

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 420, S.D. 1, RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211

TESTIFIER(S): **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**
(For more information, contact Jodi K. Yi,
Deputy Attorney General, at 808-586-1195)

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments regarding this bill.

This bill would establish and appropriate funds for a sustainable food systems working group. The working group will be within the Department of Agriculture. The bill delineates the membership of the working group and, at page 3, lines 14-16, states, "[t]wo members of the Native Hawaiian community, to be selected by the chairperson of the board of agriculture," shall be included as members of the working group.

Article I, section 5, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii provides, "[n]o person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor be denied the equal protection of the laws, nor be denied the enjoyment of the person's civil rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof because of race, religion, sex or ancestry." This provision could be subject to challenge for treating members of the Native Hawaiian community differently than non-members.

There are different ways in which this issue may be addressed. One way is to amend the bill by deleting the wording at page 3, lines 14-16, and replacing it with the following, "[t]wo persons with familiarity, experience, or expertise in the Native Hawaiian community, to be selected by the chairperson of the board of agriculture; . . ."

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



SB420 SD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 22, 2023

9:30 AM

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers its **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** for SB420 SD1, which would establish the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to develop a plan for a more sustainable and resilient local food economy. **OHA asks the Legislature to amend this proposal by adding one seat on this working group for OHA, as the principal public agency in the State responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians.¹**

He ali‘i ka ‘āina; he kauwā ke kanaka. OHA wishes to express its strong support for the thrust of this measure to establish a robust network of partners “to create a vibrant and resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community.” **In support of this impetus, OHA respectfully asks that this measure be amended to afford OHA a representative seat on the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group.**

OHA makes this request as the principal public agency in the State responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians,² a great many of whom are kahu holoholona (ranchers), mahi‘ai (farmers), lawai‘a (fishers), kanaka hahai holoholona (hunters), and hānai ‘ai (food producer-practitioners). Our traditional Native Hawaiian cultural practices are deeply rooted in familial bonds with the natural world and the cultivation of these connections over the span of millennia now serve as exemplary models for any sustainable Hawai‘i-based food system.

Unfortunately, the fetid flow of historical injustice over the past 130 years has systemically severed Native Hawaiians from their ‘āina (the natural world), their traditions, and their cultures. Accordingly, Native Hawaiians now endure some of the worst socio-economic conditions among all peoples in this State, with ongoing inequities and disparities that continue to undermine Native Hawaiian existence. One of the most challenging social determinants of health for Native Hawaiians is economic well-being,³ where Native Hawaiians have the highest rate of poverty and unemployment among Hawai‘i’s major

¹ HRS §10-3.

² Id.

³ Dept. of Native Hawaiian Health, John A. Burns School of Medicine, *Assessment and Priorities for the Health and Well-Being in Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders*, 2020, p. 12



SB420 SD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

ethnic groups, and “lower average annual earnings than statewide averages for both men and women.”⁴ Once again, at the highest rate among the State’s major ethnic groups, 63% of Native Hawaiians are finding it difficult to survive,⁵ with a 60% majority of Native Hawaiians unable to make ends meet.⁶

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

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

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

Finally, OHA recognizes that this measure designates two members of the Native Hawaiian community to be selected by the director of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development. OHA appreciates and supports this provision for its insight into the value of Native Hawaiian representation and the potential contribution of Native Hawaiian knowledge to advance the purpose and function of this working group. **OHA is certain that its contribution to this Working Group would be unique, as OHA is best-positioned to represent the interests and aspirations of the Native Hawaiian people as the only entity with**

⁴ Id.

⁵ Aloha United Way, *Aloha United Way, Alice in Hawai‘i: 2022 Facts and Figures*, Nov. 2022, p.9.

⁶ Id. at 6.



SB420 SD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

the constitutional and statutory mandate to serve the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians.

OHA appreciates the opportunity to support this measure with the recommended amendment **to grant OHA a representative seat on the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group.** Mahalo nui loa.

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 WAYS AND MEANS

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023
ROOM 211
10:00 A.M.**

**SENATE BILL NO. 420, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 420 SD1. There is a companion measure, House Bill 308. This measure requires the Department of Agriculture (Department) to establish a 23-member "Sustainable Food Systems Working Group" that is responsible for creating an "Interagency Food Systems Plan" linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for a more sustainable, resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community. The Plan is to focus on the following issues:

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

The Department is to provide necessary staff support. There are two appropriations to the Department in support of the Working Group and its efforts, and the hiring of an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions. The Plan is to be submitted to the 2025 Legislature. The Department offers a comment and a recommendation.



