

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF PLANNING  
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
DIRECTOR

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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS, Director**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

in consideration of  
**SB 1186, SD 2, HD 1**  
**RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.**

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** SB 1186, SD 2, HD 1 which establishes the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

OPSD is proud to have contributed to the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group, playing an active role in the development of an interagency food systems plan through the passage of Senate Resolution 111 in 2024. Our Statewide Sustainability Branch is responsible for and has long been dedicated to developing and promoting policies that align with Hawai'i's sustainability and climate goals, and we are committed to fostering sustainable food systems across the state.

The OPSD recognizes the challenges of coordinating sustainable food systems statewide, particularly amid economic uncertainties and instability. We recommend that the committee maintain support for the full-time equivalent (FTE) position outlined in this bill, ensuring continued funding for the fiscal biennium.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important initiative.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



STEPHEN F. LOGAN  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

JAMES DS. BARROS  
ADMINISTRATOR OF  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
KAHU HO'OMALU PŌULIA

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA**  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
4204 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4420

STATE OF HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1186 SD2 HD1,  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS  
ADMINISTRATOR  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MARCH 19, 2025

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice-Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a testimony to **COMMENT** on Senate Bill 1186 SD2 HD1.

The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency believes in this legislative measure as it aligns with our mission to enhance emergency management preparedness and response throughout the state of Hawai'i. HIEMA endorses any initiative that aims to strengthen and bolster the resilience of communities within the state.

We propose the establishment of an FTE position within HIEMA. This dedicated role would significantly reinforce our operational capacity and facilitate effective coordination among various state agencies involved in food systems management. By having an assigned resource focused on this initiative, HIEMA would support ongoing preparedness efforts related to food distribution.

We appreciate your consideration of this proposal and believe that it will strengthen our collective ability to respond to emergencies and ensure food security for our communities. HIEMA supports this measure, with the understanding that its passage will not negatively impact on the priorities outlined in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill SB1186 SD2 HD1.

James Barros: [james.barros@hawaii.gov](mailto:james.barros@hawaii.gov); 808-733-4300

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

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
TECHNOLOGY**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025  
10:00 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 423**

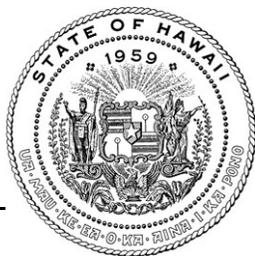
**SENATE BILL NO. 1186, SENATE DRAFT 2. HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.**

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1186, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 that establishes a Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to enhance statewide collaboration to achieve a sustainable, resilient, and equitable food system. The Department of Agriculture (Agriculture) supports this measure and offers to assist ADC in efforts to increase the economic viability of existing agricultural operations and establishment of new agricultural operations in direct support of increasing local food self-sufficiency and exports. The Department asks that the ADC consider requesting appropriate funding to hire professionals with documented expertise in food systems to assist the Working Group with its tasks.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.





**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
DIRECTOR

**DANE K. WICKER**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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Telephone: (808) 586-2355  
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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY**

Wednesday, March 19, 2025  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In consideration of  
**SB 1186, SD 2, HD1**  
**RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.**

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of SB1186 SD2 HD1, which establishes the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) and appropriates funds for a temporary full-time equivalent position for DBEDT.

DBEDT has established an internal working group comprising the ADC, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD), Department of Agriculture (DOA), University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UHCTAHR), and the Department of Education (DOE). This group focuses on addressing the farm-to-export pipeline, aligning inputs to the Food and Product Innovation Network (value-added production), DOE's regional kitchens (Farm-to-School, Act 175), and Farm-to-State initiatives (Act 176).

These collaborative efforts aim to fulfill the mandate outlined in Act 151 to double local food production and exports by 2030. DBEDT has shared its progress and findings with the interagency food systems working group during the interim, in accordance with SR111, and will continue to engage in these efforts. Our ongoing projects are designed to reduce Hawai'i's dependence on imports, strengthen our food security ecosystem, and support the construction of resilient food production facilities.

