

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEXTER KISHIDA**  
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**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024**  
**9:15 AM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2130**  
**RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2130. This bill establishes an 11-member Sustainable Food Systems Working Group (Working Group) that is to develop an Interagency Food Systems Plan (Plan) that is linked to goals established by the United Nations. The Plan will address seven broad areas and once implemented, will result in a more sustainable, resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community.

The Working Group is administratively attached to the Department of Agriculture (HDOA). This measure establishes an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions with HDOA and appropriates funds for the same. There is an additional appropriation to HDOA to support the establishment and operation of the Working Group and includes potential purchase of services for a fee. The Plan and its recommendations for the implementation of the Plan are to be submitted to the 2025 Legislature. The Department supports and offers comments for amendments to this measure.



The Working Group is to be co-chaired by the HDOA Chair and the Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, and a single representative from each house of the State Legislature as selected by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively. The selection of a single person with knowledge from each of the seven broad areas are to be made by the two legislative representatives (Page 2, lines 15-20).

HDOA recommends including a requirement to have agricultural operators represented in the 11-member Working Group and requests legislative guidance in defining and describing how farmers, ranchers, aquaculturists, and producers will be at the heart of the Plan to achieve a more sustainable food system. The Department appreciates that the discussions will add content to the Hawaii Farm Bill currently in development.

1. Food as a human right and health 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 HDOA is cautiously optimistic that the effort of the Working Group will result in a measurable, science-based, and functional Plan that will promote the State's highest priorities of increasing the economic viability of existing agricultural operations and assist in the establishment of new ones in direct support of increasing local food self-sufficiency and exports.

The HDOA suggests that a requirement for the sustainability specialist positions in the HDOA to assist in the development of the Plan be well-versed in Hawaii agriculture at the farm and ranch level and be specialists in sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.



# 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  
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 9:15 a.m.

By

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

And

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### HB 2130 – 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 HB 2140 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 and participate as a member.

In summary, University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources supports HB 2140 and defers to HDOA regarding the resources for the development of the interagency food systems plan and administration support.

Furthermore, we support HB 2130 provided that its passage does not impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the measure.

REBECCA VILLEGAS  
Council Member  
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267  
FAX: (808) 323-4786  
EMAIL: [Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov)

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740*

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS COUNCIL MEMBER  
HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON HB 2130 RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS  
House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems  
February 12, 2024

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to SUPPORT HB2130. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawaii County Council.

The Sustainable Food Systems Working Group was established to develop an interagency food systems plan.

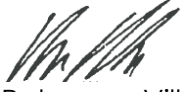
Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

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.

For these reasons stated above, I urge the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please contact me at, (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

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

Rebecca Villegas  
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council



**House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems**

**Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB2130**

Wednesday, February 14th, 2024 9:15 a.m. Conference Room 325

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

We support HB2130 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group and establishes an unspecified number of 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 HB2130 to create a sustainable food systems working group 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



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

February 14, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2130**  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference  
9:15 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 HB 2130**, which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture, requires the working group to submit the 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.

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.



Environmental Caucus of  
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

## Agriculture & Food Security Committee

Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 9:15 am

House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

HOUSE BILL 2130 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems:

SB2130 establishes a one-year working group on sustainable food systems to be administered by the Department of Agriculture, with single positions nominated by officers of the House and Senate and additional positions from organizations representing various facets of the agricultural community.

The Agriculture and Food Security Committee has worked with strategic partners across the community to arrive at the conclusion that food systems must be explored in order to derive a strategic plan to increase affordable fresh local produce food destined for local working family tables, alleviating our dependence on importing 85-90% of our food, increasing local food security and improving local nutrition.

We believe that Hawaii has too long emphasized export agriculture over local markets, in order to diversify the agricultural base and to produce revenues for the State, demonstrating agricultural productivity. Two casualties include degraded soils and nearshore waters, and affordable fresh local produce.

However, we are persuaded that, while export agriculture plays an important role in generating support for infrastructure, the hard truth is that it cannot compete sufficiently with other parts of the globe for market share, and that there is insufficient revenue from local markets to sustain enough food production for local tables. In our opinion, food security lies in a stronger public role in agricultural support, much as it does with education or bus service. In order for an efficient mix of these sectors to provide true food security, food systems must be explored, with facilities for local value-added product development, subsidies for farmer foods safety certifications, water and power infrastructure, marketing and delivery, and other facets of the industry.

