

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025
10:01 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 693, SD1
RELATING TO THE FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 693, SD1. This bill seeks to appropriate funds for the continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program. The Department of Agriculture (Department) fully supports this initiative.

The Department recognizes that food hubs are a vital link in the supply chain, facilitating the distribution of locally grown food to consumers and institutions of the State. Food hubs allow farmers to scale up and consider new crops that the hubs find are in demand and in short supply. Food hubs also serve as “back-up” infrastructure for the food system with middle-of-the-supply chain equipment at their facilities. Equipment for washing, refrigeration, packaging, and delivery are services the food hubs provide that is basic to the farm to consumer supply chain. This bill provides funding that will address the challenges the food hubs have to implement plans to expand their operations. The bill is a vehicle for food hubs to be able to connect with larger buyers of safe, minimally processed, and locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

Under Act 313, the Department received 27 submissions and following a competitive Request for Proposal process that concluded in May 2023, awarded funding for six projects, totaling \$1.35 million, of which \$672,000 has been invoiced and paid. The food hubs supported by Act 313 funding:

- Adaptations, Inc., Hawai'i Island - \$242,515.20;
- Alternative Structures International, Oahu - \$201,104.00;
- Elepaio Social Services, Oahu - \$250,000.00;
- Hawaii Institute of Pacific Agriculture, Hawai'i Island (Kohala Food Hub) - \$203,213.46;
- Papa`aloe Country Store and Café Food Hub, Hawai'i Island - \$203,213.46; and
- Sustainable Molokai, Molokai - \$249,953.88.

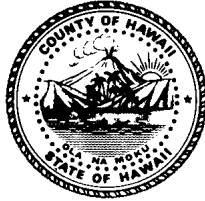


A project to purchase two delivery vehicles and add a delivery driver for cold-storage transportation realized net results of adding 15 new farmers to the hub, increasing sales to a local hospital by over 50%, and reports total annual sales from the food hub operations as \$2.5 million.

Another takeaway from Act 313 is that there are 21 proposals from food hubs across the state that are seeking resources for their operations to support farmers across the state. This bill would provide the needed resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

February 10, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

WEDNESDAY, February 12, 2025
10:01 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

TESTIMONY ON SB 693 SD1
Relating to the Food Hub Pilot Program

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki 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 SB693 SD1**, to appropriate funds for the continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program.

The State of Hawai'i aims to at least double local food production, with a goal of 20-30% of food consumed is grown locally ([Aloha+ Challenge](#)). However, gaps in production, aggregation, and processing of agricultural products limit the productivity and growth of Hawai'i agriculture ([Office of Planning](#), 2012; [Hāmākua Institute](#), 2021).

Data from the previous Food Hub Pilot Program shows the ability of community organizations to utilize funding to meet middle of the supply chain agricultural needs. 27 proposals were received in 2023, requesting a total of \$6,218,019. Six proposals were accepted and funded with a total of \$1,350,000 dispersed, leaving a remaining need of approximately \$4.9M ([HDOA 2023 Annual Report](#)).

A survey of 14 food hubs across Hawai'i in 2024 found that fundraising was the top challenge ([Hawai'i Food Hub Hui](#), 2024). The highest construction priorities for food hubs across Hawai'i are expanded cold chain abilities, updated facilities, new commercial kitchen capacity and renewable energy systems ([Hawai'i Food Hub Hui](#), 2024). The continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program provides strategic capital access throughout the agricultural value chain, enabling agricultural businesses

February 10, 2025

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to leverage private and federal funding avenues to amplify impact and address agriculture and food systems bottlenecks.

Thank you for championing agriculture in Hawai'i and for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT of SB693 SD1**.

Respectfully,

Benson Medina
Director, Research and Development
County of Hawai'i

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

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

711 Kapiolani Boulevard, FLOOR 12 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-5764 • FAX: (808) 768-4242 • INTERNET: www.revitalizeoahu.org

AMY ASSELBAYE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PO'O HO'OKO



GAVIN THORNTON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

February 11, 2025

STATE OF HAWAII
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 693
RELATING TO THE FOOD HUB HUI PROGRAM**

BY
AMY ASSELBAYE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

The City and County of Honolulu's Office of Economic Revitalization (OER) supports SB 693, Relating to the Food Hub Hui Program, which appropriates funds for the continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program.

OER recognizes the vital role food hubs play in the local food system, by facilitating the distribution of locally grown food, supporting local farmers and producers, and helping to move the County and State towards reaching our goals for more local food production and purchasing. Food hubs provide employment and job training opportunities and can be a life line during a disaster because of their middle-of-the-supply-chain equipment and infrastructure. There are many challenges food hubs face such as expensive infrastructure needs, competitive pricing because of the plethora of imported foods, and the ability to access certain markets. This bill provides funding that will address the challenges the food hubs have to implement plans to expand their operations and is a vehicle to be able to connect with larger buyers of safe, minimally processed, and locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

OER's Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Program mission shares the goals of SB 693 of increasing access to local foods, reducing financial barriers for food hubs, and building a stronger and more resilient local food system. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 693.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 12, 2025; 10:01 a.m.
State Capital, Conference Room 211
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 0693, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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. 693, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO THE FOOD HUB PILOT 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.