DBEDT respectfully requests 1.00 FTE permanent position: Crop Commodity Coordinator with a salary of \$85,765 for FY26 and \$83,315 for FY27. The Crop Commodity Coordinator will support Hawai'i's agricultural sector by providing strategic guidance, coordination, and market expansion for local crop commodities. This position will focus on identifying high-value crops, improving supply chain efficiencies, and developing strategies to enhance Hawai'i's agricultural competitiveness in both local and export markets. With the state's goal of doubling local food production, there is an urgent need to strengthen coordination among farmers, processors, and distributors. The Crop Commodity Coordinator will play a critical role in supporting growers, facilitating market linkages, and addressing production challenges such as pest and disease management, mechanization, and sustainability practices. This position will also assist in leveraging federal and state programs to support crop innovation and market access, ensuring a stable and resilient agricultural economy for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure, and we look forward to continued collaboration to achieve our shared goals of enhancing Hawai'i's agricultural capacity and food security.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



WENDY GADY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
HUI HO'OULU AINA MAHIAI

TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &  
TECHNOLOGY  
March 19, 2025  
10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 423  
& Videoconference

SENATE BILL NO. 1186 SD2 HD1  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 1186 SD2 HD1, which establishes the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture, of which a representative of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) would be a member.

ADC is happy to continue working upon contributions made to the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group, as created through the passage of Senate Resolution 111, SLH 2024. This working group focuses on the farm-to-export pipeline, aligning inputs to the Food and Product Innovation Network, Department of Education's regional kitchens, and various Farm-to-State initiatives, in an effort to fulfill the mandate outlined in Act 151 to double local food production and exports by 2030.

We recognize the Hawaii Department of Agriculture as a key partner in this effort to create a more resilient and sustainable food system for the State,

and defer all decisions regarding positions and funding considerations related to this measure.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**OFFICE OF ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION  
KE KE'ENA HO'OMOHALA WAIWAI  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

711 Kapi'olani Boulevard, FLOOR 12 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 768-5764 • FAX: (808) 768-4242 • WEBSITE: [revitalizeoahu.org](http://revitalizeoahu.org)

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
*MEI*



AMY ASSELBAYE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
*PO'O HO'OKO*

GAVIN THORNTON  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
*HOPE PO'O*

March 17, 2025

STATE OF HAWAII  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1186 SD2, HD1  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

BY  
AMY ASSELBAYE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee,

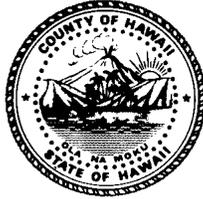
The Office of Economic Revitalization (OER) supports SB 1186, Relating to Sustainable Food Systems, which establishes a Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture, including the appropriation for one temporary position.

This initiative is vitally important in breaking down silos, creating opportunities for collaboration, and avoiding inefficiencies within Hawaii's food systems. Each County is working on broad food systems issues and these efforts will be bolstered and more efficiently coordinated through this statewide effort. Including at least one paid full-time position will keep the working group accountable and effective. Moreover, encouraging collaborative efforts through these bodies will provide the necessary platform for stakeholders to align their resources, share valuable insights, and strategize effectively to strengthen Hawaii's food infrastructure and further State-wide goals.

The appropriation of funds and establishment of a dedicated position at the State level demonstrates a commitment to sustaining these efforts for the long term and to Hawaii's food security and self-sufficiency goals. This financial backing is crucial for successful and timely implementation enabling the working group and coordination team to carry out their mandates effectively. OER's Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems staff looks forward to working better together to enhance food security, promote local agriculture, and support local farmers and communities to achieve a more sustainable food system for Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony and to the committee for considering SB 1186.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.  
Mayor



Benson Medina  
Director

Dennis Lin  
Deputy Director

**County of Hawai'i**  
**DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**  
25 Aupuni Street, Room 1301 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4252  
(808) 961-8366 • Fax (808) 935-1205  
E-mail: chresdev@co.hawaii.hi.us

March 18, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY  
WEDNESDAY, March 19, 2025  
10:00 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 423

TESTIMONY ON SB 1186 SD2 HD1  
Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey and Members of the Committee,

I am Benson Medina, Director of the Department of Research and Development, County of Hawai'i. One of the agricultural objectives of this department is to "support collaboration, innovation, resource development, and programmatic sustainability throughout the food system to reduce food waste, improve producer viability and resilience, develop workforce development pathways, or increase access to locally produced food among low-income residents."

