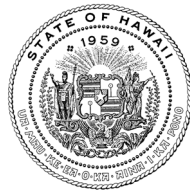


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 430, S.D. 1

February 22, 2023
10:00 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO FOOD BANK PROGRAM

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 430, S.D. 1, amends Chapter 371K, HRS, to add a new part to:

- Establish the Hawai'i Farm to Food Bank Program (HFFBP) to be administered by the Office of Community Services (OCS) within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to relieve food shortages by distributing fresh locally grown or produced food to residents of the State, including low-income and unemployed families and individuals, at no cost to the recipients.
- Establish the Hawai'i Food Assistance Program Special Fund (HFAPSF) to be administered by OCS to fund programs to provide hunger relief for those in need and for the purposes of the HFFBP.
- Exempt all procurements executed pursuant to this part from the requirements of Chapters 103D and 103F, HRS.
- Exempt the HFAPSF from Sections 36-27, 36-30, and 37-53, HRS.

- Appropriate \$5,000,000 in general funds for FY 24 to be deposited into the HFAPSF.
- Appropriate \$5,000,000 in special funds for FY 24 from the HFAPSF.
- Allow OCS to retain 10% of the appropriation from the HFAPSF for its administrative costs in entering into and overseeing contracts adopted pursuant to Section 371K-A, HRS.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work, and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding S.B. No. 430, S.D. 1, it is not clear why the HFFBP cannot be implemented using general funds and it is likely that the HFAPSF would not be self-sustaining as there is no defined revenue source for the special fund.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNTSMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

JOVANIA DOMINGO DELA CRUZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'ŌIHANA PONO LIMAHANA
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 420
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8675 / Fax: (808) 586-8685
Email: dlir.ocs@hawaii.gov

IN REPLY, REFER TO:
OCS 23.1077

February 21, 2023

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair,
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol & Videoconference

From: Jovanie Domingo dela Cruz, Executive Director
DLIR – Office of Community Services

Position: Support

Re: S.B. 430 RELATING TO FARM TO FOOD BANK PROGRAM

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

This bill would create a Farm to Food Bank program and a special fund, to be administered by the Office of Community Services (OCS), whereby OCS would distribute funds to food banks so that they could purchase locally produced food and distribute it to qualifying low-income people to supplement their food needs.

The bill would add two new sections to the legislation that created OCS – namely HRS Chapter 371K – to direct OCS to administer a Farm to Food Bank program and to create a special fund for OCS to receive appropriations and other moneys to purchase locally produced food and distribute it, through food banks, to low-income people in the State. Section 2 of the bill would create the program within the OCS administrative structure, and Section 3 of the bill would establish the special fund.

Section 2(b) of the bill directs OCS to make funds available to food banks located in Hawaii. Section 2(c) would require the food banks to use the funds to purchase, store, and transport food grown or produced in Hawaii to recipients at no cost to the recipients. Section 2(d) adopts the federal code's definition of "food bank" in 7 USC §7501(5):

- (f) **Food bank** means a public or charitable institution that maintains an established operation involving the provision of food or edible commodities, or the products of food or edible commodities, to food pantries, soup kitchens, hunger relief centers, or other food or feeding centers that, as an integral part of their normal activities, provide meals or food to feed needy persons on a regular basis.

Section 3 of the bill would add this Farm to Food Bank special fund to the list of 34 other special funds that, under HRS §36-27, are exempted from a five percent administrative fee that is deducted from all other special funds and transferred to the general fund.

Similarly, Section 4 of the bill would amend HRS §36-30 to add this food assistance special fund to the current list of 28 other special funds that are exempt from responsibility to pay a pro-rata share of administrative expenses incurred by the department (here, DLIR) that is responsible for operations supported by the special fund.

Section 5 of the bill would appropriate \$5 million from the general fund, to be deposited into the Hawaii food assistance special fund. Then, under Section 6 of the bill, this \$5 million is appropriated for use in State FY 2023-2024 by OCS to contract with food banks to purchase locally produced food and distribute these commodities “to relieve food shortages experienced by residents of the State, including low-income and unemployed families and individuals.” Section 6 also states that OCS may deduct ten percent of the appropriation for OCS’s administrative expenses in entering into and overseeing the contracts with food banks to administer the Farm-to-Food Bank program.