The measure, as received by your Committee, would appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2025-2026, and the same amount for fiscal year 2026-2027, for the continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program established pursuant to Act 313, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022. In addition, this measure would allow the awarding of grant moneys to qualifying food hubs.

The bill would take effect on July 1, 2050.

During the Regular Session of 2021, the HPCA appeared before this Committee to urge favorable consideration of the Food Hub Pilot Program. [See, Testimony from the Hawaii Primary Care Association to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment on Senate Bill No. 0338, dated February 5, 2021.]. In our remarks, we stated:

". . . The COVID-19 pandemic has severely threatened the health and welfare of our citizens, especially Hawaii's underprivileged and rural

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 0693, Senate Draft 1
Wednesday, February 12, 2025; 10:01 a.m.
Page 2

communities. With so many people unemployed, entire families are struggling to put food on the table on a consistent basis. All one needs to do is visit one of our member FQHCs food distribution events and see the line of cars stretch for miles and people wait for hours to receive some surplus food. It is shocking yet uplifting to see that people do care for their fellow citizens. . ."

While COVID-19 no longer is the threat it was back then, the need continues to exist because of the rising cost of food, inflation, and stagnant wages. Citizens continue to wait in line for surplus food and look for ways of stretching limited resources to put food on the table.

This bill would provide the Food Hub Pilot Program with the necessary resources to continue to feed our citizens. It would also provide the Program with the necessary flexibility to utilize resources in the most efficient and effective ways possible.

For these reasons, the HPCA respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this measure.

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@hawaiipca.net.

Wednesday, February 12, 2025; 10:01 AM
Conference Room 211 & Video Conference

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

**Re: SB 693, SD1 – Testimony In Support
Relating to the Food Hub Program**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I am writing in SUPPORT of SB 693, SD1 which appropriates funds for the continued implementation of the Food Hub pilot program, including grant moneys to qualifying food hubs.

The State's food security may be strengthened by growing more food locally and increasing access to local food. Establishing food hubs, which are centrally located facilities having a business management structure that facilitates aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of locally produced food products may be a means by which to foster interest in locally grown foods and make them more available to consumers. The majority of the farms in Hawai'i are small operations that struggle to bring their products to market. Food hubs provide wider access to institutional and retail markets for small to mid-sized producers, and increase consumers' access to fresh healthy food, including those consumers in underserved areas.

HPH has a goal of sourcing 50% of its food purchases of protein and agriculture at each of its facilities from local suppliers in an effort to support local food systems. Food Hubs are a vital component of the success of an initiative of this scale. Food hubs have the potential provide an alternative method to assure quality and assist purchasing with local agricultural producers. Providing greater access to local foods improves food security and strengthens our agricultural industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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 12, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 693, SD1
RELATING TO THE FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:01 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees:

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 693, SD1, which appropriates funds for the continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program.

Small farmers typically lack access to facilities and infrastructure to aggregate, process, and distribute products to local consumers. The challenge for small growers is also complicated by stringent regulations of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), which jeopardize the ongoing viability of many small growers due to the costs of compliance.

In Hawai'i, additional challenges to small farmers include high land, labor, and energy costs and limited water supply for irrigation. Food hubs are an essential subset of food value chains. Many farmers and ranchers, especially small-sized operations, often lack the capacity to access retail, institutional, and commercial food service markets on their own and consequently miss out on the fastest-growing segment of the local food market. By offering a combination of aggregation, distribution, food safety, and marketing services at an affordable price, food hubs make it possible for many producers to gain entry into new larger-volume markets that boost their income and provide them with opportunities for scaling up production.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.



LATE

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Moloka'i

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India Clark
North Shore, Oahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, Oahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, Oahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, Oahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

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

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU supports SB693.**

The Food Hub Pilot Program strengthens Hawaii's food security by helping local farmers connect their produce to markets through food hubs. Food Hubs provide essential services for small and medium-sized farms, including storage, processing, and distribution of local produce.

Hawaii's hubs have been particularly effective in expanding food access for low-income families. Their SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks sales reached \$1.6 million in 2023, ensuring fresh local foods reach families who need them most. Food hubs also respond quickly to community needs, as demonstrated by their vital role in providing emergency food aid during the Maui fires.

Food hubs often face financial challenges when expanding their operations, making continued funding through SB693 essential. The program does more than just improve market access - it builds a stronger local food system. Supporting food hubs helps reduce Hawaii's dependence on imported food while promoting environmental sustainability and growing the agricultural economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawaii Farmers Union



LATE

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB693 SD1

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 10 a.m. Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports SB693 SD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local "food deserts".