The County of Hawai'i provides written testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1186 SD2 HD1** to establish the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

The Agriculture and Food Systems Program in the County of Hawai'i Department of Research and Development supported the development of the Report of the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group in response to SR111, SD2, 2024 Legislature. Our department is in the process of facilitating community-led agriculture and food system planning to outline key strategies to support producers and improve food access. Connecting these community-level planning efforts to the Interagency Working Group proposed in SB1186 SD2 HD1 will streamline efforts to address our communities' most urgent and cross-agency issues.

The Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group proposed in SB1186 SD2 HD1 provide crucial coordination functions across all state agencies and counties, increasing communication and efficiency throughout the food system. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1186 SD2 HD1**.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B Medina".

Benson Medina  
Director

LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

KE KE'ENA LOLI ANIAU MĀLAMA 'ĀINA A ME KE OLA LOA

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 11<sup>th</sup> FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA



BENJAMIN SULLIVAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &  
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER  
PO'O HO'OKO & KAHU OLA LOA

KEALOHA FOX  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR &  
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER  
HOPE PO'O & HOPE KAHU OLA LOA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025, 10:00 A.M.

STATE OF HAWAII  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1186, SD2, HD1  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

BY,

BENJAMIN SULLIVAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER  
OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

The City and County of Honolulu ("City") Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency ("Resilience Office") **supports** SB1186, SD2, HD1, which establishes the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

With nearly one in three Hawai'i households experiencing food insecurity, effective and cohesive coordination is essential to expanding access to affordable, nutritious food, supporting local farmers, and reducing dependence on imports. The O'ahu Resilience Strategy and *Climate Ready O'ahu*, the City's climate adaptation strategy, both emphasize the need for a resilient local food system, and the Resilience Office is currently developing O'ahu's first-ever Food Systems Plan to guide action in this area. Other recent City efforts, including adoption of Honolulu City Council Resolution 24-243, which reconvenes the Agricultural Development Task Force, reflect growing momentum to address the multifaceted needs of our island's food system.

The establishment of a Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and Interagency Food Systems Working Group would provide an invaluable platform for aligning City actions with those of the state and other key partners, ensuring that investments in our food system are collaborative, strategic, equitable, and impactful.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1186, SD2, HD1.



Date: March 14, 2025

Subject: Hawai'i Foodbank in Support of SB1186, SD2, HD1 Relating to Food Systems

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the committee,

On behalf of Hawai'i Foodbank, I express our support for SB1186, SD2, HD1 Relating to Food Systems. This bill establishes the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Agribusiness Development Corporation; requires reports to the Legislature; and appropriates funds.

As the state's largest hunger-relief organization, Hawai'i Foodbank has been committed to ensuring no one in Hawai'i goes hungry since 1983. We work with over 225 agency partners on O'ahu and Kaua'i to distribute food, and programs like Food 4 Keiki and 'Ohana Produce Plus provide nutritious meals to children and families. Last year, Hawai'i Foodbank provided food for 17.7 million meals and served an average of more than 150,000 people each month. In addition to addressing daily needs, our organization mobilizes during emergencies to provide immediate relief and aid long-term recovery efforts.

Food insecurity is a growing crisis in Hawai'i, with nearly 1 in 3 households struggling to access adequate food. One in ten households go a whole day without food some or most months. 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 are supportive of this important effort.

With aloha,

Amy Miller  
President and CEO, Hawai'i Foodbank



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY  
Wednesday, March 19, 2025 — 10:00 a.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports SB 1186 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Sustainable Food Systems.**

Dear Chair Illagan 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 1186 SD 2 HD 1**, which establishes the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

This legislation takes crucial steps toward strengthening Hawai'i's food security and resilience by establishing a coordinated, interagency approach to addressing our food system challenges. The creation of the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and Working Group will help break down silos and foster the collaboration needed to achieve the state's food sustainability goals.