Pursuant to Section 9 of the bill, it would take effect on July 1, 2023.

II. CURRENT LAW

Currently, Hawaii has no legislation that creates a program at the State level in which a State agency receives appropriations for a special fund to purchase food and distribute it, through food banks, to low-income people in the State. OCS currently administers federal programs that perform similar functions, notably TEFAP – The Emergency Food Assistance Program. Under TEFAP, OCS receives large amounts of surplus food from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that is distributed through Hawaii food banks as the primary agencies, which in turn distribute the food through smaller secondary agencies to recipient low-income people in the State.

Recently, USDA introduced a very small supplemental program within TEFAP that provides about \$23,000 to the State of Hawaii for a farm-to-food bank program. OCS administers this program through contracts with Hawaii Foodbank, serving Honolulu and Kauai, and with The Food Basket, which is the food bank for the Island of Hawaii. However, this program is very strictly limited because it provides funding only for administration and relies on donations from farmers. Moreover, the State (through its grantees) must provide one-for-one matching funds, which the food banks provide in donated labor and administrative funding.

III. COMMENTS ON THE BILL

The Office of Community Services **supports** S.B. 430, provided that passage of the bill would not replace or adversely impact priorities in the Governor's Budget Request. OCS applauds efforts to support local farming and the provision of **fresh** food commodities to people in Hawaii who are suffering from insufficient food security. This focus on fresh, locally grown foods would improve the quality of food available to people needing this support.

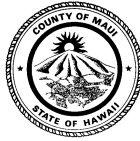
Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
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Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 19, 2023

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 22, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB 430, SD1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO FOOD BANK
PROGRAM**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to establish the Hawai'i Farm to Food Bank Program and Hawai'i Food Assistance Program Special Fund to alleviate food shortages in the State.

The Maui County Council adopted Resolution 23-43, "URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT AND ADOPT THE PRIORITY FOOD POLICIES RECOMMENDED BY THE TRANSFORMING HAWAII'S FOOD SYSTEMS TOGETHER INITIATIVE," in support of this measure. Therefore, I offer this testimony on the Council's behalf.

The Maui County Council **supports** this measure for the following reasons:

1. This measure provides a much-needed source of funding for food banks to purchase, store, and transport food grown or produced in Hawai'i.
2. This measure advances the following Maui County General Plan policy: "Work with other levels of government and the nonprofit sector to expand services to address hunger . . ."
3. This measure advances the goal of ending hunger and increasing food security in Hawai'i, as outlined in Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge and the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations.

For the foregoing reasons, the Maui County Council **supports** this measure.



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

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: **SB 430, SD1 - Relating to the Hawaii Farm to Food Bank Program**
Hawai'i State Capitol & Via Videoconference
February 22, 2023, 10:00 AM

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

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing **in SUPPORT of HB 430, SD1**. This bill establishes the Hawaii Farm to Food Bank Program and Hawaii Food Assistance Program Special Fund to alleviate food shortages in the State.

Nearly half of children in Hawai'i live in households experiencing financial hardship. While almost 1 in 8 are in poverty, an additional one-third of families in Hawaii aren't officially poor but still don't earn enough to afford the basic life essentials.¹ As a result, over 50,000 of our state's keiki, or 1 in 6, face hunger.²

It is well established that the stresses of childhood poverty have both immediate and long-term effects on keiki's physical and mental health, behavioral self-control, academic achievement, and earnings as adults.³

It's important to support Hawai'i's food banks. They and their partner agencies help ensure that struggling families do not go hungry by distributing millions of pounds of food per year to those in need in our state.

Food banks were a lifeline during the pandemic when our state had some of the highest unemployment rates in the nation. But even with folks back at work, the current high inflation has led to our state's food banks to continue to see demand that's higher than before the pandemic. That is unlikely to abate, as Hawai'i had the most expensive groceries in the nation⁴ even before the pandemic, and will continue to do so.