The Department has been directed by the legislative and executive branches to focus on increasing local food self-sufficiency and we will expect the outcome required in this measure to comport with this goal. Perhaps the 7 issues that are the focus of the proposed 23-member Sustainable Food Systems Working Group could be best approached first by a smaller group who can bring unambiguous definition to the issues, outline Plan deliverables, and make coherent and tangible recommendations to the Working Group. Additionally, while the measure proposes the creation of additional specialist positions to the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, the Department currently lacks adequate staffing to host and support a working group of this size and importance at this time.

Further, SB84 is very similar to SB420. SB84 is also moving and assigns the responsibility of the Working Group to the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Ke'ena Kuleana Ho'okipa O Hawai'i
Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253
kahua pa'a web hawaii tourismauthority.org

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor

John De Fries
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 22, 2023
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL NO. 420 SD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of SB420 SD1, establishing the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture to complete an interagency food systems plan.

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

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

HTA stands ready to participate in the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group, and appreciates the intent of SB420 SD1 to advance sustainable food systems in Hawai'i. We also defer to the Department of Agriculture on the implementation of this measure. Mahalo.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Co-Chairs:
Chair, DLNR
Director, OPSD

Commissioners:
Chair, Senate AEN
Chair, Senate WTL
Chair, House EEP
Chair, House WAL
Chairperson, HTA
Chairperson, DOA
CEO, OHA
Chairperson, DHHL
Director, DBEDT
Director, DOT
Director, DOH
Chairperson, DOE
Director, C+C DPP
Director, Maui DP
Director, Hawai'i DP
Director, Kaua'i DP
The Adjutant General
Manager, CZM

**Testimony of
Leah Laramee
Coordinator, Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

**Before the Senate Committees on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Friday, February 22, 2023
10:00 AM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 211

**In support of
Senate Bill 420
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

Senate Bill 420 establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the department of agriculture (DOA). Requires the working group to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the legislature. Appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions to be employed by DOA. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) offers the following comments in support of this measure.**

The Commission's working paper *Nature-Based Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change in Hawai'i* recognizes that Climate impacts to agriculture, fisheries, and food system infrastructure have steadily increased over the last 10 years and are projected to increase in severity over this century. Hawai'i, must prepare for more frequent and severe climate-induced shocks, disruption of critical supply chains and fisheries, increased food insecurity, and the catastrophic loss of life, livelihoods, property and infrastructure.

Simultaneously, the post-plantation agricultural economy of Hawai'i remains largely oriented toward external markets, with a diversified agriculture sector and regional food economy limited by a range of social, economic and political obstacles. Sustainably-managed agricultural systems can play a critical role in enhancing local food supplies, increasing resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change, and protecting Hawai'i's coral reefs ecosystems.

There are a number of models of sustainable food systems in Hawai'i, including approaches that incorporate indigenous management strategies, that can help to build resilience, and support biodiversity and ecosystem services. Recent research suggests that indigenous agroecosystems

(including agroforestry, lo'i systems, and dryland agriculture) supported large populations of Native Hawaiians pre-European contact, and that many of the areas that these systems likely occupied are still viable today. By contrast, Hawai'i's legacy of plantation agriculture has left many of the most highly productive soils in the state in a degraded condition. There are, however, many producers interested in reversing this trend. Climate-smart agricultural management choices support soil health over time which provides beneficial outcomes for air and water quality, human health, groundwater recharge, nearshore ecosystem resilience, increased drought tolerance of crops and plants, reduced impacts of flooding, increased crop and livestock productivity, and overall ecosystem resilience.

With 41% of Hawai'i's agricultural lands currently unfarmed, there is a huge opportunity to lower the state's food importation rates while mitigating climate change and protecting native ecosystems and cultural/traditional practices. Locally-produced agriculture is a vital part of our economy. Combining cultural wisdom with new scientific methods, sustainable food systems can reduce carbon emissions and improve crop yields through utilizing cover crops, reducing tillage, agroforestry and other carbon smart practices. Establishing the sustainable food systems working group is a good first step in achieving this.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment in support of this measure.

