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 AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025 10:30 AM CONFERENCE ROOM 325

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

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1186, Senate Draft 2 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 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.





IT. GOVERNOR



#### STATE OF HAWAI'I

## AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HUI HO'OULU AINA MAHIAI

# TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

March 7, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

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

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 1186 SD2, 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.



# STATE OF HAWAI'I OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

JOSH GREEN, M.D.

SYLVIA LUKE LT. GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS

Telephone: (808) 587-2846 Fax: (808) 587-2824

Web: https://planning.hawaii.gov/

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804

# Written Testimony Only

# Statement of MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

before the

#### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Friday, March 7, 2025, 10:30 AM State Capitol, Conference Room 325

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

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** SB 1186, SD 2 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.

We recognize the Agribusiness Development Corporation and the Department of Agriculture as key partners in this transformational effort and are eager to continue our collaboration to advance resilient, sustainable food systems that will ensure the well-being of future generations in Hawai'i.

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



GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE

LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

Telephone:

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

(808) 586-2355

(808) 586-2377

# DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804 Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

# Statement of JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism before the

## **HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

Friday, March 7, 2025 10:30 AM State Capitol, Conference Room 325

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

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of SB1186, SD2, which establishes the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

DBEDT has established an internal working group comprising the ADC, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD), Department of Agriculture (DOA), University of Hawaii 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).

DBEDT Testimony SB 1186, SD2 Page 2 of 2

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 Hawaii's dependence on imports, strengthen our food security ecosystem, and support the construction of resilient food production facilities.

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



Benson Medina

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 5, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
FRIDAY, March 7, 2025
10:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

TESTIMONY ON SB 1186 SD2 Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch 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 with amendments** to establish the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture. Specifically, the County asks that SB1186 SD2 is amended to allocate sufficient funds to enable capacity for effective planning and implementation efforts.

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 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 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 with amendments**.

Respectfully,

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, HAWAI'I 96813 PHONE: (808) 768-2277 • EMAIL: resilientoahu@honolulu.gov • INTERNET: www.resilientoahu.org

RICK BLANGIARDI MAYOR *MEIA* 



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

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025, 10:30 A.M.

# STATE OF HAWAI'I HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

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

BY,

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

Dear Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

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

Too many Hawai'i families are facing painful challenges trying to access food that is both healthy and affordable. Nearly one in three households are food insecure, and gaps in interagency coordination hinder a more effective and cohesive approach to implementation of solutions. The City's guiding planning and policy documents, including the O'ahu Resilience Strategy and Climate Ready O'ahu, the City's climate adaptation strategy, recognize that strengthening the local food system is essential to (1) reduce dependence on imports; (2) support local farmers and producers; and (3) ensure that all residents have access to affordable, nutritious food.

The Resilience Office is currently developing an Oʻahu Food System Plan to guide the City's actions in strengthening our island's food system. Together with the recent adoption of Honolulu City Council Resolution 24-243, which reconvenes the City's Agricultural Development Task Force, we are excited by growing momentum to address the multifaceted needs in our island's food system.

Chair Kahaloa and Vice Chair Kusch SB1186, SD2 March 7, 2025 Page 2

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. We are encouraged by recent multi-agency efforts to advance farm to school objectives. As the lead City agency for the Oʻahu Good Food Program, we look forward to coordinating with the Interagency Food Systems Working Group to further expand and institutionalize values-based food procurement.

We respectfully request that the appropriation included in the original version of the bill be restored. Funding for personnel and operations capacity will ensure adequate resources for implementation of the working group's outputs and recommendations.

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



Email: communications@ulupono.com

# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS Friday, March 7, 2025 — 10:30 a.m.

# Ulupono Initiative <u>supports</u> SB 1186 SD 2, Relating to Sustainable Food Systems.

Dear Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mariah Yoshizu, and I am the Government Affairs Associate 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** <u>supports</u> **SB 1186 SD 2**, 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,

Mariah Yoshizu Government Affairs Associate



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

March 7, 2025

# HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

# TESTIMONY ON SB 1186, SD2 RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference 10:30 AM

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice-Chair Kusch, 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 1186, SD2, 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, 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, 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.

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 2:12:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Gary Rosenberg	eden farms hawaii, inc.	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

#### Comments:

It is become a parent that our governmental agencies have grown to complex to be effective. This is not a matter of blaming anybody this is a natural evolution of governmental structures. Human beings respond to problems by creating governmental institutions. Overtime these institutions grow in complexity to the point That we get in our own way by segregating responsibilities. We sure seem to have a lot of cooks in this kitchen trying to put spoons into the same pot to stir the soup. I acknowledging where we are honestly and gleefully. We have the opportunity to ask ourselves. What's the best way to actually get something done right now there's an urgent need to focus on food sovereignty for the state of Hawaii. we have the capacity to be 100% food sovereign while at the moment we are heavily reliant, unemployed food to the point at which disruption to the global system will result in people going hungry with a few days. The global world order esses itself we run the risk of having our tourism industry disrupted. However, exists at this moment and opportunity to embrace, a regenerative food system, which can provide for people locally as well as presenting the possibility of creating new heretofore unimagined Jobs for children. We are in the first stages of what will be a third agricultural revolution one that will bring us out of the darkness of industrial colonial agriculture into a new age reigning human well-being with the well-being of the soil and the planet. We here in Hawaii are better than anyone else in the United States and be pioneers and advocates for embracing a new food system which replenishes the soil, our communities and our individual well-being. However, there is a limited window of opportunity as the greater systems unravel to lay the literal figurative roots of the new system as our government representatives, we need you to show courage and leadership and find ways of working together of reaching across the aisle and across the street as divergent agencies to remove roadblocks and pave new roads so that we local farmers can serve our community by providing food locally and involving as many people as possible in the process of growing food, in ways that heal our community and our islands

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 4:27:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

# Comments:

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORT** this bill!

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 8:37:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Zeus Miguel	Namnama Farms	Support	Written Testimony Only

#### Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1186 SD2, a crucial piece of legislation that promises to fortify Hawaii's food system and address the alarming crisis of food insecurity plaguing our communities. The bill's establishment of a Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and an Interagency Food Systems Working Group is a vital step toward achieving a unified, strategic approach to food resilience.

The statistics speak for themselves, Hawaii's food insecurity rates are unacceptably high, and our emergency food preparedness is dangerously low. This bill offers a tangible solution through:

- Breaking down departmental silos to foster true collaboration among state agencies, producers, retailers, NGOs, and community stakeholders.
- Developing robust implementation plans, establishing measurable progress metrics, and utilizing policy impact analysis for effective, evidence-based action.
- Strengthening local food systems to enhance Hawaii's capacity to withstand disasters and crises, ensuring food security for all.
- Mandating regular reports to the legislature, guaranteeing ongoing oversight and public transparency.

However, I express a significant concern regarding the placement of this vital initiative under the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). The <u>ADC's</u> perceived lack of transparency threatens to undermine the collaborative and accountable nature of this critical effort.

Therefore, I strongly urge the committee to amend SB 1186 SD2 to:

- Establish the Interagency Food Systems Working Group directly under the Department of Agriculture.
- Explicitly enumerate the key departments and agencies that will participate, such as the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Human Services, and the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.
- Mandate the selection of specific, qualified individuals from these departments to serve on the working group, ensuring diverse expertise and effective collaboration.

• Incorporate stakeholder expertise participation such as farmers, ranchers, food organizations, researchers, and other relevant food system stakeholders.

By directly involving key departments and ensuring expert participation, we can create a truly integrated food policy framework that prioritizes transparency, accountability, and the well-being of all Hawaii residents. This amendment will ensure that SB 1186 SD2 delivers on its promise of a sustainable and resilient food future for Hawaii. Mahalo!

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 8:54:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Colehour Bondera	Kanalani Ohana Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Overall the intention and placement of this piece of legislation are exactly where they should be, and I ask for your support seeing it through your hearing.

SInce a food system is broad and affects food systems in many regards, we need to have established one which works cross agency and recognizes that Hawaii must not be basing food production on imported inputs and not relying on US governmental programs.

Hawaii has been and can be again sustainable in terms of food production and dsistribution and this legislation will help us get there.

Thanks for your support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

colemel2@gmail.com



March 5, 2025

Testimony in Support of SB1186: Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Dear Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems,

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.

**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.



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

**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.



## **House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems**

## Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB 1186 SD2

Friday, March 7th, 2025 10:30 a.m. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch and Members of the Committee,

We support SB1186 SD2 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 plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support SB1186 SD2 to establish a Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and an Interagency Food Systems Working Group.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

The Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) is a public non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. HAPA's mission is to catalyze community empowerment and systemic change towards valuing 'aina (environment) and people ahead of corporate profit.



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Chair Rep. Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair

#### **SB1186 SD2**

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.

Friday, March 7, 2025, 10:30AM Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council <u>supports SB1186 SD2</u> 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. In order to support this important work, please ensure that funding is appropriated in this bill.

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









Officers

Kaipo Kekona State President

Anabella Bruch Vice-President

Maureen Datta Secretary

Reba Lopez Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber Kohala, Hawai'i

> Tony Vera East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer Ka'ū, Hawai'i

Maureen Datta Kona, Hawai'i

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, Oʻahu

Christian Zuckerman Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich Waimānalo, Oʻahu

Vincent Kimura Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska Kaua'i



Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the House Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

The Hawai'i 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 SB1186.** 

SB1186 is a significant measure aimed at transforming Hawaii's agricultural landscape through the establishment of the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group. The bill reflects a comprehensive and integrated approach to bolstering local food production, reducing food insecurity, and enhancing overall sustainability. The creation of these interagency bodies will facilitate a necessary collaboration across various state departments, local communities, and stakeholders, thus maximizing efforts towards achieving a balanced and resilient food system in Hawaii.

To ensure the success of this transformative initiative, it is essential that SB1186 includes dedicated positions and adequate funding. The roles of a food systems specialist, policy analyst, and administrative assistant are essential to effectively implement the strategies and foster the interagency collaboration needed. Additionally, the financial provision of sufficient funding over two fiscal years is necessary to demonstrate the state's steadfast commitment to addressing food security challenges. Such investment will enable the working group to coordinate resources efficiently, promote transparency through regular reporting to the Legislature, and continually adapt strategies to meet the established goals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heaivilin Advocacy Director Hawai'i Farmers Union LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.



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

#### **Executive Officers**

Maile Miyashiro, C&S Wholesale Grocer, Chair Kit Okimoto, Okimoto Corp., Vice Chair Jayson Watts, Mahi Pono, Secretary/Treasurer Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, Executive Director Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, Advisor Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, Advisor Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, Advisor Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, Advisor Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, Advisor Gary Okimoto, Safeway, Immediate Past Chair

TO: Committe on Agriculture

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 7, 2025

TIME: 10:30am

RE: SB1186 SD2 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.

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 1:26:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Harriet Witt	Hawaii Farmers Union United - Haleakala Chapter	Support	Written Testimony Only

# Comments:

As we transition away from our dangerous dependence of the mainland for our food, we need cooperation among the partners who are stepping up to make the transition possible. Otherwise, we will have a chaotic mess. Please support this bill. Mahalo, Harriet Witt, 43 Puu Koa Place, Haiku, HI 96708

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

DATE: 03/07/2025 TIME: 10:30 am CONFERENCE ROOM: 325

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Ethan West

President

SENATE BILL NO. 1186 SD2

RELATING TO RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Nicole Galase Vice President

Trisha Yamato
Treasurer/Secretary

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch and Members of the Committee:

Ramsey Brown

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in <u>support of SB 1186 SD2 with amendments</u> establishing a Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and Interagency

Food Systems Working Group.

Michelle Dasic

John McHugh

Danny Rubenstein

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dave Elliott

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.

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 Innnovation 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,

Dave Elliott

**Executive Director** 

GOVERNOR KE KIA'ĀINA



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, RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

# BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MARCH 7, 2025

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice-Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

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

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.

James Barros: james.barros@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 11:41:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Kama Kenui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa

Vice Chair Rep. Matthias Kusch

## **SB849**

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

8:56 AM,

Aloha, Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa and Vice Chair Rep. Matthias Kusch, My name is Kamaehuokalani Kenui and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of SB1186.

Firstly, Hawai'i imports approximately 85-90% of its food, making the islands highly vulnerable to supply chain disruptions, natural disasters, and economic instability. By prioritizing sustainable food production, the bill SB1186 will greatly impact our dependence away from imported goods and shift towards a more resilient, locally-driven food economy.

Secondly, With many positive reasons to support sustainable foods in Hawaii, food security and self-sufficiency strengthens our local agriculture and reduces our reliance on imported foods, making our communities more resilient to the supply chain disruptions. Investing in sustainable food systems ensures that future generations have access to fresh, nutritious, and culturally relevant foods.

Thirdly, the bill encourages agricultural innovation and economic opportunities for Hawaii's farmers, ranchers, and food producers. A more sustainable food system creates more job opportunities, stimulates local economies, and keeps money circulating within the state. Though, having sustainable agriculture practices help protect Hawaii's natural resources, reduce carbon emissions from food imports, and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Another reason being that public health and nutrition could greatly increase access to more locally grown foods to promote healthier eating habits and reduce diet-related illnesses in our communities. By having a fresher and more locally sourced produce we could retain more nutrients compared to food that has traveled thousands of miles before reaching the store shelves.

By passing bill SB1186, Hawai'i cna lead the way in creating a food system that is not only sustainable but also economically and environmentally beneficial for our people. I kindly request the committee to support this bill and take a significant step toward food security, environmental protection, and agricultural sustainability.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit this testimony, Irespectfully request for your support for bill SB1186

Sincerely,

Kamaehuokalani Kenui

Mililani High School

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 11:48:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Adison Rickard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rep. Kristin Kahaloa

Vice Chair Rep. Matthius Kusch

Friday, March 7th, 2025

10:30AM, House conference room 308

Hawai'i State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.1337

Aloha, Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Adison Rickard and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 1186.

I am testifying for sustainable food systems because they are crucial for protecting our environment and ensuring future generations have access to resources. They reduce our carbon footprint, promote biodiversity, and improve soil health. Additionally, they support local economies by creating jobs and providing fresh, nutritious food. Sustainable practices also help reduce food waste and enhance food security, making sure everyone has access to the food they need. Overall, they offer a comprehensive solution to environmental and social challenges, making them worth the investment.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 1186 because it is necessary to move our state towards a more preserving way of living for our environment. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

**Adison Rickard** 

Mililani High School

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 8:58:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Kamanu Lind	Hawaii farmers union	Support	Written Testimony Only

# Comments:

I am supporting this bill because it is a vital key to securing our growing agricultural community. By securing these food systems it allows small community farmers like myself to be a part of something bigger and more influential.

Chair: Kyle T. Yamashita Vice Chair: Jenna Takenouchi House Finance Committee

Friday, March 7, 2025 10:30am, Conference Room 308 Hawaii State Capitol

Support for SB1186

Aloha, My name is Carissa Palacio and I am testifying in support of SB1186. I am currently a student at Mililani High School, and have also been born and raised in Hawai'i. I am testifying in support of this bill because I feel that the public should have more access to local and healthy foods. While living in Hawai'i, I have always found it difficult to understand where the food I eat comes from. Not all local grocery stores sell high amounts of locally grown food, and I feel that this bill would be effective in helping my family and other families improve food security and have better access to local foods. As a local, I would prefer to support locally grown produce, but it is difficult with the limited access.

Establishing food systems that provide better access to local produce would serve to help improve environmental, economic, and social health. Please do consider passing this bill in consideration of the health and wellbeing of locals in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Carissa Palacio
(808)-228-4146
carissanhpalacio@gmail.com

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 6:03:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Lori Glazebrook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

# Comments:

Collaboration and planning within the food system is crucial for strengthening Hawaii's food sovereignty and agricultural future.

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 7:54:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Karen Dixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

# Comments:

Aloha as a Maui Resident I fully support SB 1186, SD2 – Sustainable Food Systems Coordination which: Establishes an Interagency Food Systems Working Group to strengthen collaboration and planning within Hawaii's food system.

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 9:42:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Mary McClung Law	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

#### Comments:

Honorable Representatives;

Thank you for your service at the Hawaii State Capitol. I ask you to support this bill. As a state made up of several islands, Hawaii has done pretty well so far. However, our disaster planners do warn us of the potential for food shortages across the islands in case we cannot get ships or planes here, or in case of other potential disasters. That means we need to be extremely well prepared ahead of time. We have the warning (we have been hearing this decades already) so it is time to act. With more global pandemics, affecting humans as well as the food system such as with avian flu etc, we need to grow more food in Hawaii. We also though, need to be strategic planners regarding the distribution of that food. The outer islands grow most of the food, but population is highest on Oahu. It isn't our job to figure out how to mitigate these concerns, we just need to support some capable and concerned citizens to get together and plan.

Please help by passing this bill.

Aloha, Mary McClung Law

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 9:44:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

 $\textbf{Please Support . Interagency Food Systems Working Group} \ \ \text{to strengthen collaboration and planning within Hawaii's food system. Eliel , Kapaa } \\$ 

<u>SB-1186-SD-2</u> Submitted on: 3/5/2025 10:06:07 PM Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill.

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 10:06:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
dale chappell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill. It establishes an **Interagency Food Systems Working Group** to strengthen collaboration and planning within Hawaii's food system.

Thank you for your sincere attention to this,

Dale Ann Chappell

43 yr resident of Maui

<u>SB-1186-SD-2</u> Submitted on: 3/6/2025 6:30:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Jan K Baldado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I SUPPORT SB 1186, SD 2.

Mahalo nui.

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 8:26:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Ryan J Poe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ryan Poe, I live in Hana. I work at Hana School, I am the school garden coordinator, I help teach students to farm and grow their own food. Food Sustainability is extremly important. I feel the state has to establish an **Interagency Food Systems Working Group** to strengthen collaboration and planning within Hawaii's food system.

<u>SB-1186-SD-2</u> Submitted on: 3/6/2025 8:44:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I strongly support this bill for agriculture and the people of Hawaii.

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 10:09:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Cyler Wicklund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

#### Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Monday, February 10, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawai'i State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

My name is Cyler Wicklund and I am a teacher at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 969.

I am testifying specifically in support of the landfill part of the bill. Without clean water and facilities we fail to take care of ourselves and others, so we must do everything in our power to protect and save it. I hope you consider passing H.B. No. 1186 because it is necessary to move our state to a safe and uncontaminated place. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I believe it is very important to implement this part of the bill for the health of the environment and the youth who plan to grow and sustain our land. Rep. Gates, I know you are familiar with the landfill issues that exist within our districts and the dependence we have in you. I am writing in support of protecting land above significant acquisitions from construction, expansion and modification

of waste or disposal facilities. I am fighting to protect that land. We must ensure that our land will

remain safe for generations to come and sustain our resources that we are fortunate enough to have. I hope that my efforts to testify can help protect our water, which must remain clean and uncontaminated for our community and society to thrive.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 969 because it is necessary to have a successful landfill. SUccessful landfills will save our planet in many different easy that help out but finding a better and sustainable way

Sincerely,

Cyler Wicklund

Mililani High School

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 12:51:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Tane Datta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Please support the development of a local food system and economy

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 3:03:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Robert ZUckerman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Support this to support our local community and economy. People need your support.

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 3:19:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/7/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submi	tted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Lydi Mor	gan Bernal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

### Comments:

I strongly support this bill, and ask that you please also be sure to provide adequate funding for this important initiative, which is critical for Hawai'i at this time.

Mahalo nui!