The bill thoughtfully brings together key stakeholders from agriculture, education, health, planning, and other sectors to develop coordinated solutions while providing necessary resources through new dedicated positions. By investing in this integrated approach to food systems planning and implementation, we can make meaningful progress toward increasing local food production, improving food access, reducing waste, and building a more sustainable and equitable food system for Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



**HAWAII APPLESEED**  
CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Support for SB 1186 – Relating to Sustainable Food Systems  
House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism  
Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 10:00 AM

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Dear Chair Iligan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 1186, which would establish the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

Ensuring a healthy and sustainable food system requires the work of many stakeholders, including farmers, food retailers, consumers, and community groups. Government agencies also have a critical role to play. They regulate access to land and water, administer state and federal funding, and even procure food for various programs.

It is long past time the state recognize the critical importance of coordinating these activities across the various agencies involved. With every disaster that strikes, we witness the devastation to farmers on the one hand and are faced with the stark realities of household food insecurity on the other.

While the ADC is a critical player, they do not manage all of these roles, nor should they. However, establishing this interagency food systems coordination team will be a huge step in streamlining all of the various government roles toward achieving the goal of a stronger and more resilient local food system.

This bill is a progressive and forward-thinking proposal that prioritizes government efficiency, public health, and a strong local food economy. Thank you for your consideration.



**House Committee on Economic Development & Technology**

**Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB 1186 SD2, HD1**

Wednesday, March 19th, 2025 10:00 a.m. Conference Room 423

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey and Members of the Committee,

We support SB1186 SD2, HD1 which proposes to establish a Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and an Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Given the complexity and breadth of our local food system it is critical to support a coordinated approach which brings various stakeholders together to meet goals of increasing local food productions. Hawai'i's staggering rates of food insecurity, the challenges farmers face in accessing affordable land and water, increasing climate impacts and increasing invasive species threats are just a few of the many challenges that will need to be tackled to increase our local food security. These are challenges that require a coordinated approach across public agencies, stakeholders and sectors. A more resilient food system can address a variety of challenges facing Hawai'i, 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 working group 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 SB1186 SD2 to establish a Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and an Interagency Food Systems Working Group.

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



BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS (AGR)

DATE: 03/19/2025

TIME: 10:00 am

CONFERENCE ROOM: CR 423

BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS

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John McHugh

Danny Rubenstein

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

Dave Elliott

SENATE BILL NO. 1186 HD1

RELATING TO RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Chair Ilagan, Vice Hussey and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 1186 HD1 with amendments** establishing a Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and Interagency Food Systems Working Group.

**We support the intent of this measure and respectfully request the addition of sufficient appropriations to facilitate this work.** Similar to other models throughout the U.S., funding for the coordination team is essential to helping accelerate progress on these goals and mandates. **We would request the committee consider funding the included position on a two-year basis.**

Indeed, the following are just a few of the goals, mandates and visions we have for our local food and agriculture system:

*Ensure 50% of foods are local agriculture or valued-added/food products within key state institutions by 2050 (Act 176, SLH 2021).*

*Farmers, ranchers, aquaculturists, and plant nursery growers experience reduced risk to production, broaden local and export markets, and receive effective support to detect and control pests (Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan, Vision Section 1.1).*

*Double local food production by 2030 (Act 151, SLH 2019).*

How are we currently coordinating a systematic effort to achieve them?

**With uncertainty about the role of federal funding in our state economy, bolstering our efforts to enact our statewide food systems mandates and goals is paramount.** This bill allows us to make progress on institutional purchasing, local agricultural production and food access and security goals. In addition, it will align investments and

priorities to support the Hawaii Farm to Families Program and the Agribusiness Development Corporation's Product Innovation Network.