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 3:42:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|------------------------|
| William W. Steiner | Testifying for Pacific Agricultural Land Management Systems | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chairman Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards and Committee members:

I represent Hawaii Oil Seed Producers, a 501(c)(5) agricultural cooperative seeking to build a vegetable oil industry in Hawaii. We believe an industry based on hybrid oil palm orchards integrated with shade tolerant vegetable crops and sheep and cattle as is practiced in some South American and Indonesian palm orchards will provide strong food and oil resilience for the future. Some 40% or more of Hawaii's agricultural lands are available for developing integrated palm orchards. Oil palms are proven to produce 10-fold the vegetable oil/acre than soybeans do in the American Midwest.. Further, the oil can be used in developing new industries and jobs in biofuels, edible oils, bioplastics, biofibers, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals with the wastes used in making compost and animal feed or composted into ethanol. Such a vegetable oil source in Hawaii can build a very sustainable circular bioeconomy in the mid Pacific while reducing shipping costs and imports across a wide range of goods. SB420 SD1 will provide a framework within which a circular bioeconomy can be developed. **With our vision we would welcome a seat on the commission to support development of such a system.** Please vote in favor of this bill.

William Moekahi Steiner, Ph.D.

General Manager, HOSPRO



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

February 16, 2023

House Committee on Ways & Means
Wednesday February 22, 2023, 10:00 am

SUBJECT: Support for SB420, SD1 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committees:

On behalf of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (North Shore EVP), I would like to extend our full support of SB420, SD1, which will establish within the Department of Agriculture the sustainable food systems working group.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kevin M Kelly, President



HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
Chair
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
Secretary
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Native Hawaiian Research Office

Debbie Erskine
Treasurer
ARCH-MEPS Consulting LLC, Owner

Keshia Adolpho, LCSW
Na'au Healing Center

Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD
University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

Carissa Holley, MEd
Hale Makua Health Services

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
HMSA

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

May Okihiro, MD, MS
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

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

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: January 31, 2023

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 420 SB1, Relating to Sustainable Food
Systems

Hrg: Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 10:00 AM, Conf Rm 211

The Obesity Prevention Task Force (OPTF), a program of Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ (HIPHI), is in **strong support of SB 420 SD1**, which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture.

The lack of a sustainable food system impacts the resiliency of our communities.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) appreciates the opportunity to provide SUPPORT for **HB 420 SD1**. This measure establishes a working group within the Department of Agriculture that will include a diverse group of members who bring a variety of understanding and perspectives to the work of identifying areas to address to strengthen the food system in our state.

Hawai'i is faced with an escalating crisis as a variety of factors such as climate change, workforce challenges, increasing cost of land and water, natural disasters, and a tenuous food supply system. Life expectancy continues to decline in the United States. COVID-19 is a factor, but chronic diseases, such as heart and chronic liver disease, continue to rise.ⁱⁱ

In the 2018 Hawai'i Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 14% of adults in the state reported they were diagnosed with prediabetes; 12% with diabetes; 3% had coronary heart disease; 3% had a stroke; 32% had high cholesterol; and 34% had high blood pressure.ⁱⁱⁱ To address these chronic diseases, and improve overall public health, a strong, sustainable, locally-based healthy food system, from which people can benefit, is necessary.

Beyond public health, taking the steps necessary to achieve a sustainable food system through discussion, planning, reporting, and proposing

meaningful legislation will help to address food insecurity; growth of green jobs; land stewardship; affordable land for farmers; water access; and environmental challenges.

SB 420 SD1 is necessary because it is the base for building a sustainable food system framework and ensuring our communities are healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,



Peggy Mierzwa

Director of Advocacy & Policy

Hawai'i Public Health Institute

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

Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

ⁱⁱ https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2022/20220831.htm

ⁱⁱⁱ https://hhsp.hawaii.gov/assets/pdf/Coordinated%20HHSP_FINAL_WEB.pdf

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:20:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Edwin Watamura | Testifying for HFACT | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Fish, fishing, and most importantly fishermen have been ignored by the State of Hawaii in its plans and efforts for food sustainability. This working group and the inclusion of fish into the State's food sustainability vision would be a significant culmination of our years of efforts to have fish, fishing, and fishermen be recognized, rewarded, promoted, and even subsidized. I and HFACT strongly support this bill.