We welcome a working group to explore these possibilities and lend convincing persuasion.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this matter.

/s/ Charley Ice Acting Chair, Agriculture and Food Security Committee  
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party



**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:08:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b>    | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Susan B Roberts Emery | Green Party of Hawai'i | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

I am writing today on behalf of the Green Party of Hawai'i. Please support HB 2130.

We support HB 2130 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

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 HB 2130 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Susan RobertsEmery

Co chair GPH



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

#### Executive Officers

**Gary Okimoto**, Safeway Hawaii, *Chair*  
**Maile Miyashiro**, C&S Wholesale Grocer, *Vice Chair*  
**Kit Okimoto**, Okimoto Corp., *Secretary/Treas.*  
**Lauren Zirbel**, HFIA, *Executive Director*  
**Paul Kosasa**, ABC Stores, *Advisor*  
**Derek Kurisu**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Advisor*  
**Eddie Asato**, Pint Size Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

**LATE**

DATE: February 14, 2024  
TIME: 9:15am  
PLACE: Room 325

RE: HB2130 Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Position: Support

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

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

HFIA is in support of this measure and the intent of the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group. We also understand the need to keep the group at a reasonable size in order to maximize its ability to take action.

We strongly believe that the effectiveness of the working group will be hindered without representation from our state's food industry. While HFIA members and staff have expertise that would qualify us to fill one of the positions currently listed in the group, we believe that having specific industry representation is important enough to warrant an amendment that would require a group member be from Hawaii's food industry, specifically HFIA.

Our mission aligns with purpose of the working group - a robust, sustainable, and resilient food supply chain. We have high level industry knowledge and expertise to contribute to this group and we are glad to participate. It's also important to note that by including HFIA, the working group would gain access to a network of local retailers and suppliers, amplifying the impact of any initiatives the group takes.

We thank the Committee for considering our requested change, and for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**



**MAUI**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Feb 14, 2024, 10:42 am

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**  
**HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 325**  
**Wednesday, February 14, 2024 AT 9:15 A.M.**

To The Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair  
The Honorable Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair  
Members of the committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

**COMMENTS ON HB2130 RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce would like to offer **COMMENTS on HB2130.**

The Chamber agrees with the intent that a sustainable food system is a food system in which producers, retailers, community members, 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. And, that the development of a more sustainable food system for the State 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.

We are concerned with the amount of working groups being proposed and funded during this session. As a result of the wildfires of August 8, 2023 on Maui, there is a need for immediate funding to house those who lost their homes, re-establish our small businesses so that there is gainful employment, and rebuild Lahaina in a well planned and well executed manner. Not to mention the homeless and housing issues throughout the state. We realize these issues are going to expend a large amount of County, State and Federal funds.

We also feel that the qualifications of the proposed board are very vague and undefined. We would ask that the legislature consider revisiting this concept in the next session. We just don't know how much of the State's funds are going to be necessary to cover the immediate housing and rebuilding needs.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer **COMMENTS on HB2130.**

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

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



LATE

RECEIVED  
Date & Time  
Feb 14, 2024, 10:43 am

Officers

Kaipo Kekona  
State President

Anabella Bruch  
Vice-President

Maureen Datta  
Secretary

Reba Lopez  
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber  
Kohala, Hawai'i

Odysseus Yacalis  
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer  
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns  
Hana, Maui

Mason Scharer  
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros  
Mauna Kahalawai,  
Maui

Kaipo Kekona  
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai  
Molokai

Negus Manna  
Lāna'i

India Clark  
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman  
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich  
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura  
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska  
Kauai

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

The Hawaii Farmers Union 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 HB2130.**

The creation of the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group is a proactive measure that will enable collaboration among various stakeholders, including farmers, policymakers, and academic experts. This collective effort will facilitate the development of effective strategies to tackle the pressing issues impacting our food systems, such as climate change, water scarcity, and the loss of arable land. By combining resources and expertise, we can work towards innovative solutions that promote sustainable farming practices, enhance food security, and reduce our reliance on imported goods.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:43:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Glen Kagamida       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

SUPPORT.

Long overdue.

Mahalo!

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 3:07:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ezgi Green          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

Please support HB 2130.

I support HB 2130, establishing the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

Too many families in Hawai‘i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change threatens our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these 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 identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support HB 2130 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Ezgi Green, Waialua

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 3:08:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ken Hartsel         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

Please support HB 2130.