Our farmers, food producers, distributors and most importantly, residents, are depending on our efforts.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this vital measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Elliott", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dave Elliott  
**Executive Director**



# Food+ Policy Internship 2025

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

March 17, 2025

Testimony in Support of SB1186: Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology,

Hawaii Food Plus Policy **strongly supports SB1186** and urges the committee to pass this essential bill. **SB1186 is a necessary step toward strengthening Hawaii's food system through unified planning and coordination, addressing the urgent need for a more resilient, sustainable, and secure food network across the state.**

Hawaii's reliance on imported food leaves the state highly vulnerable to disruptions in the imported supply chain, climate change, and natural disasters. SB1186 offers a strategic solution by establishing the Hawaii Statewide Interagency Food Systems Process and a Working Group working within the Agribusiness Development Council. This bill emphasizes the **critical importance of close collaboration across agencies, stakeholders, and sectors to foster a coordinated, statewide effort in addressing food security challenges and advancing sustainable agriculture.**

SB1186 strengthens Hawaii's food system by **reducing reliance on imports, investing in local production, and improving coordination.** It fosters collaboration to **combat food insecurity**, ensuring communities have access to nutritious, locally grown food. The bill also **enhances crisis preparedness**, equipping the state to handle pandemics, natural disasters, and other disruptions. By **supporting farm-to-school programs**, it connects local farmers with schools, promoting agricultural education and fresh, local meals. Additionally, SB1186 **removes barriers for farmers** by improving access to essential resources like land, water, and infrastructure, ultimately empowering local producers and securing a more resilient food supply chain.

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**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 2025, the cohort of interns are undergrads 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.



# Food+ Policy Internship 2025

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

**Passing SB1186 is crucial** to uniting Hawaii's food system and addressing urgent challenges. **Without stronger collaboration and coordination, food insecurity will worsen, our dependence on imports will continue to put us at risk, and agricultural land will remain unutilized.** This bill is the key to building a resilient, sustainable future where every community has access to fresh, local food, and our economy is strengthened from the ground up.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Your support in advancing this crucial bill will ensure a more secure, sustainable, and efficiently coordinated food system for the people of Hawaii.

Mahalo,  
Hawaii Food Plus Policy

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**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 2025, the cohort of interns are undergrads 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.



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 |  
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TO: Committee on Economic Development and Technology

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 19, 2025

TIME: 10am

RE: SB1186 SD2 HD1 Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Position: Support

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

HFIA is in support of this measure. As the measure notes, food insecurity in Hawaii is alarmingly high, and there are many barriers that make it challenging for businesses that want to produce food locally. HFIA has long advocated for initiatives that will reduce food insecurity; supported local food manufacturing and other local businesses; and served as the voice of Hawaii's food and beverage industry. We have high level understanding of Hawaii's food systems and industry expertise.

We are in agreement with this measure that "achieving a sustainable, resilient, and equitable food system requires collaboration across state agencies, producers, retailers, non-governmental organizations, and community members."

As one of the tasks of the Interagency Food Systems Working Group the measure states that the group shall:

"(2) Coordinate with county and community-led organizations that are involved with food systems planning;"

We encourage the group to ensure that when they are coordinating with community led organizations that are involved with food systems planning that HFIA is included. We encourage the Committee to pass this measure, and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

March 19, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

**TESTIMONY ON SB 1186, SD2, HD1**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Conference Room 423 & Videoconference  
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice-Chair Hussey, 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 1186, SD2, HD1**, which establishes the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). This measure aims to improve coordination among state agencies to strengthen Hawai'i's food system, requires reports to the Legislature, establishes positions, and appropriates funds for its implementation.

A coordinated approach to food system development can help address challenges related to local food production, distribution, procurement, and market access. Farmers and ranchers often face regulatory barriers and logistical challenges that limit their ability to expand local food production. By facilitating collaboration between government agencies and agricultural stakeholders, this initiative has the potential to streamline policies, improve procurement processes, and increase opportunities for farmers to participate in state food programs such as Farm to School and Farm to State.

However, we have concerns regarding the structure and implementation of the coordination team and working group. The current version of the bill does not specify the composition of the team or working group or provide details on who will be involved in decision-making. Without clear guidelines on membership and authority, there is uncertainty regarding how these teams will function, who they will report to, and how their actions will be integrated into existing agricultural and food system programs.

