while maintaining healthy ecosystems that support continuous food production to generations to come. To ensure equitable access to nutritional food that is produced with minimal impact on the environment, Hawai'i needs to encourage the development of sustainable food systems. Our food systems need to serve our population's health, the environmental health of our land, and the economic health of our food and agricultural sector. Hawai'i needs to be proactive in making locally produced food widely available to our population. Similar to other parts of the world, Hawai'i is especially vulnerable to natural and human disasters that may have a negative impact on our own food security. Hence, the establishment of a working group focused on making our local food production more sustainable is one we certainly support.

In summary, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources supports SB 420 SD2 and defers to HDOA regarding the working group membership and the resources for the development of the interagency food systems plan. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the measure.



Ke'ena Kuleana Ho'okipa O Hawai'i
Hawai'i Convention Center
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kelepona tel 808 973 2255
kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253
kahua pa'a web hawaii-tourism-authority.org

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor

John De Fries
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Friday, March 17, 2023
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL NO. 420 SD2
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

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

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of SB420 SD2, establishing the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture to complete an interagency food systems plan.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority's Destination Management Action Plans, also known as DMAPs, were developed in collaboration with Hawai'i's communities. Contained within the six plans are hundreds of actions and sub-actions identified by kama'āina, many of which speak to the importance of supporting local agriculture, shopping and dining with local businesses, and building capacity for agritourism.

The further development of sustainable food systems in Hawai'i addresses those DMAP actions, advances the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the principles of the 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures Declaration (to which HTA has committed), and moves us closer to a model of regenerative tourism. It also offers more avenues to capture visitor spending – over \$19 billion in 2022 – and keep those dollars circulating in Hawai'i.

HTA stands ready to participate in the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group, and appreciates the intent of SB420 SD2 to advance sustainable food systems in Hawai'i. We also defer to the Department of Agriculture on the implementation of this measure. Mahalo.



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 17, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SB 420, SD2
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:30 AM

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 SB 420, SD2, which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture, requires the working group to submit an interagency food systems plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the Legislature, and appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions within the Department of Agriculture.

The impacts of the COVID pandemic have highlighted the need to strengthen Hawai'i's food system to ensure greater resilience, food security, human health, and economic diversity and stability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and thank you for your continued support of Hawai'i's agricultural community.



Food+ Policy Internship 2023

food@purplemaia.org

March 15, 2023

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

Subject: **SB420**, Relating to sustainable food systems

Aloha,

Food+ Policy supports SB420. The food system touches upon many different issues, including environmental, social, and economic issues. By creating a sustainable food system working group, the state will be better able to address multiple issues that arise from such a complex system.

As we have seen following the COVID-19 pandemic, the current food system is weak, and without a plan could put many lives at risk. Funding a sustainable food system working group will allow systematic planning that can be economically beneficial to a variety of actors within Hawai'i's food system, as well as good for our environment and the health of our communities

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.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

SB420 SD2

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Friday, March 17, 2023, 9:30 AM
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

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

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB420 SD2** which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the department of agriculture.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports efforts to coordinate a comprehensive sustainable food plan for Hawaii. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council is willing and able to contribute to this important working group. Cattle is consistently among Hawaii's top agricultural commodities, and it is important to have a representative present who is knowledgeable of the complex workings of the industry. In addition to being a top commodity, Hawaii's paniolo are stewards of the land and there are huge opportunities to utilize climate smart and circular economy practices in ranching.

Hawaii's cattlemen are well-equipped to provide a high-quality protein for farm to state procurement programs and the community as a whole. Raising cattle responsibly provides an important food source while ranchers steward the land. Land stewardship that cattle producers provide like rotational grazing and invasive species removal are beneficial practices for the land, and a strong cattle industry is important for food security in the state.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





67-332 Kaiea Pl.
Waialua, HI 96791-9501
808-383-4481
www.NSEVP.org

March 15, 2023

House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Friday March 17, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

SUBJECT: Comments on SB420 SD2– RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

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

On behalf of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (North Shore EVP), I would like to extend our full support of SB420 SD2, which will establish within the Department of Agriculture the sustainable food systems working group.

Since 2016, North Shore EVP has been working to prepare farmers to fully and equitably participate in Hawaii's commercial and institutional markets by providing food safety training and certification through our USDA GroupGAP program. Through our work along the food supply chain, we have come to realize that the state has not yet conducted a comprehensive food chain analysis that identifies the various companies, organizations and institutions that drive the agricultural economy of the state.

We welcome the formation of a sustainable food systems working group as a positive first step that may help coordinate state-wide efforts in building a successful and prosperous agricultural sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kevin M Kelly, President



March 15, 2023

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

DATE: Friday, March 17, 2023
TIME: 9:30 a.m

Regarding: SB 420 SD2, RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Strong support.

HFACT is a not-for-profit, IRS 501c(5) organization, that advocates for small boat commercial, non-commercial, and recreational fishermen throughout Hawaii. HFACT board members sit on a number of federal fisheries management and endangered species advisory committees as well as state marine and coastal zone advisory committees; and, HFACT is thoroughly familiar with and participates in ocean and marine resource management in Hawaii and the central Pacific.