It's also important to support our local farms. That's why farm to food bank programs are win-win, by providing local food to those who need it while also supporting both local farmers.

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

Thank you,

Nicole Woo
Director of Research and Economic Policy

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¹ <https://www.auw.org/sites/default/files/pictures/ALICE-in-Focus-Children-Hawaii%20%283%29.pdf>

² <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hawaii>

³ <https://www.apa.org/pi/ses/resources/indicator/2014/06/childhood-poverty>

⁴ <https://meric.mo.gov/data/cost-living-data-series>



HIPHI Board

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State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender

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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

Date: February 18, 2023

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

Re: Support for SB 430, Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to Food Bank Program

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 Institute¹ (HIPHI), is in **Support of SB 430**, which would establish and fund a farm to food bank program.

Ending Food Waste

Farmers sometimes produce supply beyond market demand. Currently, this excess would go to waste. However, with a robust farm to food bank program, the food bank system can act as a purchaser of last resort.² This system provides a solid backstop for the local farming community, ensuring an opportunity for them to sell excess food. This foodbank backstop adds security to farmers and lessens the risk in their business operations, helping them expand their business.

Help the Local Economy

This program will help local farmers sell more food within the State. The food they sell will go to those most in need here in Hawai'i that depend on the food bank system. This investment will flow in all sectors of our economy as the farmers and food distributors spend their earned money on other goods and services.

Increasing Food Supply

Without a farm to food bank program, a lot of food that's already grown would go to waste, never making it to market. Increasing the amount of food available within our supply chain through this program would provide more food for those using the foodbank system. There is consistent demand for fresh produce from the food banks, but it is often unavailable. This program can help fill that void by providing healthier food choices for our residents.

Mahalo,



Nate Hix
Food Access Policy and Advocacy Coordinator
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

1. Created by the legislature in 2012, the Obesity Prevention Task Force is comprised of over 60 statewide organizations and works to make recommendations to reshape Hawai'i's school, work, community, and healthcare environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents. The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) convenes the Task Force and supports and promotes policy efforts to create a healthy Hawai'i.
2. <https://kauainownews.com/2022/02/14/hawaii-food-basket-receives-donation-from-kaiser-for-new-program/>



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 22, 2023; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol; Conference Room 211
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 0430, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO FOOD BANK PROGRAM.

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

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 0430, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO FOOD BANK PROGRAM.

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

This measure, as received by your Committee, would establish the Hawaii Farm to Food Bank Program (Program), and provide a source of funding for the Program to assist food banks purchase, store, and transport Hawaii-grown or produced food to local communities for distribution. Specifically, this bill would appropriate \$5,000,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2023-2024 for deposit into a newly established Program Special Fund to facilitate the Program, and clarify that procurements executed by the Program be done in accordance with the Public Procurement Code when used for goods, services, or construction that directly benefits the Office of Community Services.

The HPCA asserts that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely threatened the health and welfare of our citizens, especially Hawaii's underprivileged and rural communities. Entire families are struggling to put food on the table on a consistent basis. The COVID-19 pandemic has also greatly exacerbated the need for a program like this. Our overreliance on tourism has weakened our ability to bounce back from COVID's dire economic realities. The only way for us to protect ourselves from the next global pandemic is for Hawaii to diversify its economic base and become more self-sufficient. And for us to do that, we need to grow more food.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 0430, Senate Draft 1
Wednesday, February 22, 2023; 10:00 a.m.
Page 2

Accordingly, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



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 430, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

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 430, SD1, which establishes the Hawai'i Farm to Food Bank Program and Hawai'i Food Assistance Program Special Fund to alleviate food shortages in the State.

The Coronavirus Pandemic disrupted Hawai'i's local food systems and caused many local producers to lose their local markets. Many catered to tourism, large-scale events, hotels, restaurants, cruise ships, farmers' markets, and school lunch programs, which were non-existent during Hawai'i's shutdown.

