

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**FEBRUARY 8, 2023
1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224
AND
VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 662
RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
HONALO MARSHALLING YARD**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 662. This bill appropriates funds for a capital improvement project (CIP) for the Honalo Marshalling Yard. The Department of Agriculture (DOA) supports this measure provided it does not impact the priorities set in the Governor's executive biennium budget.

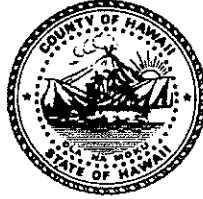
The Honalo Marshalling Yard is leased by the Kona Producers Cooperative and Hawai'i Ulu Cooperative (Coop) from the DOA. The facility processes breadfruit (ulu) and secondary crops such as sweet potato. The CIP will allow the construction of improvements and enable the Coop to increase its production capacity. This will assist the State in reaching its self-sufficiency goals.

The DOA respectfully recommends the inclusion of a "Construction" cost element to SECTION 2, Item 1.A. The construction cost element is necessary to support the construction of the facility improvements and increase the production capacity of the facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Douglass S. Adams
Director

Robert Agres, Jr.
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

25 Aupuni Street, Room 1301 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4252
(808) 961-8366 • Fax (808) 935-1205
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February 7, 2023

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 662, relating to the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for the Honalo Marshaling Yard. The Honalo Marshaling Yard is one of four agricultural processing and marshaling facilities managed by Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) on Hawai'i Island. The Honalo Marshaling Yard, leased from HDOA by the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative (HUC), is an example of vital food infrastructure that requires capital improvements to continue supporting local farms and strengthening our the islands' food system resilience. The HUC utilizes the Honalo Marshaling Yard as the primary aggregation, processing, storage and distribution hub for their 145 members across four islands. The facility processes over 500,000 pounds of indigenous, Hawaii-grown staple crops per year and has become the only dedicated agricultural manufacturing facility in the state committed to local staple crops. To date, they have aggregated, processed and distributed over 1.3 million pounds of locally-produced staple crops to Hawai'i communities. The HUC is a wonderful example of farmers collaborating to add value to their crops and reach larger markets, like the Department of Education, that would be otherwise unattainable for individual producers.

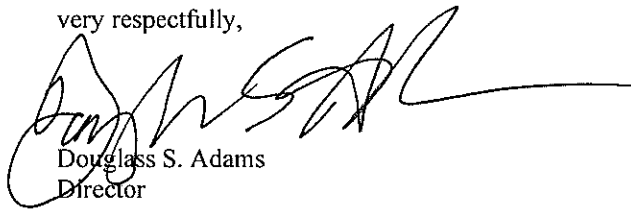
We thank the legislature for its 2019 appropriation of \$1.2 million via both CIP and GIA funds for infrastructure improvements at the Honalo facility to upgrade the base infrastructure (e.g., domestic wastewater and electricity) in order to bring the facility up to Hawai'i County Code. Due to COVID labor shortages and inflation, final state-approved bids were three times (3x) the estimates of both the Co-op and the State's own engineers. As a result, the initial state funds were used for the preliminary engineering report (PER), all project planning and permitting, and Phase 1 upgrades of domestic wastewater (septic) and electrical improvements needed for compliance.

Requested CIP funds under SB 662 will fill the remaining shortfall of \$1,500,000 to complete the project, which includes expansion of the commercial kitchen, construction of a temperature-controlled packing room, and upgrades to the agricultural washing and packing system. Completing the project through SB 662 will result in a 5x increase in operational capacity from 350,000 pounds to 2 million pounds of local staple crops per year, enabling the benefits of this critical infrastructure to be fully realized among state producers and consumers.

My team and I have worked with HDOA and the HUC over the past several years to collaborate around innovation and sustainable development of Hawai'i's agriculture and food sector. Both entities served as key members of the Hawai'i County's EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge Agricultural Coalition. The HDOA's Phase 2 EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge application was designed to complete the upgrades at the Hanalo Facility due to the funding shortfall expressed above, but unfortunately, it did not receive a Phase 2 award.