February 18, 2023

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: February 22, 2023
TIME: 10:00 AM

Regarding: SB 420, SD1 RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Strong support.

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

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

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

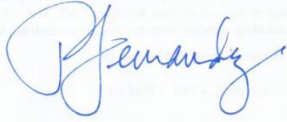
Also identified in the 2012 report is that “a critical factor towards successful implementation will be building partnerships with the increasing number of organizations involved in food self sufficiency/food security.” HFACT stands ready to assist the state in this regard.

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

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

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

Sincerely and Aloha,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Fernandez", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Phil Fernandez
President

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 8:58:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| laurel brier | Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

A sustainable food system means food security, better access to healthy food, diversifying our economy in a positive direction and addressing environmental protection and climate chaos.

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 9:52:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Failing to plan is planning to fail.

Our communities have a good idea of what they want and need to improve our food systems, and several community based planning processes have occurred. To have a formal process to bring them together and create a pathway to move forward as a state is just good sense.

With a plan, we can track progress and implement strategies with confidence. It's well worth the investment of time and resources.



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

February 22, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 420, SD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 420, SD1, which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the department of agriculture, requires the working group to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the legislature, and appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions to be employed by the department of agriculture.

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

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

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:52:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cara Oba | Testifying for HECA Carbon Sequestration Task Force | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Kakou Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

Food resilience is a key component for the health and well-being of our communities now and into the future. Bringing together the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group is a smart step to making and implementing a circular economy based around food. Food touches all people, all sectors, and has impacts on our discussions of water and land. These discussions will only become more critical as we face increased pressures from climate change. Such a working group is smart. We appreciate that this bill seeks to bring different sectors together. We wish that it be more inclusive and thereby increasing the impact and ease of implementation of working group recommendations with the inclusion of county food access coordinators and a provision for public education/communication/participation. Decisions that impact all of us need to be made with an informed community. We welcome having such a group sharing perspectives, having challenging discussions, and resolving priorities to take action that benefits all of our diverse communities. Food issues tackle so many issues of our community — economic health, land use, water security, greenhouse gas emissions, and the sustainability of our future here on these islands. We support SB 420 SD1.

Mahalo,
Cara Oba
HECA Carbon Sequestration Task Force

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 10:06:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Susan Ing | Testifying for HECA Carbon Sequestration Task Force | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Ways and Means Committee Chair Donovan, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of SB420, Sustainable Foods Working Group, Department of Agriculture.

Hawaii is the most remote group of islands in the world and is extremely vulnerable to any kind of event or disaster that limits the ability to ship, or fly, foods into our State. Hawaii, therefore, needs to create a sustainable food system that includes, and benefits, our entire community. This bill engages a variety of stakeholders in developing a cohesive strategy for the entire State.

Many families in Hawaii are facing food insecurity. Most of our farmers work on small family farms and are struggling to access affordable land, water, and resources. Climate change also poses a threat to our local food production. However, by creating a more resilient and sustainable food system, we can address these challenges.

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Susan Ing

HECA Carbon Sequestration Task Force



Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB420 SD1

Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023 10 a.m. Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

We support SB420 SD1 which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the department of agriculture.

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

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

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

Please support SB420 SD1 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



Monday February 20, 2023

Hawai'i State Senate
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

RE: SUPPORT of SB420 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee,

Too many families in Hawaii are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. We need to prioritize a more resilient food system to address these various challenges... and this requires a coordinated approach.

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

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

Please support SB420 SD1 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Annalyssah Camacho, co-founder





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

Executive Officers

Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Chair*

Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Vice Chair*

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

Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *President and Executive Director*

John Schilf, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor*

Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*

Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

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

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

TO: Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 22, 2023

TIME: 10am

PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: SB420 Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Position: Support

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 — 10:00 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of SB 420 SD1, Relating to Sustainable Food Systems.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz 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 the intent of SB 420 SD1, which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementation, and any proposed legislation.