Like small businesses around the state, without open and consistent markets, local farmers and ranchers will decrease food production levels and will likely downsize and/or go out of business. To help address the state's food security during the pandemic, Hawai'i's Foodbanks partnered with local food producers to ensure that farmers and ranchers could survive.

At the onset of the pandemic, Hawai'i's Foodbanks partnered with farmers and ranchers to provide local agricultural produce and proteins for their food assistance programs. As organizations that aggregate and distribute food, Foodbank staff brought valuable logistical insight to these programs. The combined efforts of Hawai'i's Foodbanks, the Hawai'i Farm Bureau, and other partner organizations allowed tens of thousands of families to have access to food during unprecedented times. This win-win partnership connected local producers that lost markets and revenue sources due to COVID-19 with the Hawai'i Foodbank to meet the increased demands of feeding Hawai'i's communities.

A Hawai'i Farm to Food Bank Program with dedicated funding will provide funds to Hawai'i's food banks that support non-profit and community feeding programs by providing locally grown or produced foods to communities in need. This will also help Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers while also providing local nutritional food to those who need it most.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

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

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 430 SD1, Relating to Hawai'i Farm to Food Bank Program.

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 SB 430 SD1, which establishes the Hawai'i Farm to Food Bank Program and Hawai'i Food Assistance Program Special Fund to alleviate food shortages in the state.

Over the last few years, one of the most pressing issues for many local families has been food insecurity. With many out of work and surviving on government unemployment support, communities have relied on the efforts of food banks and local food producers to meet their basic need to eat.

Federal monies injected into Hawai'i through county initiatives helped to support a local farm-to-food bank effort, in which food banks were able to purchase local products for distribution to needy communities. This effort was a win-win-win, in that local food producers had a market to sell their products when hotels and restaurants shuttered their doors, local families received fresh and nutritious food products made locally island-wide, and food banks that were struggling to purchase shelf-stable food due to nationwide shortages were rescued by Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers who provided local food to their communities.

The Farm to Food Bank efforts across the state led to many important foundational relationships between local farmers, ranchers, and community feeding organizations that helped struggling communities cope with the social and economic consequences of the COVID pandemic. Unfortunately, natural disasters, food supply chain disruptions, and state emergencies have become a harsh, consistent reality for our local communities. Food banks across the state will need support to meet these food security challenges.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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State President

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Maui

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Molokai

Negus Manna
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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 strongly supports SB430.**

Food insecurity is a serious issue in Hawaii and the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated this problem. Our state's farmers are a vital part of the solution, and the Hawaii Farm to Food Bank Program provides a crucial link between our farmers and those in need. Further, this bill a win-win situation - farmers can sell their surplus crops, reducing food waste and increasing their income, while those in need gain access to fresh, locally grown food.

We believe it is essential to strengthen partnerships between the food banks and agricultural producers to bring fresh produce and other foods to households in need. Additionally, we are confident that the monetary appropriations will enable farmer and food banks to provide the much-needed food access for the state's residents.

We also recognize food banks need financial support beyond local purchasing and advocate for a prompt hearing of SB460, which will appropriate funds to the DLIR Office of Community Services to support food banks across the State.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 10:00 am

In strong support of SB430 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and WAM Committee members;

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **strongly supports SB430 SD1** that establishes the Hawaii Farm to Food Bank Program and Hawaii Food Assistance Program Special Fund to alleviate food shortages in the State.

Many families in Hawaii struggle to put food on the table on a consistent basis, and the COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbated this situation. This measure is a wonderful idea that supports our farmers and at the same time helps our local families in need by providing local, fresh, healthy options. Efforts to support our farmers also builds our resiliency and avoids the greenhouse gases that would have been emitted from shipping in food.