I strongly encourage the Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment to support SB 662. This project is a prime example of public-private collaboration that directly impacts smallholder farmers growing indigenous staples, a demographic group that is historically underserved. Thank you for the opportunity to support this important Bill and please contact me or my Food Systems Specialist, Sarah Freeman (808-961-8582), with any questions or concerns.

very respectfully,



Douglass S. Adams
Director



Farmer owned, 'āina grown

Testimony in Support of SB 662 Relating to CIP for Honalo Marshalling Yard
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
February 8, 2022

Testimony of Kyle Datta
President
Board of Directors
Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richard and members of the Committee,

I am the President of the Hawai'i Ulu Producers Cooperative, one of the largest food hubs in the state. We supply local starches, Ulu, Kalo, Ulu to the public and private schools, food banks, local restaurants, hotels and supermarkets.

I am testifying in strong support of SB 662 Relating to Capital Improvement Projects for the Benefit of the Honalo Marshalling Yard. Currently serving on the President of the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative's, I write on behalf of our 140 farmer-members on Hawai'i Island, Maui, O'ahu and Molokai to share the importance of Honalo Marshaling Yard improvements included in SB 662 . The majority of our members and Hawai'i farmers at large are small scale and highly diversified. Food hubs allow small farmers the time they need on the 'āina by providing the infrastructure of aggregation, processing, marketing and distribution, so food producers can focus on growing their production. Food hubs also return a greater portion of each dollar of value to the farmer – far more than conventional distributors of imported food do.

The Honalo Marshaling Yard, owned by the State of Hawai'i and leased to the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative, is an example of vital food infrastructure that requires capital improvements to support local farms and strengthen the islands' food system resilience. The Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative is an existing food hub for producers of indigenous and local starches including 'ulu, kalo, 'uala, and pala'ai. To date, we have aggregated, processed and distributed nearly 1 million pounds of locally produced staple crops to Hawai'i communities.

The planned infrastructure upgrade to the stated-owned Hanalo Marshalling Yard food hub facility will increase the aggregation, processing and storage manufacturing capacity from



Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

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

350,00 lbs. to 2 million lbs. per year! The Ulu coop members have already planted enough trees to supply over 1 million lbs. per year, that will be maturing within the next five years.

Thanks to the legislature's 2019 appropriation of \$1.25 million via both CIP and GIA funds for infrastructure improvements at the Honalo facility, our flagship operation located in Kailua Kona, we are currently working in partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to upgrade base infrastructure (e.g. wastewater, domestic water, electricity, etc.) in order to bring the facility up to Hawai'i County Code. Due to COVID labor shortages, final state approved bids were three times (3x) the estimates of both the Coop and the State's own engineers. The initial state funds were used for the preliminary engineering report (PER), all project planning and permitting, and phase 1 upgrades of domestic wastewater and electrical improvements needed for compliance.

The construction permitting process is already underway, and the existing budget will be adequate for compliance, but not the capacity upgrades, including expansion of commercial kitchen, temperature controlled packing room, and upgrades to the entire washing and packing system. The Hawaii Ulu Coop has gotten grants and used its own capital to increase the freezer capacity, add the flour mill, and perform other upgrades.

A shortfall of about \$1,500,000 is still needed to complete the project – which will result in a 9x increase in operational capacity from 350,000 pounds to 2 million pounds of local staple crops per year.

The CIP funds now requested through SB 662 will enable this critical infrastructure project to be completed and the benefits of the Honalo Marshalling Yard as a food hub to be fully realized among state producers and consumers.

We commend the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment for its forward-thinking approach to supporting local food and local farmers, and urge the members of Committee to support this critically important bill. We humbly mahalo the Legislature for its support of local food and local farmers for local people.

Sincerely,

Kyle Datta
President
Board of Directors





Farmer owned, 'āina grown

Testimony in Support of SB 662 Relating to CIP for Honalo Marshalling Yard
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
February 8, 2022

Testimony of Kyle Datta
President
Board of Directors
Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richard and members of the Committee,

I am the President of the Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative, one of the largest food hubs in the state. We have supplied local, minimally processed starches including 'ulu, kalo, and 'uala to both public and private schools, food banks, local restaurants, hotels and supermarkets.