HFACT strongly supports SB420, SD2. In 2012, the state published a report entitled “INCREASED FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY, A STATE STRATEGIC/FUNCTIONAL PLAN”. While HFACT applauds the plan, the 2012 plan did not address fish and seafood. Nowhere in the plan was there recognition of fish and seafood as part of food security and food self-sufficiency. The creation of the sustainable food systems working group to lead and guide the development an interagency food systems plan is clearly needed to look at Hawaii’s entire food systems in a holistic way.

HFACT asks that the committees support SB420, SD2 so that a working group can work toward a sustainable, resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community.

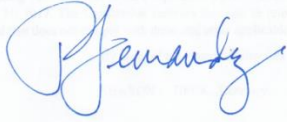
Also identified in the 2012 report is that “a critical factor towards successful implementation will be building partnerships with the increasing number of organizations involved in food self sufficiency/food security.” HFACT stands ready to assist the state in this regard.

HFACT is willing and able to assure attendance to all meetings of the working group, as the organization sees this effort as an overarching priority for the organization and the fishing community food producers.

***Hawai'i Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, Inc.
75-796 Hiona Street, Holualoa HI 96725***

HFACT thanks the chair, vice-chair, and committee members for this opportunity to provide comment and to assist in providing food to the people of Hawaii and to assist in the conservation of Hawaii's natural resources.

Sincerely and Aloha,



Phil Fernandez
President



House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB420 SD2

Friday, March 17, 2023 9:30am Conference Room 325

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

We support SB420 SD2 which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture.

This working group requires the working group to submit an interagency food systems plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the Legislature. Appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions within the Department of Agriculture.

Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support SB420 SD2 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

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



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State President

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Maui

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Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

Brynn Foster
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
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 supports and seeks to amend SB420.**

HFUU views the sustainable food systems working group as having the potential to transform the way our state produces and distributes food. With a plan, recommendations and proposed legislation in place, permanent change is achievable.

However, in order for this plan to be robust, more public participation is needed. Dozens of states have or are in the process of developing a statewide food plan or charter. In each, public participation has been a critical aspect to ensure that plans are addressing lived experience not just industry issues.

At current, the working group would be tasked with developing a plan absent of broad public input, to address this we ask for the followings amendments:

In Section 2 (b) add county food access coordinators to the working group. HDOH funds part of a 'Food Access Coordinator' position in each county. These roles as tasked, in part, with the development of food access plans for each county.

- Section 2 (b) (19) The four (4) county Food Access Coordinators

In Section 2, add a new subsection to specify that:

- (e) The interagency food systems plan shall incorporate county level food access plans

Finally, we hope to see a provision requiring the integration of planning mechanisms to ensure that all relevant stakeholders have the opportunity to participate in the planning process through public hearings, community meetings, and other mechanisms designed to promote inclusive engagement.

This aligns with not just standard practice in other states but also the professional best practice articulated by the American Planning Association.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



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Executive Officers

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Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Vice Chair*

Maile Miyashiro, C&S Wholesale, *Secretary/Treas.*

Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *President and Executive Director*

John Schilf, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor*

Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*

Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, Odom, *Advisor*

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

TO: Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 17, 2023

TIME: 9:30am

PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: SB420 Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Position: Support

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

HFIA is in support of this measure. Creating more sustainable, resilient local food economy is a goal we all share. HFIA has important industry knowledge and expertise to contribute to this group and we are glad to participate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



March 16, 2023

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Friday, March 17, 2023
9:30 am
Via Videoconference

RE: **SB420 SD2** Relating to Sustainable Food Systems (**Support**)

Dear Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa & Members of the Committee,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC) testifies in strong support of SB420 SD2, which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture, requires the working group to submit an interagency food systems plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the Legislature, and appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions within the Department of Agriculture.

As business owners who believe we can strengthen our economy without hurting workers, consumers, or the environment, we urge this committee to pass SB420 SD2 because it will move us toward greater food security and strengthen our circular economy. It will increase "green" job opportunities and allow us to focus on land stewardship and environmental protection, and better prepare us for climate change resiliency.

With more and more families facing food insecurity, and farmers struggling to access affordable water and land, the time is now to do a better job planning for a stronger local food system.



March 16, 2023

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

RE: Testimony in support of SB420, Relating to Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

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

On behalf of Hawai'i Foodbank, **I support SB 420**, which would establish a sustainable food systems working group within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Food security is a critical issue in Hawai'i, where one in six residents lacks comprehensive access to healthy, nutritious food. The pandemic amplified the need for Hawai'i to strengthen our local food systems, which would in turn support greater resilience, food security, environmental and human health, economic diversity, and stability. A statewide strategy developed in collaboration with partners across the food system is a necessary step to developing a more sustainable and resilient food system in Hawai'i and we welcome the opportunity to serve on the working group contemplated in this bill.