Developing a statewide plan around food economics may help to serve the State of Hawai'i and the future of the local agricultural industry. However, while we acknowledge that this working group shows merit with its intentions, the sheer number of participants, along with an inadequate number of actual food producer voices, creates some concern around efficiency and appropriate representation. We believe that more local producers need to be at the table and that the Department of Agriculture, whose responsibility is to serve those agriculturalists, should determine who those local farmers and ranchers should be. We recommend adjusting the working group to double the current producer voices and consider limiting/removing other entities to promote efficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Madeline Ross
Kohala, Hawaii

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawaii

Puna, Hawaii

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawaii

Chantal Chung
Kona, Hawaii

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lana'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 Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports and seeks to amend SB420.**

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

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

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

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

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

In Section 2, add a new subsection (e?) to specify that:

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

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

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

Finally, HFUU seeks the following edit to clarify our role in the selection of our representative to the working group:

(16) A representative of the Hawaii Farmers Union United, to be selected by the president of the Hawaii Farmers Union United;

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

Kenneth S. K. K. K.



Food+ Policy Internship 2023

food@purplemaia.org

21 February 2023

To: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

I, Kahealani Acosta, testify **IN SUPPORT** of **SB420 SD1**, relating to agriculture.

Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity. Our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach. We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

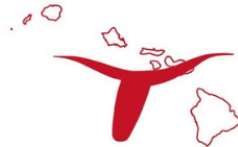
A sustainable food system is one in which producers, retailers, members of the community, non-governmental organizations, and government agencies partner to create a vibrant and resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community. A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please **support SB420 SD1** to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo,
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.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

SB420 SD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB420 SD1** which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the department of agriculture.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports efforts to coordinate a comprehensive sustainable food plan for Hawaii. We humbly thank the AEN Committee for amending SD1 to include a representative from the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council be included in this important working group. Cattle is consistently among Hawaii's top agricultural commodities, and it is important to have a representative present who is knowledgeable of the complex workings of the industry. In addition to being a top commodity, Hawaii's paniolo are stewards of the land and there are huge opportunities to utilize climate smart and circular economy practices in ranching.

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

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





February 21, 2023

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

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

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

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

Mahalo for your consideration.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Miller Marvin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Amy Miller Marvin
President and CEO, Hawaii Foodbank



Food+ Policy Internship 2023

food@purplemaia.org

LATE

February 21, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Subject: SB 420, Relating To Sustainable Food Systems

Aloha Hawaii State Senators,

We are testifying in **strong support** of measure SB420 SD1, relating to sustainable food systems. By creating a sustainable food system working group, the state would be more equipped to address multiple issues that arise from such a complex system. As we have seen following the COVID-19 pandemic, the current food system is weak, and without a plan could put many lives at risk. The food system touches upon many different issues, from environmental, social, and economic issues. Funding a sustainable food system working group would help to create systematic planning of the food system that can be economically beneficial to a variety of actors within Hawaii's food system. The sustainable food systems working group is extremely necessary for our local food system development & for increasing our overall resilience as a State. Therefore, I strongly urge you to support bill SB420 SD1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Tierra Bartolotti & 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-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 4:05:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

In support of SD1. Thank you.

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 6:11:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| William K. Chang | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support SB 420 SD1. Thank you for allowing my testimony.

William Chang

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 6:56:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

We need to have this!!!

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 7:32:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Exciting that "local" seafood is being (quasi) formally recognized as a food source.

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 9:52:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brian F. Funai | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this bill. The ocean has been the refrigerator for island inhabitants for hundreds of years. It has always and still sustains hundreds of thousands of people today. To completely ignore it in our plans on island self sustainability and food security is completely idiotic. Please have the foresight to ignore the people that are making fishing and seafood a political football and feed our island people.

Thank you,

Brian F. Funai

Hilo, Hawaii

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 7:54:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Kevin Mulkern | Individual | Comments | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Your support will only help the people of hawaii if those actively engaged in fishing are represented on the working group.

Kevin J Mulkern

808 396 6595

Please demand that DLNR reprint "A Measurement Guid for Regulated Nearshore Species of Hawai'i Except Maui Island". It has been out of print for years despite the fact DLNR has the money to reprint. It is no different than a speedlimit sign on our highways protecting residents. The guide protects our food supplu insureing it is a sustanable food system.

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 11:34:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello,

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

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

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

Please support SB420 SD1 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 11:43:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr Gary Passon | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

We need this!!!!