I am testifying in strong support of SB 662 Relating to Capital Improvement Projects for the Benefit of the Honalo Marshalling Yard. Currently serving on the President of the Board of Directors of the Co-op, I write on behalf of our 140+ farmer-members on Hawai'i Island, Maui, O'ahu and Kaua'i to share the importance of the Honalo Marshaling Yard improvements included in SB 662 . The majority of our members, and of Hawai'i farmers at large, are small scale and highly diversified. Food hubs allow small farmers the time they need on the 'āina by providing shared infrastructure for aggregation, processing, marketing and distribution, so that food producers can focus on farming successfully and on scaling their production. Food hubs also return a greater portion of each dollar of value to the farmer – far more than conventional distributors of imported food do.

The Honalo Marshaling Yard, owned by the State of Hawai'i and leased to the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative, is an example of vital food infrastructure that requires capital improvements to continue supporting local farms and strengthening the islands' food system resilience. The Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative is an existing food hub for producers of indigenous and local starches including 'ulu, kalo, 'uala, and pala'ai. To date, we have aggregated, processed and distributed over 1.3 million pounds of locally produced staple crops to Hawai'i communities.

The planned infrastructure upgrades to the stated-owned Honalo Marshalling Yard food hub facility will increase the aggregation, processing and storage capacity from 350,00 lbs. to 2



Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

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million lbs. per year! The 'Ulu Co-op members have already planted enough trees to supply over 1 million lbs. per year, that will be maturing within the next five years.

Thanks to the legislature's 2019 appropriation of \$1.2 million via both CIP and GIA funds for infrastructure improvements at the Honalo facility, our flagship operation located in Kailua Kona, we are currently working in partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to upgrade base infrastructure (e.g. domestic wastewater and electricity) in order to bring the facility up to Hawai'i County Code. Due to COVID labor shortages and inflation, final state approved bids were three times (3x) the estimates of both the Co-op and the State's own engineers. The initial state funds were used for the preliminary engineering report (PER), all project planning and permitting, and Phase 1 upgrades of domestic wastewater (septic) and electrical improvements needed for compliance.

Requested CIP funds under SB 662 will fill the remaining shortfall of \$1,500,000 to complete the project, which includes expansion of the commercial kitchen, construction of a temperature-controlled packing room, and upgrades to the agricultural washing and packing system. To date, the Hawai'i 'Ulu Coop has gotten grants and used its own capital to increase the facility's capacity including by constructing the existing 400 sq ft commercial kitchen, installing a new chill storage system, and performing various other upgrades needed for the facility to function as a food hub. **Completing the project through SB 662 will result in a 9x increase in operational capacity from 350,000 pounds to 2 million pounds of local staple crops per year, enabling the benefits of this critical infrastructure to be fully realized among state producers and consumers.**

We commend the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment for its forward-thinking approach to supporting local food and local farmers, and urge the members of Committee to support this critically important bill. We humbly mahalo the Legislature for its support of local food and local farmers for local people.

Sincerely,

Kyle Datta
President
Board of Directors





Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 — 1:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 662, Relating to Capital Improvement Projects for the Benefit of the Honalo Marshalling Yard.

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

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

Ulupono supports SB 662, which appropriates funds for a capital improvement project for the Honalo Marshalling Yard.

According to the 2017 USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Census of Agriculture, of Hawai'i's 7,328 farms statewide, 66%, or 4,868 farms, are between 1 and 9 acres, and 78%, or 5,701 farms, produce less than \$25,000 in sales. Hawai'i's agricultural producer majority is small farmers. State supported food hubs may give Hawai'i's producers the opportunity to compete with local markets while also remaining financially viable. The Honalo Marshalling Yard, leased to the Hawai'i Ulu Cooperative, provides critical agricultural infrastructure for local product aggregation, processing, and storage. Funding to support this project will directly support many of Hawai'i's small producers and further our state's local food production goals.

We hope that this support for local agriculture can be considered as we look to continue our state's economic recovery and diversification.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:48:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Barreca	Testifying for Farm Link Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 662 because most Hawaii farmers are small-scale and highly diversified, and food hub facilities are needed to provide critical shared infrastructure of aggregation, processing, marketing, and distribution. SB 662 would give capital improvement funds to increase the capacity of the Honalo Marshaling Yard food hub facility in Kailua Kona, Hawaii Island, by over 5x -- to handle 2 million pounds of Hawaii-grown staple crops per year. The Honalo facility is owned by the state and managed by the Department of Agriculture, and has not been materially improved in over 30 years. Our farmers and communities need vibrant, modern, and compliant food hub facilities to support increased food security, economic development, health, and resilience across Hawaii.