I support HB 2130 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

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.

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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 HB 2130 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration!

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 3:10:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Helen Cox           | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

Please support HB 2130.

I support HB 2130 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

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 HB 2130 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Your Name, Town



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

Please support HB 2130.

I support HB 2130 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

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 HB 2130 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Robert H. Pahia  
Maui, Hawaii

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 4:24:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Hayley Peter-Contesse | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

Please support HB 2130.

I support HB 2130 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

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.

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Please support HB 2130 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Hayley Peter-Contesse, PhD

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 4:27:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Judith A Mick       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Please support this bill. It is very important that Hawaii support being food sustainable.

Mahalo, Judy Mick, Kailua

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 4:51:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jacqueline S. Ambrose | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

**RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.**

Establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group. Requires a report to the Legislature before the Regular Session of 2025. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Establishes an unspecified number of positions within the Department of Agriculture. Makes an appropriation.

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:01:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Michele Nihipali    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support HB 2130.

I support HB 2130 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

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 HB 2130 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:06:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kate Paine          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Committee well aware of the current state of local sustainable food growing to market obstacles. This is a cohesive attempt to get the current unsustainable to viable.

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 6:35:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Barbara Barry       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

Please support HB 2130.

I support HB 2130 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

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 HB 2130 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration!

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:55:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cory Harden         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

We need a well-done food plan as the basis for health and prosperity.

mahalo,

Cory Harden



**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:25:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Sven Sorge          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

Please support HB 2130.

I support HB 2130 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

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 HB 2130 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration!

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:28:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

Please support HB 2130.

I support HB 2130 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

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 HB 2130 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai‘i.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, O‘ahu

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:33:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Eliel Starbright    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

Please support HB 2130.

I support HB 2130 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

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 HB 2130 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration! Eliel Starbright, Kapa'a

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:07:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Will Caron          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Please support HB2130.

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:38:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mary Lu Kelley      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

Please support HB 2130.

I support HB 2130 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

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.

Do the right thing. Please support HB 2130 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Mary Lu Kelley

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:09:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| KEALA FUNG          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

Please support HB 2130.

I support HB 2130 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

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 HB 2130 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Keala Fung, Honolulu

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 2:37:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Marilyn Mick        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

Please support HB 2130.

I support HB 2130 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

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 HB 2130 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 5:07:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jodi Rodar          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

Please support HB 2130.

I support HB 2130 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

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 HB 2130 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Dr. Jodi  
Rodar  
North Valley  
Road  
01002

223  
Pelham, MA



**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:36:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Patricia Blair      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Please pass

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:50:53 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Regina Gregory      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

support

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:55:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara Best        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

We need an interagency food systems plan. Coordination is necessary. Mahalo for supporting this bill.

**LATE**

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:52:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Jessica Kuzmier | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

Please support HB 2130.

I support HB 2130 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

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 HB 2130 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration!

**LATE**

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:09:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Abigail Rose | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support HB 2130 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan.

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.

I support this effort to make Hawai'i more food independent!

Please support HB 2130

Mahalo for your consideration!

Your Name, Town

**LATE**

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 1:33:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Reese Nakayama | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**Representative Cedric Gates, Chair**

**Representative Kristin Kahaloe, Vice Chair**

**House Committee on Agriculture**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

**9:15AM, Conference room 325**

**Hawai'i State Capitol**

**Support for H.B. No. 2130**

**Aloha Chair Cedric Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,**

**My name is Reese Nakayama and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B. No. 2130, which would allocate more funds and create unspecified positions to support the working group in the Department of Agriculture.**

**In school, we take part in many agricultural and sustainability projects that work towards building a better future for the land. However in order to make these projects possible, it requires the time and knowledge from individuals who are experienced in the field. Recently I enrolled in the AP Environmental Science course which stresses the dire need to protect our local economy and resources. We have even met with a legislator and professionals in legislature & agriculture who stressed to us the importance of creating more job opportunities and resources to reduce our dependence on imports. Though this**

**bill would require the need for funding from the government, it could become one of the first steps in the long journey towards a successful local food economy. If we lessen our dependence, we could be spending less on importing goods and also find a way to create more means of profit among local businesses and farms.**