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 12:11:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Over 50% of Hawaii's families are facing food insecurity. Our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system *can* address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

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

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

Please support SB420 SD1 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nancy Redfeather - Ka Ohana O Na Pua

Honalo, Hawai'i

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 1:13:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I don't see how people would object to planning for a sustainable food system with all stakeholders at the table. This bill has so much good for the environment, jobs, sustainability, food security, health: please pass it. Mahalo

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 2:13:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gary P. Beals | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support including seafood such as that caught by the Hawaii Longline fleet in Bill SB 420 SD1.

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 7:31:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Distinguished Legislators,

I am submitting testimony in support of SB420 SD1. I am asking that you establish and fund positions for the Personnel needed to provide the expert input the Dept.of Agriculture needs to manage a successfully sustainable resource. Thank you.

Brian Kimata

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 9:34:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello,

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

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

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

Please support SB420 SD1 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 12:00:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I respectfully ask that you support SB420 SD1, supporting sustainable food systems working group.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI



Restore the Commons

Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 10:00 am

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

SENATE BILL 420 SD1 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Position: Support, with comment

Me ke Aloha, Chair DelaCruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

SB420 creates a working group to develop a plan for “sustainable food production”, with recommendations for implementation, and with funds to support needed new positions to undertake the mission.

This is a necessary step forward in the seriously overdue effort to address Hawaii’s food insecurity. A number of the unexpectedly appropriate members have been incorporated here to address the serious policy shortfall we now face, as we import 85-90% of all our food, with supplies for 2-3 days at most, so frighteningly demonstrated with the pandemic lockdown. Any number of likely disaster scenarios could bring another such event sooner than later, and we are still unprepared. We face immediate starvation in a worst case, and we are not protected.

The urgency of pressing forward with this initiative could not be more strongly emphasized. Our fear is that the proposed membership is far from understanding the extent of our fragile situation, and overly confident that policy solutions can fix it. We have to face the fact that we do not currently have the capacity to feed ourselves. We have focused too much on providing opportunities for some to make a living from tourism and the successful middle class, even as the health and welfare of working families who are inevitably on the front lines of our emergencies cannot be served thereby.

It needs to be understood that our emphasis on external markets may have a benefit in helping to support a new effort to provide healthy fresh produce for working families, but that it cannot possibly overcome the high prices local families cannot afford. The infrastructure for island-wide, society-wide adequate food supply has been made imaginable by acquisitions of depleted plantation lands and aging water infrastructure, but it has a very long way to go in restoring those lands to fertility and the water infrastructure to efficiency.

It needs to be accepted that there’s no money in affordable healthy food. By getting on the ground with a number of actual farmers – not just those serving the high end markets willing to give them a panglossian tour, this will become aparent to clear-thinking working group members. They will learn the difficult truth that affordable local produce needs to be conceived as a public good, like bus service or education, and we have barely begin to contemplate such a system. Those who think otherwise have been smoking one of Hawaii’s best opportunities for generating income, or have disposable income invested in hedgefunds.

It would be improper to expect successful agriculturalists to bear the major support this effort, while other economics sectors play in an increasingly discredited “market” system, fading before our eyes in favor of casino-driven avarice and speculation and service to people who don’t live here. It will be clear soon enough, however, that it is possible for the successful agriculturalists to help support the infrastructure that will “raise all boats”. But farmers are an independent lot, and this function needs to be considered a public trust, as it was when Hawaii was a well-fed and robust society.

Meanwhile, the working group effort needs to visit actual farms to learn what is possible and where major obstacles lie. Farming practices need to adopt the regenerative model, reject the “green reolution” model, and county waste collection is part of the solution. Clearly, many players need to be involved in mapping out a survivable future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this issue,
/s/ Charley Ice, Hoa’āina

**Building the new normal with People and Land: Food Security Health Care Public Banking
Regenerating Soils Cutting Waste Eliminating GHG emissions**

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 10:58:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

Developing a more sustainable food system for Hawai‘i represents an opportunity to create a new food economy that integrates the objectives of "green" job creation, sustainable economic development, land stewardship, food security, environmental protection, and climate change resiliency with community health and well-being. Please pass SB420 SD1.

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:49:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB420 and stand with Hawaii Cattlemen's Council testimony

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:58:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

aloha Senators,

Please support SB 420. This bill is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Thank you for considering the importance of this measure.

Regards,

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:19:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in SUPPORT of SB420. While I believe we should already know and be acting on ideas for sustainable food systems, if the government needs this working group to move forward on this critical issue, then I'm all for it.