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:25:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TRoy Keolanui	Testifying for OK FARMS llc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill allows for the build out at Honalo Marshelliing yard and improves the ability of small farmers to be linked to a larger network of food distribution. Talking about food sustainability is great but getting it done takes funding of the network that will ultimately get the job done by enabling farmers. Support of this bill is supporting agriculture in Hawaii at the most basic grassroots level.

mahalo, Troy Keolanui OK Farms Hawaii



Island Harvest Inc.
P.O. Box 61
Kapaau, HI 96755

February 7, 2023

RE: Senate Bill No. 662

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I am writing to testify in strong support of Senate Bill No. 662 – *Related to Capital Improvement Projects for the Benefit of the Honalo Marshaling Yard.*

Our company, Island Harvest Inc., grows certified organic macadamia nuts on over 500 acres in North Kohala on the Big Island of Hawaii, and in recent years have established breadfruit orchards in order to diversify our operation. We average over \$1.5 million dollars in revenue from agricultural sales and hope to increase this number through breadfruit production to the ultimate economic benefit to our North Kohala and Big Island community.

As a farmer-member of the Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative (HUPC), this bill will have a direct impact on the success and viability of our agricultural business and that of other local farms like ours. HUPC provides an important service to Hawai'i farmers by aggregating, processing and marketing 'ulu and associated co-crops grown in diversified farming systems. The facility is now in need of public investment to enable increased production and the scaling of local food industries.

Investing in the Honalō facility today is a worthwhile and vital investment in the capacity of Hawai'i's agricultural sector and in the ability of our islands to feed ourselves nutritious food.

I strongly support Senate Bill No. 662 and urge you to fund this measure. Please contact me if you have any questions about my firm support and commitment to this project.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Trump". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" and the last name "Trump" clearly legible.

Andrew Trump
Vice President
Island Harvest Inc.
andrew@islandharvesthawaii.com



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Madeline Ross
Kohala, Hawai'i

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Chantal Chung
Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
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 Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment 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 SB662.**

As farmers and ranchers, the members of the Hawaii Farmers Union United appreciate the importance of investing in infrastructure improvements that provide long-term economic and environmental benefits to Hawaii's agriculture industry. The Honalo Marshaling Yard is a key component of an efficient and integrated statewide system of aggregation, processing, marketing and distribution.

SB662's capital improvement funds would significantly increase the capacity of the Honalo Marshaling Yard food hub facility in Kailua Kona. Our farmers and communities need vibrant, modern and compliant food hub facilities to support increased food security, economic development, health and resilience across Hawaii. The project will provide a wide range of benefits for agricultural producers, including increased access to aggregation, processing, and thus new markets.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



Food+ Policy Internship 2023

food@purplemaia.org

February 7, 2023

To: Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Subject: **SB662**, RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE HONALO MARSHALLING YARD.

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Kahealani Acosta, and I advocate **IN SUPPORT of SB662**.

Food hubs in Hawai'i have shown great resilience through formidable challenges, such as the coronavirus pandemic, boosting food security for our Hawai'i community. Because most Hawai'i farmers are small-scale and highly-diversified, food hub facilities are needed to provide critical infrastructure of aggregation, processing, marketing, and distribution -- all of which are bottlenecks for small farmers in Hawai'i's agricultural economy.

SB 662 would provide capital improvement funds to increase the capacity of the Honalo Marshaling Yard food hub facility in Kailua Kona, Hawaii Island, by over 5x -- to handle 2 million pounds of Hawaii-grown staple crops per year. The Honalo facility is owned by the state and managed by the Department of Agriculture, and has not been materially improved in over 30 years. Our farmers and communities need vibrant, modern and compliant food hub facilities to support increased food security, economic development, health and resilience across Hawaii.

As a farmer and advocate for *'ai pono* and improving Hawai'i's local food systems, I urge the Senate committee on Agriculture and Environment to **SUPPORT SB662**.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Kahealani Acosta & 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.