**This bill is important to me because this could open the possibility to grow our local agricultural culture that is healthier for future generations. Even though I am currently living a lifestyle almost fully dependent on imports into Hawai'i doesn't mean that my future generations have to as well. By creating more jobs and resources in the local agriculture, we can create a market where buying local is more convenient than buying imported goods which in turn can allow Hawai'i to be a more independent economy.**

**I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2130 because it could create more economic opportunities for local agriculture. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**Sincerely,**

**Reese Nakayama**

**Mililani High School**

**LATE**

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 2:51:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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 HB 2130 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Pamela Burrell

Kalihiwai, Kaua'i



**LATE**

**Testimony of Kiana Otsuka in Support**

**Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts**

**Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs**

**February 12, 2024 at 3:01PM**

**Conference Room 224**

**HB 2130**

**Relating to Sustainable Food Systems**

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

My name is Kiana Otsuka, and I am passionate about sustainable food systems and improving food equity in Hawai'i. I am writing in **strong support of HB 2130**, which would establish the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group. It also requires a report to the Legislature before the Regular Session of 2025. In addition, the bill declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Finally, it establishes an unspecified number of positions within the Department of Agriculture and makes an appropriation.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,  
Kiana Otsuka

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Feb 14, 2024, 10:41 am

**LATE**

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:25:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jake Eto            | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please consider this testimony in order to pass HB2130.

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair  
Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Feb 14, 2024, 10:42 am

Wednesday, February 14, 2024  
9:15AM, Conference room 325  
Hawaii State Capitol

**LATE**

Support for H.B. No. 2130

Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,  
My name is Logan Thorp and I am a Senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2130.

I have been living in Hawai'i for just over a year now, and have already been getting involved in local invasive species and helping to rebuild Hawai'i's native plant life. This has also allowed me to learn about the poor level of self-sustainability in our state. I believe that it is unacceptable for a place such as Hawai'i to have such a small amount of self-sustainability. If the U.S. were to ever go on lockdown, and shipments paused, Hawai'i would be in deep trouble as we only have enough sustainability to last less than a week. For a place such as Hawai'i to be able to survive effectively and efficiently, we need to not put all of our reliance into one place, but spread it out so if one part fails, then we have a backup that will help us to last until the other resumes. With extra effort being put forth towards self sustainability, we can actually save money that is used to help ship supplies here, and use some of that money to put into the state as a whole, including more sustainable foods and people to help make and grow local foods.

I hope you will consider passing S.B. No. 2414 because Hawai'i needs sustainability in order for us to survive without having to heavily rely on the mainland. We would be doing our state and our home a major service by implementing more sustainable food systems. By continuing to implement more local foods and continuing to boost Hawai'i's self-sustainability, we will put ourselves on the road to success within our state, and allow us to prosper for our future. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Logan Thorp  
Mililani High School

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair  
Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture



**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Feb 14, 2024, 10:43 am

Wednesday, February 14, 2024  
9:15AM, Conference room 325  
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No. 2130

Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,  
My name is Kaylie Iwasaki and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2130,

In school, my class has gone on a field to Manoa-Palolo water streams to take out invasive fish out of the stream that is affecting our environment. We were given multiple different species to take out of the stream including catfish. These catfish were removed from the stream and were used as composting. They are affecting our environment by eating a variety of our native species, decreasing their population. I have learned the importance of keeping our native species alive because it is a part of our culture and the impact of getting rid of our invasive species. It is important to me that we get rid of invasive species because they could reduce biodiversity along with overtaking our native species.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2130 because it could help to spread awareness of these pests and how they are negatively affecting our home and cultured species. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kaylie Iwasaki  
Mililani High School

RECEIVED  
Date & Time  
Feb 14, 2024, 10:43 am

LATE

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:21:35 PM  
Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Mia Moss     | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**Representative Cedric Gates, Chair**

**Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair**

**House Committee on Agriculture**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

**9:15AM, Conference room 325**

**Hawaii State Capitol**

**Support for H.B. No. 2130**

**Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,**

**My name is Mia Moss and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B. No. 2130. Passing this bill would embark on so many positive outcomes in our community. Relying on the mainland to provide for us isn't doing us any good. What if there's a lockdown and imported goods aren't able to ship here? It would be chaos. We need to be able to provide for ourselves not just because of that reason, but it's also sustainable. Local farmers wouldn't lose their farms and there would be an increase in taxes, resulting in more funding. The Peterson farm just announced the closing of their farm. A farm that has been passed down through generations since 1910, including representative Lauren Matsumoto. I've always received letters and knocks on my door from her about the farm ever since I was little. It's saddening to see something that has been here for so long go away. As a teenager, not only do I want this for myself, but I want it for the future generations before us. This should've happened a long time ago, and it's**