Mahalo,

Dylan Ramos

96816

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 5:34:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB420 SD1 which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture.

I am really concerned that so many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity, which should not be happening in place where year-round agriculture should be available. There are many reasons for this happening, not the least because the cost of living is soaring in our state and basic housing is a struggle for many.

Our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

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

Developing a more sustainable food system for Hawai'i represents an opportunity to create a new food economy. This would integrate 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.

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

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy, which is an essential goal considering climate change and the concern of food insecurity as globalization falters in the upcoming decades. Feeding our populace and making sure all have access to good healthy food is a goal we should support.

I have read the bill and like that the proposed working group will be comprised of a variety of representatives from various groups. I really like this idea, especially the concept of having a person representing the Hawaiian community and one who is an expert in climate change, and including people from UH. This is a great idea, and hope it goes through.

Please support SB420 SD1 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time.

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:21:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Courtland H. L. Pang | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
Chair, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB420 to establish a sustainable food systems working group tasked with developing an interagency food systems plan. It is appropriate that we look ahead and plan for our food future in light of supply chain disruptions and our isolation in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. In that regard it is especially wise that representatives of both local and commercial fishers are included since we have nothing but the moa'na to supplement our 'aina.

Mahalo,
Courtland Pang

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Senate Bill 420 - Senate Draft 1 - RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 10:00am
State Capitol Conference Room 211 & Video Conference

IN SUPPORT of SB 420 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am Nana Clemons and **I support SB 420 SD1** to establish a sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture. I am a graduate student of the MSW Program at UH Mānoa's Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health. I was fortunate to be a part of Kōkua Kalihi Valley's Hui Hoaka Emergency Covid Response team in 2020 - 2021. I am testifying as an individual and my views do not represent that of my institution or former employer. These are my own personal views.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted Hawai'i's reliance on imported goods. Since a 2012 report by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Planning Department of Business Economic Development & Tourism, and the Hawai'i State Department of Agriculture, it has remained the case that 85-90% of Hawai'i's food is imported. With inflation on the rise, it is also important to note that Hawai'i has one of the highest average costs per meal at \$3.79, \$54 above the national average (Map the Meal Gap, 2020).

Action desperately needs to be taken to address our food systems as it becomes increasingly more difficult for people to access healthy and affordable foods. I do not see the solution to this as bringing a Whole Foods or Down to Earth into local communities. I am excited that the bill is proposing to include members of the Native Hawaiian community and I hope that there will be an emphasis on ahupua'a and the self-sustaining intention and rationale behind these land divisions running from mauka (mountain) to makai (sea).

When I was a part of Hui Hoaka, we helped to harvest and deliver fresh produce to families in the community who were in isolation/quarantine. Fresh produce was harvested at Ho'oulu 'Āina in Kalihi Valley and supplemented with more produce provided by Roots Café. We were able to feed and sustain the community of Kalihi during this time of "isolation" with resources from directly within the ahupua'a. Food is culture and culture is health for many of the Pacific Island families and residents of Kalihi. We were able to bring kalo, 'ulu, 'ōlena, cassava and 'uala to them in a time where they felt separated or distant from their home (culture).

As a future social worker as well, I also share in the values that healthy food is a human right and that we need to be advocating for social equity and food justice. Health disparities in rates of high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, diabetes all stem from food disparity among other socio-economic factors. The collaborative and community-level efforts I witnessed at Kōkua

Kalihi Valley showed me that we can have a working, sustainable food system in place. Having more support and implementing a collaborative, Indigenous-Pacific, sustainable food system on a state-level could be a beautiful, bright future for Hawai'i. I thank the committee for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,
Nana Clemons

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 7:59:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

strong support

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:26:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Establishing the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop a plan for a more sustainable, resilient local food economy will bring together the groups working on Sustainable Food in Hawaii.

It establishes this area as critical to the future of Hawaii. I always buy local and love the fresh food and local products. It's time to support and grow sustainability.

I urge you to pass SB420 SD1.

Mahalo,

Virginia Tincher

Aina Haina, Oahu

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:32:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of WAM:

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

Respectfully,

Paul Bernstein

LATE

SB-420-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 7:11:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

SB420 seems a bill long over due. We need focus on our local food system. Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Nancy Romaine