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 11:25:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elias Ednie	Testifying for Hawaii Ulu Co-op	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As one of the most senior employees of Hawaii Ulu Co-op I will testify that capital improvement projects will help realize a host of benefits for staff, farmer-members, neighbors & the community. Higher revenue from increased production capacity would benefit employee retention & increase value of labor expenditures. Well trained stable production crew with facility upgrades & increased throughput will be necessary to accommodate crop yields & minimize waste resulting from bottlenecks as thousands of recently distributed breadfruit trees come into production in the near term future.

Invasive species control & beneficial agroecology promotion on site will serve the community by demonstrative education opportunities to continue to work towards more financially & environmentally sustainable food production models.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eli Ednie

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 11:36:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Morgan Tooch	Testifying for Hawaii Ulu Coop	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 662 because most Hawaii farmers are small-scale and highly diversified, and food hub facilities are needed to provide critical shared infrastructure of aggregation, processing, marketing and distribution. SB 662 would provide capital improvement funds to increase the capacity of the Honalo Marshaling Yard food hub facility in Kailua Kona, Hawaii Island, by over 5x -- to handle 2 million pounds of Hawaii-grown staple crops per year. The Honalo facility is owned by the state and managed by the Department of Agriculture, and has not been materially improved in over 30 years. Our farmers and communities need vibrant, modern and compliant food hub facilities to support increased food security, economic development, health and resilience across Hawaii.

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 12:09:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Making Capital Improvements to the Honalo Marshalling Yard and/or the Ulu Cooperative is an investment directly into building, expanding, and improving Hawaii's community food system. Expanding infrastructure will enable this processing facility to increase the amount of food going both into our markets and into the DOE School Food Lunch Program. Purchasing local just makes good economic sense all around. Mahalo for your consideration. Aloha, Nancy Redfeather Director Ka Ohana O Na Pua - Honalo, Hawaii



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Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 8, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 662
RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
HONALŌ MARSHALLING YARD

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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 662, which appropriates funds for a capital improvement project for the Honalō Marshalling Yard to assist the Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative (HUPC) with increasing production and the scaling of 'ulu and other crops.

Cooperatives are needed to help achieve the State's ambitious goals for expanded local food production and agricultural development because Hawai'i's farming community is dominated by small-scale operators (about ninety-five percent of farmers generate less than \$250,000 per year) who must work together to realize economies of scale and meet local food.

The HUPC provides an important service to Hawai'i farmers by aggregating, processing, and marketing 'ulu and associated co-crops grown in diversified farming systems. The Honalō Marshaling Yard facility is owned by the State of Hawai'i and was developed over 25 years ago to support these very activities. The facility is now in gross need of public investment to enable increased production and the scaling of local food industries that have demonstrated the potential for both economic development and long-term food security and sustainability.

By 2025, HUPC anticipates handling nearly 2 million pounds per year of 'ulu and associated co-crops based on existing members' production figures, for an overall farm gate value of over \$6.5 million paid out directly to local farmers. Investing in the Honalō facility today is a worthwhile and vital investment in the capacity of Hawai'i's agricultural sector and in the ability of our islands to not only feed ourselves nutritious food but to export high-value dense crops and processed agricultural products for revenue growth and job creation.

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

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 12:41:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gretchen Watson-Kabei	Testifying for Watson-Kabei Coffee Estate	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support SB662. As a small coffee farm in Holualoa, my husband and I understand the need and importance of farming locally - with the ever rising cost of mainland food products such as fruits, vegetables, EGGS! and similar products, all due to the rise in shipping costs, production costs, labor costs, etc. etc. -- supporting our local farmers is CRITICAL to Hawaii's own sustainability to provide affordable and FRESH produce to all families, here, locally. Supporting the Honalo Marshalling Yard by providing the necessary funding for improvements / equipment will greatly benefit our local small farmers dedicated to growing the produce and crops necessary to feed our community.