**time to make a change now. I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2130 because it's important for not just now but the future generation of people. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**Sincerely,**

**Mia Moss**

**Mililani High School**

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Feb 14, 2024, 10:42 am

**LATE**



Date: February 13, 2024  
To: AGR  
From: Climate Future Forum  
Re: **STRONG SUPPORT for HB2130**  
Hearing: Feb 14, 2024

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

On behalf of the Climate Future Forum, I'm writing to you in **strong support of HB2130**. Climate Future Forum (CFF) is a network of youth and adults dedicated to supportive climate policy and legislation. From an event held on December 9, 2023 at the Hawai'i State Capitol when youth and policy makers convened, a list of priority bills was agreed upon.

The mission of the **Climate Future Forum** (<https://www.climatefuturehawaii.org/>) is to inspire youth to be active and engaged participants in developing and advocating for climate policy and legislation. We do so by bringing together youth (ages 14-26), educators, policymakers, and nonprofits to evaluate and discuss climate action priorities and provide tangible steps to empower youth. Our hope is for youth to forge relationships with policymakers so that they can continue to work together throughout the legislative process in Hawai'i and beyond.

On December 9th, 2023, the Climate Future Forum was held at the Hawaii State Capitol. The event included over 80 youth, adults, legislators and staff members, and about 30 people from the community. One of the goals of this event was for youth to develop their legislative priorities for the 2023 legislative session. One of their priorities is centered around improving food systems. Therefore, the Climate Future Forum strongly supports this bill as a part of a suite of bills (HB2137 and HB2138) because by creating a coordinated food systems plan we will be able to:

- increase local food security through a coordinated approach
- achieve the state's goals for local food production and support local farmers
- diversify Hawai'i's economy by supporting a robust local food economy
- contribute to the local agricultural industry (new markets, more stability, more jobs)
- reduce food miles and associated greenhouse gas emissions

Please pass this bill out of your committee.

Mahalo nui loa,  
Paul Bernstein on behalf of the Climate Future Forum

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Feb 14, 2024, 10:44 am

**LATE**

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 12:37:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Madison Ragamat | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**Support for H.B. No. 2130**

Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

My name is Madison Ragamat and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2130, I am a student who is pretty involved with our community, as I played soccer for Mililani my freshman and sophomore year. I also am a member of our Class of 2025 student council, Key Club, and Interact Club. Currently being enrolled in an AP Environmental Science course in this third year of my high school career has helped me become more aware of both local and global environmental problems that are currently affecting our Earth. Some that involve our local agriculture. I am testifying in favor of HB 2130 because I feel that we should create more sustainable food systems. As an isolated island we are constantly relying on our resources to be shipped in from the mainland and it takes a lot of money out of our economy. To add on, the only way our economy is gaining money is through tourism so if there was to be another pandemic like in 2020, we wouldn't be able to sustain ourselves. But by passing this bill we would create resources and money that would circle throughout the economy, helping to sustain us. From personal experience, my family was struggling to sustain ourselves due to our struggling economy and lack of money. So I support this bill, that way if something like that ever happens again, no one else will struggle as much. I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2130 because of the profit it can have to the economy and also reduce carbon emissions. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Madison Ragamat

Mililani High School



**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Feb 14, 2024, 10:46 am

**LATE**

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 7:32:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Alyssa Fernandes | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**Representative Cedric Gates, Chair**

**Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair**

**House Committee on Agriculture**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

**9:15AM, Conference room 325**

**Hawaii State Capitol**

**Support for H.B. No. 2130**

**Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,**

**My name is Alyssa Fernandes and I am a junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2130,**

**The intended effects of this bill are extensive. It touches a vast majority of fundamental aspects as it “enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community.” Seeing as though I have yet to complete high school and admittedly possess an impressively scant parcel of knowledge concerning many of those respects, I figured that at the least I could attest for the faction of population I happen to be most intimately acquainted with, students. I for one can say that to be aware of the targets that this specific bill entails has been an incredibly enlightening experience. I have become an increasingly more informed citizen, and grown into a more involved student, or at the very least a less**