Please support SB693 SD1 to grow markets for our local food producers.

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



Food+ Policy Internship 2025

food@purplemaia.org

LATE

February 11, 2025

Subject: S.B. 693 – Relating to the Food Hub Pilot Program

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the FIN Committee,

Hawaii Food+ Policy strongly supports S.B. 693 because food hubs are a lifeline for local farmers and families. Our communities deserve access to fresh, local food, yet many small farmers struggle to get their produce into markets, and too many residents—especially in underserved areas—lack access to healthy food options.

The Food Hub Pilot Program has already made a difference by connecting small- and mid-sized farmers to local consumers, schools, and retailers, but financial barriers still prevent food hubs from reaching their full potential. This bill ensures that food hubs receive the funding needed to expand, operate efficiently, and strengthen our local food system—reducing our reliance on imports and keeping Hawaii’s fiscal movement within the state.

By investing in food hubs, we are investing in our local farmers, our economy, and the health of our communities. The continuation of this program is essential to building a resilient and sustainable food system that serves all Hawaii residents.

We urge you to pass S.B. 693 and support a future where local food is accessible, affordable, and abundant for all.

Mahalo,
The Hawaii Food+ Policy Team

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.

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:51:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, I am Co-chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i. The Green Party of Hawai'i offers our support, and we ask for your support of SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai'i. I work for a small farm that offers locally grown food to our community and our Island. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local "food deserts". Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Susan RobertsEmery
Co-chair GPH
Green Party of Hawai'i
Paauilo

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:51:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Climate Protectors Hawaii **SUPPORTS** this bill!

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:04:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Food hubs work! The Malama Kauai food hub is providing a stable market for Kauai small/medium growers. It is allowing the community to easily access nutritious, fresh, locally grown food. Not having transport food from far away places reduces our carbon foot print and promotes food sovereignty . Strong support for SB693 and let this important program continue to grow

LATE

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:40:25 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannette Gurung	Testifying for WOCAN	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai‘i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Jeannette Gurung, Executive Director, WOCAN, Kailua Kona

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:30:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suellen Barton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The food hub is an important part of our farm sales & a vital part of the island's food distribution system

Please support this bill

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:45:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimdonghyeon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai‘i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

kimdonghyeon

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:01:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emelia Briscoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai‘i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Emelia Briscoe, Honolulu

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:06:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai‘i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:18:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai‘i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. Please support SB693.

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:01:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill for both local farmers and the health of our community!

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:22:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai'i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local "food deserts". Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Tiare Smith

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:37:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai‘i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. Please support SB693. Eliel, Kapaa

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:39:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Val Hertzog	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai'i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local "food deserts". Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Val Hertzog, Kapa'a

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:03:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai‘i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!
Nalani from Lahaina

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:15:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Otsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee, My name is Kiana Otsuka, and I am an O‘ahu resident writing in support of SB693 SD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai‘i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. Mahalo for your consideration! Kiana Otsuka

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 4:19:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Senator Moriwaki and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Please support SB 693 SD 1 to continue implementing the Food Hub Pilot Program.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:18:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. Please support SB693.

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:49:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai‘i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Susan Wong, Kailua

suwongyoga@gmail.com

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:45:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Hennessy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai‘i. Food hubs provide the necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Lisa Hennessy, Princeville

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:48:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai‘i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Kencho, Hilo

LATE

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:22:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

LATE

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:35:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann V Saffery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai'i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local "food deserts". Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Ann V Saffery

Honolulu, HI

LATE

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:36:35 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hideki Kimukai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai‘i. Food hubs provide the necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. **Please support SB693.**

Mahalo for your consideration!

Hideki Kimukai, Mō‘ili‘ili

LATE

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:33:02 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Kimo Pestana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

I am in agreement with so many of my fellow residents.

Please support SB693.

Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai‘i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Dr Paul Kimo Pestana DC

Honolulu, HI 96816

LATE

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:33:52 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lory Ono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai‘i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Lory Ono

LATE

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:40:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support SB693, which will promote food hubs. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Thank you

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:18:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai'i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local "food deserts". Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

LATE

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:55:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Thank you.

LATE

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:31:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isis Usborne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai'i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local "food deserts". Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Isis Usborne, 96815

LATE

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 3:37:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
fred hofer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawai‘i. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Fred Hofer

Hilo

LATE

SB-693-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 4:16:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of this bill SB693. I believe it's a fantastic idea to create and financially support food hubs. I really would like to see our state's economy create more diverse incentives, and this is one way to encourage our agricultural sector, particularly the small and medium sized farms in our state. I also like how it will help lessen the impacts of those in food deserts, of which there are many in our state, which in a state with a year-round for agriculture is a shame and this will help lessen those impacts. This is a great idea and I strongly advocate for this, for all of our people. Mahalo.