Clarification is needed to define their decision-making role, ensure accountability, and prevent duplication of efforts with existing programs and agencies already working to improve Hawai'i's food system. To strengthen SB 1186, SD2, HD1, we recommend:

- Defining the membership of the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group to ensure balanced representation from agricultural stakeholders, government agencies, and community organizations.
- Establishing clear reporting structures and decision-making authority to ensure oversight and avoid redundancy with existing programs.
- Developing measurable performance metrics to assess the effectiveness of the coordination team and working group in achieving food system improvements.

We support the intent of SB 1186, SD2, HD1, and urge the committee to provide necessary clarifications and amendments to ensure that these new entities effectively serve Hawai'i's agricultural and food system needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



## HIPHI Board

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## HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a

Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &  
Evaluation

Community Health  
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Network

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &  
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: Monday, March 17, 2025

To: Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and  
Technology

RE: Support for SB 1186: Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Hrg: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 10 am in Conference Room 423

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Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>1</sup> (HIPHI) works to advance policy and systems change to reduce disparities and improve the health of Hawai'i residents. HIPHI is home to and testifies here on behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Network. Hawai'i Public Health Institute and the Hawai'i Farm to School Network appreciate the opportunity to support SB 1186, which proposes creating a **Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team** and an **Interagency Food Systems Working Group** within the Agribusiness Development Corporation. These entities will be critical in strengthening and coordinating Hawai'i's food system toward resilience, equity, and sustainability.

Hawai'i faces unique challenges as an island state, including a **reliance on imported food (approximately 85–90%)**, vulnerability to supply chain disruptions, and a need for food system adaptation in the face of climate change.<sup>2</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic underscored these vulnerabilities, highlighting the importance of **locally grown, culturally appropriate food** for community resilience.<sup>3</sup>

SB1186's establishment of interagency coordination would unite stakeholders across sectors—agriculture, education, public health, environment, and economy—creating a **unified approach to strengthening local food production and distribution systems**. This measure supports **Hawai'i's goal to double local food production by 2030**<sup>4</sup> and aligns with **U.S. Department of**

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<sup>1</sup> Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships, and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.

<sup>2</sup> Leung, P., & Loke, M. K. (2008). Economic Impacts of Increasing Hawai'i's Food Self-Sufficiency. *University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization*. Retrieved from <https://uhero.hawaii.edu/>

<sup>3</sup> Hardy, L. J., et al. (2021). Strengthening Hawai'i's food system amid COVID-19: Lessons on resilience and sustainability. *Food Security*, 13(6), 1445–1450. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12571-021-01194-2>

<sup>4</sup> Hardy, L. J., et al. (2021). Strengthening Hawai'i's food system amid COVID-19: Lessons on resilience and sustainability. *Food Security*, 13(6), 1445–1450. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12571-021-01194-2>

**Agriculture (USDA)** recommendations to create **coordinated, place-based food system planning approaches**.<sup>5</sup>

As a statewide network dedicated to increasing local food in schools, connecting keiki to agriculture, and improving nutrition and education outcomes, HFSN recognizes that **systemic change** requires cross-sector collaboration. Farm to School programs depend on **robust local agriculture and distribution systems**—which SB1186 would directly support.

### **Key Reasons to Support SB1186**

#### **Strengthens Local Food Security and Resilience**

By coordinating agencies and communities, this bill ensures Hawai'i is better prepared to address supply chain disruptions and fosters greater **food sovereignty**.

#### **Supports Educational and Institutional Procurement**

A well-organized local food system is essential for **farm-to-school and institutional purchasing**, as well as for helping schools, hospitals, and other institutions access local products.<sup>6</sup>

#### **Promotes Climate Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability**

Sustainable agriculture practices and local sourcing reduce carbon footprints and build community resilience to climate impacts.<sup>7</sup>

#### **Fosters Equity and Community Engagement**

The bill emphasizes inclusion of **community-led organizations** and **equity-focused planning**, ensuring that diverse voices, including Native Hawaiian and underserved communities, guide food system development.

SB1186 represents a vital step toward building a **cohesive and resilient food system** that benefits Hawai'i's farmers, families, and future generations. On behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Network, we urge you to support this important legislation.

