

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 AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 693. 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, increased 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.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber
Kohala, Hawai'i

Tony Vera
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawai'i

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

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hāna, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakalā, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahālāwai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Moloka'i

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i



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

January 27, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 693
RELATING TO THE FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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, 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.



Email: ramsey.brown@ponopacific.com

HAWAII SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Monday, January 27, 2025 – 1:00PM

Pono Pacific Land Management supports SB693. RELATING TO THE FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

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

My name is Ramsey Brown and I am the Vice President of Diversified Agriculture for Pono Pacific Land Management. Founded in 2000, we are a locally owned conservation, agriculture, and sustainable energy company seeking to actively manage land for a thriving future for Hawaii. Kuilima Farm, managed by Pono Pacific Land Management, is a 468-acre, USDA food safety certified, diversified agriculture operation on the North Shore of O’ahu, with 12 active farmers growing tropical fruits, kalo, root vegetables, tomatoes, cucumbers, herbs, and more.

We and our farmers are developing a Food Hub approach to maximize production and support local small farmers. We are currently working with the North Shore Economic Vitality Program (NSEVP) on O’ahu to expand Kuilima as a food hub on the north shore providing meaningful produce to our local markets.

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. We would like to contribute to the 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!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ramsey  Brown, VP of Diversified Agriculture
Kane’ohe & Kahuku



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Monday, January 27, 2025; 1:00 p.m.
State Capital, Conference Room 224
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 693, RELATING TO THE FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, 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, 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 \$1,500,000 in 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, 2025.

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 communities. With so many people unemployed, entire families are struggling to put food on the table on a consistent basis. All one needs to

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 0693
Monday, January 27, 2027; 1:00 p.m.
Page 2

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@hawaiiipca.net.



Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment

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

Monday, January 27th, 2025 1 p.m. Conference Room 224

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

HAPA supports SB693. 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 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', is positioned below the text 'Respectfully,'.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 12:36:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please continue to fund implementation of the food hubs pilot program to help farmers get local produce to market.

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 11:19:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richard's and members of Committee,

On behalf of the Green Party of Hawai'i , we stand in support of SB693. It is important to appropriate funds to keep the Food Hub Pilot Program alive and well in our communities. As a farm worker for an Organic Farm on Hawai'i Island , I see the impacts of providing local food to not only our economy, but to all the families in our community. Food Hubs are a safety net , for providing access to healthy food in food deserts that exist here in Hawai'i.

We ask that you support SB693.

Mahalo nui,

Susan RobertsEmery

Co Chair GPH

Paauilo

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 8:56:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannette Gurung	Testifying for Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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”.*

I therefore urge you to support SB 693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Dr. Jeannette Gurung, Executive Director, WOCAN

Kailua Kona

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 4:37:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Nalani A. From Lahaina

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 4:44:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Emelia Briscoe, Honolulu

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 4:51:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 4:52:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Safia Gravel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Safia N. Gravel

Hilo

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 4:53:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:48:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keila Paahana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 9:04:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!
Stacey Alapai, Makawao, Maui HI

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 2:25:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Dylan Ramos

96816

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 3:34:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Preis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Foreign investors will not be as concerned about the conditions of the land and its use as locals who are affected directly. Please promote the ownership of Ag lands for residents only.

Mahalo,

Samantha Preis

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 5:13:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Teri K. Savaiinaea

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 12:43:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lela Kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

mahalo,

Lela Kalama, Kea'au, HI

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 6:24:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 8:14:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Schacht	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 5:05:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:29:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Shay Chan Hodges, Haiku, Maui

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:45:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Gabbard, Vice Chair Senator Richards and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

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

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 12:21:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Isis Usborne
Kapahulu Ave resident (96815)
2026 JD Candidate at William S. Richardson School of Law

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 4:37:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

kimdonghyeon

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 8:31:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I urge you to support SB693. 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. Please keep this program active so there can be more food hubs to provide greater food system equity and access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Thank you

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:51:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katrina Ahia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support SB693.

I have been using the Maui Hub for over a year now. It is an amazing program that plays a key role in providing my family with nutritious fresh local food. My understanding is that it is great for the local farmers and our economy too.

The Maui Hub is such a phenomenal program. It brings together an incredible assortment of farmers and producers and provides my family direct access to what is fresh and available.

Every kanaka in Hawaii deserves access to this type of program. We need thriving local agriculture and I believe that SB693 is crucial to supporting that end, our economy, and the health of Hawai'i's people. Please support SB693 so that more food hubs can successfully operate here. It really is a wonderful and effective way of supporting farmers, maka'āinana, the economy, and the environment.

Thank you for your consideration,

Katrina Ahia

Lahaina, Maui

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:51:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 2:13:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra Perez Urbina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Alexandra, Portland, OR

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:46:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra M Javar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully SUPPORT SB693

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 4:30:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean-Joseph T.K. Choo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Sean-Joseph Choo, Honolulu

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:03:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Val Hertzog, Kapa'a

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:30:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiakahinalii Kaopua-Canonigo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Hina Ka’ōpua-Canonigo, Mānoa

SB-693

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:46:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 Hawaii. I am a direct recipient to the benefits from food hubs because that is where I buy a majority of my produce from here on Oahu. These food hubs are the only way I can afford to truly eat local, and I am a gracious benefactor of the wonderful programs that my local food hub offers.

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!

Keala Fung, Honolulu Hawaii