Hawai'i Food Hub Hui

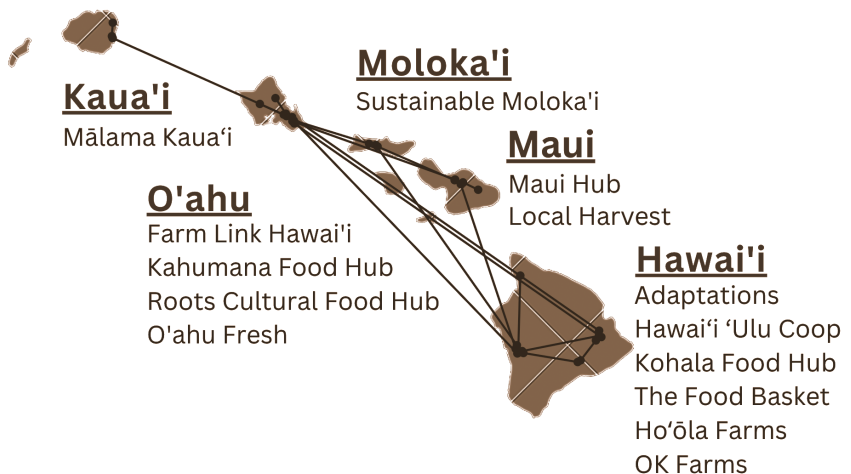
2/7/2023

Dear Senator Gabbard and members of the AEN committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB662.

Hawai'i Food Hub Hui (HFHH) strongly supports SB662. Most Hawaii farmers are small-scale and highly diversified, and food hub facilities are needed to provide critical shared infrastructure of aggregation, processing, marketing and distribution. SB 662 would provide capital improvement funds to increase the capacity of the Honalo Marshaling Yard food hub facility in Kailua Kona, Hawaii Island, by over 5x -- to handle 2 million pounds of Hawaii-grown staple crops per year.

The Honalo facility is owned by the state and managed by the Department of Agriculture, and has not been materially improved in over 30 years. Our farmers and communities need vibrant, modern and compliant food hub facilities to support increased food security, economic development, health and resilience across Hawaii.

Established in 2017, HFHH, is a BIPOC founded and led organization that works to address inequities in the Hawaii's food system by building an aggregated pipeline of supply and increasing access to capacity-building infrastructure, with a focus on small, family-owned and BIPOC farmer, Hawai'i-based food



businesses and serving low-access, disenfranchised communities across the state.

HFHH represents 14 regional food hubs supporting 1,337 farms (50% BIPOC owned/led) that serve approximately 14,465 customers per year across all Hawai'i counties. In the last 5 years, food hubs have generated over \$50 million in local food sales.

Saleh Azizi Fardkhales, Ph.D.
Director
Hawai'i Food Hub Hui
(808) 383-5224 | info@foodhubhui.com

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 5:10:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Kelly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Ulu Cooperative is a model agricultural co-op that has taken a traditional canoe crop and created an industry around it. They are a shining example of how investments in agriculture pay dividends down the road in jobs and farms. The state would be well served to continue to help build out and expand the capacity of the co-op.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support this bill.

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 7:32:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning from South Kona. Joan Gannon here asking you to support SB662. Needed to help get food to market. It is much needed in our community to help toward sustainability. Thank you for your service.

Joan

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:35:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB662. I am a researcher at the University of Hawai'i specializing in Indigenous Crops and Local Food Systems, testifying as an informed individual citizen. The Department of Agriculture's buildings plan an essential role in supporting the growth of the local food industry, particularly for the small producers that compose vast majority of our local farms. Investing into the use and functionality of these buildings should be of high priority to the state to move the bar in local food production.

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:40:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RALPH JOHNSTON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawai'i 'Ulu Coop is a perfect example of a local business providing locally grown food to Hawaii, encouraging the growth of local agriculture business, and providing employment in the economy. Why not support the Hawai'i 'Ulu Coop?

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:45:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erika Kuhr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Ulu Coop needs this money to build an important processing facility. Hawaii in general needs more agricultural processing facilities in general and commercial kitchen that support the ability for small businesses to build up a value added line of products.

Please support this bill so that more farmers have a place to send and sell with a guaranteed market the ulu that is being grown.

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:54:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian Zuckerman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of bill SB 662. The work that the Hawaii Ulu Coop (HUC) has done since its founding has been an amazing step forward for food security and resiliency in Hawaii. It is essential for the state to support the on going development of this industry. HUC has demonstrated the product development, community relationships, and created a vibrant market for canoe crops in the state. However, as more and more new ulu plantings begin to produce, the processing capacity of HUC needs to be able to handle the increase in annual supply.

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:26:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Emond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Ulu Co-op has been an innovative and effect organizer and distributor of locally grown foods. They are blazing a trail making foods that thrive in Hawaii accessible to the community. They are supporting local farmers and feeding local families with large quantities of locally grown food. As a tax payer, farmer and someone willing to invest in food security I support funding capital improvements at the Honalo facility. Mahalo for making this a priority.

Melissa Emond

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:35:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Ezzy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Anna Ezzy and I am a graduate student at UH Hilo studying Tropical Conservation Biology & Environmental Science where I am focusing on agriculture as a means to address climate change. I support SB 662 because most Hawai'i farmers are small-scale and highly diversified, and food hub facilities are needed to provide critical shared infrastructure of aggregation, processing, marketing and distribution.

SB 662 would provide capital improvement funds to increase the capacity of the Honalo Marshaling Yard food hub facility in Kailua Kona, Hawaii Island, by over 5x -- to handle 2 million pounds of Hawaii-grown staple crops per year. The Honalo facility is owned by the state and managed by the Department of Agriculture, and has not been materially improved in over 30 years. Our farmers and communities need vibrant, modern and compliant food hub facilities to support increased food security, economic development, health and resilience across Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Anna Ezzy

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:42:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cynthia Walsh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:47:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Witcover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the provision of these funds for the Honalo Marshalling Yard and Processing Facility. These vital upgrades are needed to continue receiving fruit and for minimally processing it for distribution to communities across the islands, and would increase our capacity 5-fold to 2 million pounds per year. The Ulu Cooperative is playing a vital role in the long-term viability of farmers and the sustainability of our food supply. Mahalo.

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:47:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Trump	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a farmer on the Big Island and I support SB662. The Honalo Marshaling yard is one of few key pieces of agricultural infrastructure in Kona. We need to ensure it is capable of operating at it's full potential if we want to see agriculture succeed on the Big Island.

Mahalo,

Nathan Trump

Gordon E. Inouye
PO Box 595
Papaikou, HI 96781

February 7, 2023

To: The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Dear Esteemed Senators,

I am Gordon Inouye, a Director of the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association, Director of Synergistic Hawaii Agricultural Council, President of Puna Flower Power and an independent owner of Camelot Farms, which incidentally grows Ulu and a member of the Hawaii Ulu Cooperative.

I am writing in support of SB 662 as it is critical to continue to support the growth of the Hawaii Ulu Cooperative which is a prime user of the Honalo Marshaling Yard. The yard is a great example of a state facility that is shared by cooperative users for the benefit of Agriculture in general.

Please feel free to contact me directly at 808-987-5109 if you have any questions regarding my endorsement of this bill.

Aloha,

Gordon E. Inouye

Gordon Inouye

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 10:58:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Eubank	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senate Committee,

I am writing to urge you to approve the funding for SB662. As community members and farmers across the islands, we have been working diligently at creating a processing facility which can accomodate the capacity needed to minimally process up to **2 million pounds** per year of Hawai'i grown fruit and produce. That is 5 times MORE than we can currently process! The funding from this measure would cover the costs for the Capital Improvements necessary at the Honalu Facility to finally acheive this goal in a timely manner. Mahalo for supporting local agriculture and this important community service!

Sincerely,

Leilani Eubank--'Ulu Farmer and HUC Co-op Member

SB-662

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:03:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Howard Ling	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The 'Ulu Cooperative's role to increase the availability of 'Ulu and other co-crops to local communities, public schools, hospitals, hotels, and restaurants statewide is twofold, as they also help local farming communities reach distributions channels otherwise unavailable. As the plantings of 'Ulu has increase in local communities (myself included), a volume increase of proportions needs to be matched by an equal ability to handle the influx of 'Ulu and other co-crops to come. I support the need for funding to expand Honalo Marshalling Yard's operations by The 'Ulu Cooperative to be able to take on and handle an increased volume of food processing production. All in all, to help distribute and make available more local foods for local communities. Helping in the long run to support more food sovereignty and self sustainability on island.