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**



Kawika Kahiapo  
Hawai'i Public Health Institute  
Hawai'i Farm to School Network Program Coordinator

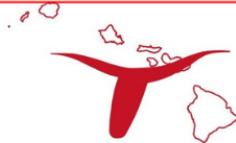
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<sup>5</sup> USDA. (2021). USDA Local and Regional Food Systems: A Toolkit to Assess Impacts and Opportunities. Retrieved from <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/food-systems>

<sup>6</sup> Joshi, A., Azuma, A. M., & Feenstra, G. (2008). Do Farm-to-School Programs Make a Difference? Findings and Future Research Needs. *Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition*, 3(2-3), 229–246. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19320240802244025>

<sup>7</sup> Altieri, M. A., Nicholls, C. I., Henao, A., & Lana, M. A. (2015). Agroecology and the design of climate change-resilient farming systems. *Agronomy for Sustainable Development*, 35(3), 869–890. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13593-015-0285-2>





**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Gregor Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

**SB1186 SD2 HD1**

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 10:00AM  
Conference Room 423 & Videoconference

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,  
The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB1186 SD2 HD1** which establishes the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture.

The state has many goals for increasing local food production and increasing departmental local food purchasing. However, progress towards these goals have been slow and more attention is needed to identify where the bottlenecks are and what is needed to start meaningfully supporting our farmers and ranchers and making local food more accessible to our community.

We support this measure because Hawaii's cattlemen are ready and willing to supply a high quality protein for our community, but there are procurement and procedural issues to overcome. If solutions can be found for the state to begin consistently sourcing local beef, it would provide ranchers with a reliable market to encourage more local beef production, increase our access to a high quality protein source, improve community health, and move the needle on the states local food production goals.

In the 2023-2024 school year, beef contributed the highest number of local food purchasing for school lunches at 3%. The DOE is currently tasked with increasing local food served in public schools to 30% by 2030. Hawaii's paniolo can supply more than 3%, but the procurement system is a barrier. Our hope is that this Interagency Food Systems Coordination team will help us to help the state meet its local food goals.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. 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.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director



**SB-1186-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 8:39:13 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/19/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jaden Tonyokwe	Hawaii Youth Food Council	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Jaden Tonyokwe I support the interagencies work groups so that we can have more locally sourced foods in Hostpitals, prisons and schools. This would benefit mentally and physically for students, inmates, and the patients of Hawaii. I am from Maui High School and students I've recently talked to and I asked them a couple of questions. How would you feel about having locally grown produce being served in school? The answers I got were not what I was expecting. A tremendous amount of students that answered would want purchase more school meals if it were to be served as locally fresh prouduce. So this bill will make a huge change not just in our community but statewide.

Sincerely,

Jaden Tonyokwe

Resident of Kahului, Maui

**SB-1186-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 7:29:44 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/19/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Good idea that should help local farmers and create more jobs. Mahalo!

**SB-1186-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 12:00:24 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/19/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelina Woo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha committee members. ‘O Angelina Woo ko’u inoa and I am a 17-year-old Hawaiian youth. We all know food insecurity plagues Hawai’i, which is why I stand in strong support of SB1186. We all believe people have a right to food. However, locally sourced food has been treated as a privilege. I believe my cousin, who is sick at the hospital and needs a healthy diet to fully recover from his illness, has a right to fresh, healthy, locally sourced food. I believe my father in prison, despite his poor choices with what he puts in his body, deserves the opportunity to regain his health with locally sourced food. I believe my peers at school--the next generation, some of whom have no food at home period, deserve hardy, nutritious, locally sourced food to power our minds as we strive for better lives. And I believe everyone in Hawai’i deserves to know where their food comes from and that as a state, we can be resourceful and successful on our own. This interagency will be the glue to our broken food system as it represents and reaches into all aspects of Hawai’i’s food production and distribution. I appreciate the vagueness of the team as the team may grow beyond what we foresee today and allow for greater flexibility as certain fields and groups become greater priorities. I please ask that you help support the group by appropriating funds so that they may gain the tools needed to solve such a ginormous threat facing Hawai’i: food insecurity. Mahalo nui, thank you for your time.**