**ignorant one. These are just some of the things that I am completely and entirely confident this bill can inspire in Hawaii's youth. Many of my peers perceive the issues surrounding Hawaii's food importation but are consistently enabled to ignore their eminently obvious consumption of these products daily in their school lunches. Simply being aware of something is arguably the mere baseline of comprehension, and passing this bill would be promoting understanding by taking the initiative needed to thoroughly integrate students into their community and education as there is nothing more immersing and nothing that wields more influence than leading by example. Taking into context everything this bill can hope to accomplish with adolescents, and the fact that it is so much more than even that, the passing of it is exceedingly significant.**

**I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2130 because it is my understanding that the passing of this bill is absolutely imperative in regards to succeeding objectives surrounding the cultivation of the sustainable food system that would directly impact my personal demographic in an incredibly constructive and beneficial manner.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**Sincerely,**

**Alyssa Fernandes**

**Mililani High School**

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 7:41:59 AM  
Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Feb 14, 2024, 10:44 am

**LATE**

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Haweo        | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**Representative Cedric Gates, Chair**

**Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair**

**House Committee on Agriculture**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

**9:15AM, Conference room 325**

**Hawaii State Capitol**

**Support for H.B. No. 2130**

**My name is Haweo’okaimanaikakai Arnold and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of S.B.No. 2414. Hawai’i gets 90% of our food imported from the mainland. If in some cases something were to happen and that stopped, since we do not have the systems to support our people, it would take 3-10 days for us to run out of sources. After that, it would be chaos and you can only imagine how people would feel and react. Sustainable food systems are so important if we want to do what is best for our environment and communities. The food that is shipped is mainly GMO products conducted in labs. No one knows the long term effects of these foods, but sustainable food systems would combat those issues as well as greenhouse gas emissions and many other environmental factors. I urge you to listen to our testimonies and other bills that are similar to pushing sustainable food systems for Hawai’i. Yes, I understand this can be costly and comes with difficulties, but so are other bills that have been passed. This may be a big expense now, but it would be a huge success and payoff in the future.**

**I hope you will consider passing S.B. No. 2414 because this bill is crucial to the future safety of our people. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**Sincerely,**

**Haweo Arnold**

**Mililani High School**

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Feb 14, 2024, 10:45 am

**LATE**

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:34:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Sierra Kaneshiro | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,**

**My name is Sierra Kaneshiro and I am a Sophomore at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2130,. It would benefit our community, economy and environment because we are supporting local businesses and can start to rely on them more instead of shipping from the mainland. When food gets shipped from the mainland, the food is processed which harms our body and can lead to serious health problems if eating too much processed food. It also harms the environment because of all the packaging being used and it leaves a carbon footprint. We also spend so much money shipping food here when we could be growing it or harvesting it on our islands which is way cheaper than what we are doing now. It would help our community because we are all coming together to help the local businesses which also improves our economy as well since we are not purchasing expensive foods and shipping them here. It would also improve our environment by a lot because there would not be as much packaging and we would be leaving way less carbon footprint because we aren't shipping it overseas and instead throughout the island.**

**I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2130 because it would help benefit our community, economy and environment. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**Sincerely,**

**Sierra Kaneshiro**

**Mililani High School**

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Feb 14, 2024, 10:46 am

**LATE**

**HB-2130**

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:40:17 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Timothy Wiley | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Timothy Wiley, and I am a student attending Leeward Community College at both their Pu'uloa and Wai'anae Moku campus locations. My time in community college has allowed me to observe the need for reform in our state's food system, witnessing the effect our current production of agriculture has on local communities. From my attendance at the Wai'anae Moku campus, I have observed a significantly higher reliance on the dependency of our school's food bank in this location compared to the Pearl City Pu'uloa campus. Speaking with my peers in community college, they all have stories of their need for food assistance to keep up with the state's high cost of living. Alternatively, they dream of the state becoming self-sufficient through growing their food, decreasing the need for imported foods, and supporting themselves economically and socially. As an environmental justice advocate, I have come to learn how the health of the a'ina is interconnected with the health of our food system and, therefore, our people. Through the passage of SB 2414, addressing the various factors involved in creating a healthy food system that benefits our land and, therefore, people, will bring life to my community of the Wai'anae coast. To benefit the people of Hawai'i and my community in Wai'anae, I strongly urge the passage of SB 2414.

Mahalo, Timothy Wiley