The Hawai'i Foodbank is the largest hunger relief organization in the state. We gather donated, rescued, and purchased food and distribute it to those in need through our network of more than 200 agency partners. We welcome the opportunity to serve on the working group contemplated in this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

With aloha,

Amy Miller Marvin
President and CEO, Hawaii Foodbank



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

March 17, 2023

9:30 AM

Conference Room 325

In SUPPORT of SB420 SD2

Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

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

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS SB420 SDw**, which encourages a more resilient and equitable food system in Hawai'i by establishing and appropriating funds for a sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture.

Access to nutritional food is a human right, and the Sierra Club of Hawai'i supports efforts to keep food sustainability strong and thriving while increasing equitable access to food. As over 80% of Hawai'i's food is imported, Hawai'i's food security and resilience are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change along with major global events that may disrupt the supply chain.

Climate change will affect both food security and the livelihoods of those engaged in production systems and their value chains. This working group is an opportunity for agencies to consider the needs and future of Hawai'i's local communities, by engaging in solutions that address not only food injustices and insecurity, but also create opportunities for green jobs, agriculture that reduces environmental degradation, and the integration of food into a circular and self-sufficient economic system.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i does note that our fisheries, both pelagic and nearshore, can and should constitute a critical part of our islands' future food security, and that the careful management and perpetuation of our particularly sensitive nearshore fisheries can and should be informed by subsistence communities with intimate, place-based knowledge and a daily connection with these limited but highly valuable resources. Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i does respectfully recommend the addition of two additional representatives on the sustainable food systems working group, by inserting the following language after page 6, line 2, to read as follows

“(21) A representative with demonstrated experience or expertise in traditional Native Hawaiian

fisheries management, to be selected by the
administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
and

(22) A representative of the E Alu Pū network, to be
selected by the President of Kua'āina Ulu
'Auamo."

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS WITH AMENDMENTS** SB420 SD2. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important measure.

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 11:41:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 3:44:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello,

Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity. Our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support SB420 SD2 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 3:48:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 4:17:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Too many families in Hawai‘i are facing food insecurity. Our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please **support** SB420 SD2 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai‘i.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 4:53:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB660 SD2 to establish a healthy soils program. Soil is a vital and living ecosystem that provides critical functions supporting ecological, economical, and social well-being in Hawai‘i. Healthy soils are the foundation of sustainable food production, climate readiness, and diverse ecosystems.

In recent decades, we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity, and the capacity for soil to capture carbon. Regenerative farming practices capture carbon to enrich soil health. This mitigates agricultural climate impacts while increasing soil productivity for farming.

Much of Hawaii’s soils are severely depleted from over a century of industrial agricultural practices. If we are to meet Hawaii’s food security goals, assessing and restoring soil health is critical to increasing local food production.

SB660 SD2 is a win-win for our farmers and our local environment. Please support this important measure.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 6:38:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support SB420 SD2 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Kathy Shimata

Honolulu 96822

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 7:29:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Too many families in Hawai‘i are facing food insecurity. Our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support SB420 SD2 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai‘i.

Thank you for your consideration,

Shay Chan Hodges

Maui, Hawaii

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 7:33:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Too many families in Hawai‘i are facing food insecurity. Our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support SB420 SD2 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai‘i.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ezgi Green, Kaimanu/Waiialua

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 7:54:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity. Our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support SB420 SD2 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mary Lu Kelley

Lawai. Kauai, HI

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 10:19:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support efforts to develop a sustainable food system 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 Hawai‘i 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 pass SB420 SD1.

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 6:11:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

In support of SD2. Thank you.

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 7:00:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support SB420 SD2 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 7:46:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 8:09:17 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn J Ishii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity. Our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support SB420 SD2 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lynn Ishii, Wahiawā

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 8:53:53 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Bernstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates and Members of AGR:

I'm writing on behalf of the Climate Future Forum in support of SB420 SD2 because it will help both with carbon sequestration and our food systems. Food systems are a priority concern because food production is the largest cause of global environmental change (Lancet 2019). Food systems are resource intensive -- energy, water, and land use -- and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, impaired water quality, depleted soil health and alterations of ecosystem functions, wildlife habitats, and the health of communities. Farming methods and land-use change contributes around one-fifth to one-quarter of total greenhouse gas emissions generated by all human activities (IPCC 2019). Therefore improving existing agricultural systems will lead to lower greenhouse gas emissions, better water quality, healthier soils, and ultimately a better food supply.

The Climate Future Forum is supporting the legislative agenda that about 80 students developed with eight Hawai'i state legislators on December 3rd, 2022. (website: www.climatefuturehawaii.org)

Respectfully,

Paul Bernstein

Co-Founder of the Climate Future Forum

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 9:21:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Robison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I live in Hilo. Please support sustainable local agriculture so we can stop depending on so much imported food.

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 1:34:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Planning for sustainability is necessary for islands

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 12:29:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity. Our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support SB420 SD2 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lauren Nelson

Makawao, Hawai'i

SB-420-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 6:09:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shyla Moon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support