Please pass SB430 SD1 so that we all may reap these benefits.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

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

SB430 SD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO FOOD BANK PROGRAM

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 SB430 SD1** which establishes the Hawaii Farm to Food Bank Program and Hawaii Food Assistance Program Special Fund to alleviate food shortages in the State.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports efforts to ensure that infrastructure is in place to alleviate food shortages. With the rising cost of living, hunger will continue to be a problem that we need to solve as a community. In the past, the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council has assisted its members to coordinate meat donations, and individual ranchers coordinated their own meat donations in addition. This program will establish a clear way for cattle producers to participate in food donations.

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 SB 430, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to Food Bank Program

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

On behalf of Hawaii Foodbank, I **support SB 430**, which seeks to establish a Farm to Food Bank program to be administered by the Office of Community Services.

The Hawai'i Foodbank established our Farm to Foodbank program during the pandemic, when we dramatically increased our purchases to support local farmers during the sudden closure of the restaurant market and to meet the significant increase in food insecurity. For nearly three years, we have continued to fund purchases from local producers through philanthropic support and other sources. We believe long-term sustainable funding for farm to food bank programs is a win-win for agriculture and food security in Hawai'i.

We respectfully request that this bill also consider funding to the Office of Community Services for the administration of the program.

Food security is a critical issue in Hawai'i, where one in six residents lacks consistent access to healthy, nutritious food. The Hawai'i Foodbank gathers, donates, rescues, and purchases food to distribute to those in need through our network of more than 200 agency partners. Our ability to purchase food that is nutritious, culturally relevant, and desirable is a critical piece of our anti-hunger work.

Mahalo for your consideration.

With aloha,

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 430, Relating To Hawai'i Farm To Food Bank Program

Aloha Hawaii State Senators,

We are testifying in favor of **SB430 SD1**, relating to the Hawaii Farm-To-Food Bank program. Providing this funding to Hawaii's food banks can help alleviate the 1 in 10 people in Hawaii who are experiencing hunger, according to Feeding America, while supporting our state's local farmers. This bill supports a systematic approach to finding solutions for remediating hunger and food insecurity and increasing financial sustainability for farmers. This will also help to keep money circulating within our own local economies. Supporting the Farm to Food Bank Program will help solve some of the most pressing issues our food system faces. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on bill SB430.

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-430-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 4:09:07 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-430-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 11:00:39 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 SB430 SD1, which would establish a Hawai'i Farm to Food Bank Program and Hawai'i Food Assistance Program Special Fund. We should fund state food banks to purchase, store, and transport food grown or produced in Hawai'i to local communities for distribution. This program will serve the state's food needs, provide local food producers with a market to support their operations, and keep moneys circulating within the state to boost the local economy. Please pass this bill!

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

LATE

Committee Chair Senator Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Senator Keith-Agaran

**TESTIMONY ON SB 430 (SD1)
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

February 22, 2023
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference 1:00 PM

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

I am a resident of the island of Hawai'i who strongly supports SB 430 (SD1). This bill has the potential to produce significant economic gains for our islands by supporting local farmers and promoting a more sustainable food system by reducing our dependence on imported food. Increasing local food production will foster food security among the most vulnerable in our community.

High grocery costs can force people to rely on heavily processed foods high in sugar (food insecure people in Hawai'i- 31% report being diabetic and 21% pre-diabetic) and high in sodium (26% self-reported hypertension). Increasing the availability of locally produced foods would mean providing more fresh, nutrient-dense foods that promote a balanced diet. The Hawai'i Food Bank's 2021 Annual Report states that less than a quarter of the food they distributed was fresh produce, demonstrating a true need for this bill.

According to The Food Insecurity in Hawai'i Data Brief for 2020 43% Non-Hawaiian Pacific Islanders and 27% of Native Hawaiians were reporting food insecurity. By producing more food locally, we create more opportunities to provide those in need with culturally appropriate foods.

I support SB 428 because it stands to benefit the lives of people facing food insecurity, improve the overall health of our community, promote a more sustainable food system, ensure economic opportunity for local farmers, and revitalize indigenous agriculture.

[Hawai'i 2018 Food Insecurity Data Brief](#)
[Hawai'i Food Bank 2021 Annual Report](#)

LATE

SB-430-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:15:24 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor