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DENISE ALBANO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF DENISE ALBANO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

JANUARY 30, 2019
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 262
RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
INCENTIVES

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 262 that requires the Department of Agriculture to develop and administer a local healthy food incentive dollar-for-dollar matching program promoting the purchase of Hawaii-grown fruits and vegetables by beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget and offers comments.

The Department lacks the staff to manage the program at the operational level and intends to administer the program partnering with public and private agencies that have experience and success with similar programs on behalf of SNAP recipients. The Department is concerned with developing rules pursuant to Chapter 91, as we believe a permanent program should not be placed in the DOA. While the Department believes the increased sales of locally grown fruits and vegetables will increase profits for Hawaii farmers statewide, we do not have a SNAP program or a dedicated staff to support these efforts. As such, the Department requests the following amendment:



Page 3, sections (c) should read:

“The department of agriculture may consult and cooperate with private organizations to develop and implement rules to administer the local healthy food incentive program.”

The local health food incentive dollar-for-dollar matching program benefit will encourage the SNAP recipient to purchase locally grown produce and to try new fresh commodities offered by the farmers and direct food retailers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 28, 2019

TO: The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 262 - RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM INCENTIVES**

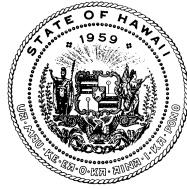
Hearing: Wednesday, January 30, 2019, 9:00am
Conference Room 312, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill. The national double up food bucks program helps Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants increase their purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables by doubling the value of their benefits spent and keeps food dollars in the local economy. DHS defers to the Department of Agriculture as to program development and implementation issues.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to require the Department of Agriculture to develop and administer a local healthy food incentive program promoting the purchase of Hawaii-grown fruits and vegetables by beneficiaries of the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

SNAP is 100 percent federally funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). While FNS supports healthy incentive projects, federal regulations specify that "no retail food store may single out SNAP participants using SNAP benefits for special treatment in any way." Farmers markets that plan to implement a bonus incentive project will need to apply for a waiver from FNS during their initial authorization or subsequent reauthorization to participate in SNAP.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov



**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0262
RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD P. CREAGAN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Hearing Date: January 30, 2019 9:00 a.m. Room Number: 312

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the Department of Agriculture
2 (DOA) regarding the implementation and fiscal impacts of this bill, and to the priorities set forth
3 in the Executive Biennium Budget Request.

4 **Department Testimony:** The DOH supports House Bill 262 (HB0262) to establish a nutrition
5 incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

6 Major health authorities (including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Centers for
7 Disease Control, and the World Health Organization) recommend increasing fruit and vegetable
8 intake as a means to prevent chronic disease and improve overall health.^{1,2,3} However, access to
9 fresh produce for income-limited individuals can be difficult and is one of the reasons why they
10 often have poorer diets and higher rates of chronic disease than middle class and wealthy
11 individuals.^{4,5} This bill would double Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
12 recipients purchasing power when they use their benefits to purchase local fruits and vegetables.

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture. *2015 – 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. 8th Edition. December 2015.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Strategies to Prevent Obesity and Other Chronic Diseases: The CDC Guide to Strategies to Increase the Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables*. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2011.

³ World Health Organization. *Healthy Diet Fact Sheet N°394*. Web. Updated September 2015.

⁴ Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Hawaii State Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2016.

⁵ Simmet, Anja et al. *The Dietary Quality of Food Pantry Users: A Systematic Review of Existing Literature*. Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Volume 117, Issue 4, 563 – 576.

1 Nutrition incentive programs similar to the one proposed in this bill are prevalent around
2 the United States, and similar bills have been passed in twenty states. Nutrition incentives are
3 often touted as a “win-win-win” for farmers, families, and local businesses. Data from these
4 interventions have shown improvements in dietary behaviors, reduction in household hunger and
5 food insecurity, and increased sales of local produce (by more than their dollar value alone).^{6,7,8}
6 In Hawaii, less than one in five adults reported eating five or more fruits and vegetables a day
7 (2015 Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System). The DOH supports HB0262 as one
8 component of a comprehensive approach to improve the availability and accessibility of healthy
9 foods to improve health outcomes for people in Hawaii, especially for people who face greater
10 health disparities.

11 Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

12

⁶ Fitzgerald, Katherine. *Double Up in Farmers' Markets: The Consumer Experience*. Fair Food Network, 2015.

⁷ Mann, J., et al. *Economics of healthy food incentives at Michigan farmers markets: Study highlights*. Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems, 2017.

⁸ Fitzgerald, Katherine. *Double Up Food Bucks and Hunger*. Fair Food Network, 2015.



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TO:
Committee on Agriculture
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: January 30
TIME: 9am
PLACE: Conference Room 312

RE: HB262 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Position: Support

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

We believe this program is important both as a means to support healthy eating, and as a way to support Hawaii's agricultural sector. Fruits and vegetables tend to be more expensive per calorie than less healthy foods, which makes eating healthy a challenge for those with limited food budgets. Doubling the purchasing power for SNAP users when buying local produce makes it easier to choose fruits and vegetables when shopping. By prioritizing local produce this program also helps Hawaii farmers, which face many challenges of their own, and incentivizes retailers to continue to stock Hawaii produce. The grocery stores where SNAP participants can take advantage of this program provide a network of access to healthy food from around the entire state, all year round. Making sure that SNAP users have access to all our great local fruits and vegetables, and supporting our local Hawaii farmers are goals we all share. We encourage you to vote yes on this measure.



Wednesday, January 30, 2019
9:00am
Conference Room 312

To: The Honorable Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

From: Paula Arcena, Executive Vice President, External Affairs
Nahelani Webster, Government Affairs

Re: HB262 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

AlohaCare is pleased to testify in support of HB262.

Double Up Food Bucks, which provides additional incentives for SNAP families, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy:

1. Helps low-income families on SNAP bring home healthy and nutritious food.
2. Allows local farmers to gain new customers and bring in more income.
3. More food dollars stay in the local economy.

Crediting SNAP dollars creates room in the families' budget for other household and healthcare expenses so that food dollars can be spent on locally grown food such as taro, papaya, Hamakua mushrooms, and other produce instead of cheaper, unhealthy alternatives. With more than 25% of children 10-17 years old and 58% of adults in Hawai'i overweight or obese, HB262 can help to improve healthier dietary behaviors.

AlohaCare is a local, non-profit health plan founded in 1994 by Hawaii's Community Health Centers. We serve over 70,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members. We are the third largest health plan in Hawaii. We partner with nearly 3,500 physicians, specialists and providers in the care of our members. We have over 260 employees who work on Oahu, the Big Island, Maui and Kauai.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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LJ Duenas
Hawaii Director
American Diabetes Association

January 29, 2019

LATE

Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture
Hawaii State Capitol

RE: WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 262

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) supports HB 262, legislation requiring the Department of Agriculture to create a dollar-for-dollar matching program that incentivizes Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to purchase locally grown nutritious fruits and vegetables.

Diabetes is an epidemic in the United States and in Hawaii. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 30 million Americans have diabetes and face its devastating consequences. An estimated 142,000 people in Hawaii, or 12% of the adult population, have diabetes. An additional 442,000 have prediabetes and are at risk for developing the disease.

Maintaining a healthy weight by consuming a diet of nutritious foods is can reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes, the most common form of the disease. As such, the ADA supports policies that remove affordability barriers to healthy foods and policies that promote strong Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs.

It is imperative we take steps to improve access to nutritious foods for all but perhaps most importantly for our keiki. Studies have shown obese children and adolescents are five times more likely to face obesity in adulthood. Obesity is associated with childhood-onset of type 2 diabetes, adult onset of type 2 diabetes and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease-the largest cause of mortality among people with diabetes.

Every year, 8,000 people are diagnosed with diabetes in Hawaii. The ADA supports HB 262 to stop this epidemic by improving access to nutrition foods today and for future generations in our state.

On behalf of the American Diabetes Association and those we serve, we ask for your support of this bill.

Warmest aloha,



LJ Duenas, Hawaii Director
American Diabetes Association



21 people
are diagnosed with
diabetes every day
in Hawaii



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 30, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 262
RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Room 312
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 262, which requires the Department of Agriculture to create a dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program who use their benefits to purchase Hawaii-grown produce. Appropriates funds.

SNAP offers nutrition assistance to eligible, low-income individuals and families, increasing their food purchasing power and improving their nutrition. SNAP also provides economic benefits to farmers participating at farmers' markets, roadside stands, CSA programs, grocery stores and other food retailers.

Some of HFB's farmers' markets participate or have participated in the SNAP program. We believe that access to locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income individuals and families provides benefit to both SNAP participants and Hawaii farmers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.



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Date: January 28, 2019

To: Representative Richard Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the Agriculture Committee

Re: Strong Support for HB252, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program Incentives

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00am at Conference Room 312

The Obesity Prevention Task Force of the Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Strong Support of HB262**, which creates a matching incentive program for the beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Creating a dollar-for-dollar matching local produce incentive program is a simple yet powerful policy solution.

HB262 is modeled after Double Up Food Bucks, a national program started by the Fair Food Network in 2009. Double Up Food Bucks provides a dollar-for-dollar match on the value of SNAP when spent on local fresh fruits and vegetables. Double Up is a win/win/win: low-income families bring home more healthy food, local farmers gain new customers and bring in more income, and more food dollars stay in the local economy. Double Up is a successful model being implemented in more than 20 states and does not violate interstate commerce due to market-participant exception from the law, where state and local government may act as a market participant for the purchase of locally grown foods.

Expanding this incentive program will benefit hundreds of families across the State.

In Hawaii Island, a local pilot program is already being implemented through the Food Basket's *DA BUX: Double Up Food Bucks* program. In partnership with KTA superstores, SNAP customers receive a 50% credit incentive at checkout.

Since the pilot began in 2017, there have been close to 3000 individual DA BUX transactions and an average sales increase of nearly 20% on incentivized produceⁱⁱ. DA BUX is currently being offered one week per month in the Big Island. An expansion of a similar statewide pilot



program can improve healthy produce access to SNAP families in other islands and improve local agriculture in those communities. As of December 2018, there were 161,550 individuals or 82,806 households that participated in SNAP.

An incentive program will improve the health and well-being of Hawai'i families.

Incentivizing the use of SNAP dollars for fresh fruits and vegetables not only stretches food dollars for families, but it also brings home nutritious food that the entire family can enjoy. Crediting SNAP dollars creates room in the families' budget for other household and healthcare expenses so that food dollars can be spent on locally grown food such as taro, papaya, Hamakua mushrooms, and other produce instead of cheaper, unhealthy alternatives. With more than 25% of children 10-17 years old and 58% of adults in Hawai'i overweight, or obese, HB262 can help to improve healthier dietary behaviors.

HB262 is a powerful and innovative measure that brings together Hawaii families, farmers, and local markets. It is a triple win for health, agriculture, and the local economy. We are in strong support of this measure and respectfully ask you to **pass HB262 AS IS** out of committee.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish'.

Trish La Chica, MPA
Policy and Advocacy Director

ⁱ Created by the legislature in 2012, the Obesity Prevention Task Force is comprised of over 60 statewide organizations, and works to make recommendations to reshape Hawai'i's school, work, community, and health care environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents. The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) convenes the Task Force and supports and promotes policy efforts to create a healthy Hawai'i.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

ⁱⁱ Data collected from September to December 2017, with 2983 individual DA BUX transactions over 4 months (one week per month).



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**American Heart Association testimony in SUPPORT of HB 262
“Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives”**

The American Heart Association strongly supports HB 262.

The Agriculture Act of 2014 authorized the USDA to provide Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives (FINI) grants to eligible organizations to design and implement projects to increase produce purchases among low-income consumers participating in SNAP by providing incentives at point of purchase. Several Hawaii communities are currently receiving FINI grants to implement “double-bucks” programs and allow for the use of EBT payments for SNAP purchases at certain farmers’ markets and commercial retailers. HB 262 would supplement federal funding with state funding to expand those programs and to insure their sustainability.

“Double-bucks” programs match SNAP dollars spent on fresh fruits and vegetables with a financial benefit to local growers and food retailers. Low-income families bring home more healthy food, area farmers gain new customers and make more money, and more food dollars stay in the local economy. Food markets participating in the program would see increases in fresh produce sales. In addition, state supplemental funding would be potentially matched by federal funding adding yet another benefit to Hawaii’s investment in these important programs.

For more than 50 years, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP – formerly Food Stamps) has been vital in addressing food insecurity and nutrition in the United States. It has an impact on health, educational attainment and economic self-sufficiency. The program helps more than 45 million Americans struggling through underemployment and low or stagnant wages. The majority of benefits go to households with children, older adults or those with disabilities.

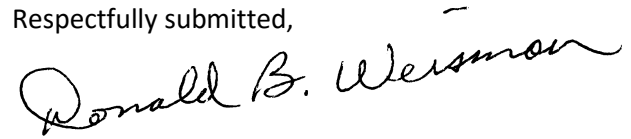
Food insecurity and poor nutrition remain problems for millions of American households. Research shows that SNAP benefits are often not adequate to last a family the entire month. A 2016 report by the Food Research and Action Center summarized the important role SNAP plays in addressing food insecurity. Importantly, the majority of SNAP recipients who are eligible for work do so while on the program, underscoring that many recipients are using the program to overcome underemployment or temporary job loss.

Although diet quality has been steadily improving in the U.S. during the past two decades, overall dietary quality is still poor. Most significantly, there is a widening gap associated with education and income. Despite the important role SNAP plays in addressing hunger, additional data indicate that SNAP recipients have worse diet quality

than income-eligible non-participants. The incentives provided through “double-up” programs can help to change that.

The American Heart Association urges legislators to support HB 262 and help reduce health disparities in our state by expanding access to fresh fruit and vegetables to those who might be economically challenged to afford access to those foods vital to improved health and reduced obesity.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald B. Weisman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the name.

Donald B. Weisman
Hawaii Government Relations/Communications Director



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

January 28, 2019

Re: HB262 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

In Strong Support

Dear Rep. Creagan, Rep. DeCoite and members of the Committee:

Several other states have “double bucks” incentive programs to encourage low income recipients of federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to purchase healthy locally-grown produce. This bill is intended to create the framework for a statewide matching program in Hawaii that would potentially also attract federal funds.

Encouraging the purchase and eating of healthy fruits and vegetables is an intervention that is understood to reduce the incidence and social cost of obesity and diseases such as diabetes. Once shoppers become familiar with the range of fresh produce available they will not rely so much on highly processed sugar- and salt-laden prepared food.

How incentive programs work

Incentive programs, in their simplest form, provide SNAP participants with matching funds to purchase SNAP-eligible produce.

Some programs provide a dollar-to-dollar match while others establish certain limits.

The possibility of private or federal grants is very real because the USDA is supporting these matching programs.

In 2017 the USDA awarded a \$3.9 million Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) grant—the largest



USDA Awards Nation's Largest Grant to Expand California Healthy Eating Program to More Farmers' Markets

August 9, 2017 by Ecology Center



[PRESS RELEASE] – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA) and its partners a \$3.9 million Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) grant – the largest in the country. FINI grants are designed to increase the

purchase of fruits and vegetables among low-income people participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (aka SNAP, formerly food stamps).

in the country—to California, to expand their healthy eating program. The stated purpose of the FINI grant was to incentivize low-income shoppers to spend their SNAP benefits on locally-grown fruits, vegetables, and nuts at farmers markets. Another objective was to encourage SNAP recipients to become life-long produce consumers. Clearly, forming the habit of shopping for fresh produce and cooking it at home will have a positive impact on health.

This bill establishes the groundwork for Hawaii to qualify for these grants.

The health and economic benefits are clear

Providing a dollar-for-dollar match of SNAP benefits when used to purchase locally-grown produce has been shown here and in other states to be effective in several ways: besides encouraging healthy eating, it benefits low-income households who may have to choose between buying good food, paying rent or paying medical costs.

An additional benefit of increased SNAP sales for locally-grown produce is that federal money remains in Hawaii and circulates in the economy. SNAP and incentive programs increase the income of local food producers—especially at farmers markets.

Each \$1 in SNAP is calculated to provide \$1.73 in local economic activity. Farmers pay for supplies and labor using the federal funds SNAP brings to the state. Matching programs help increase farm income and widen their customer base. Strengthening farm income contributes to goals related to farm sustainability in Hawaii.

Larry Geller, Project Co-Director
Nanette Geller, Project Co-Director
GreenWheel Food Hub
Honolulu



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Bookkeeper & Office Manager

Foley Pfalzgraf

Program Specialist

Date: January 28, 2019

To: Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair, Representative Lynn DeCoite,
Vice-Chair, and members of the Committee on Agriculture

From: Brent Kakesako, Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic
Development (HACBED)

Re: Support for HB262

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and Committee Members,

The Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED) supports HB262, which requires the Department of Agriculture to create a dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) who use their benefits to purchase Hawai'i-grown produce.

HACBED was established in 1992 as a nonprofit statewide intermediary to address social, economic, and environmental justice concerns through community-based economic development and asset building strategies. It advances its mission with core competencies in the areas of community and organizational capacity building, community and economic development planning, and asset policy development and advocacy. Over time, what has rung true across the different communities HACBED has been blessed to support is the importance of choice and control in the lives of families across the state to achieve their vision for genuine wealth – and within the context of food, this has been no different. The Double Up Food Bucks programs have been shown to:

- ***Reduce food insecurity.*** Double Up doubles the purchasing power of Hawai'i's low-income families, freeing up room in their budget for other expenditures like housing and healthcare.
- ***Improve dietary behaviors among low-income families.*** Evaluation data from programs in other states have shown that families eat more fruits and vegetables, eat a larger variety of fruits and vegetables, and eat fewer chips, candy, and cookies.
- ***Support farmers.*** Nutrition incentives increase sales and farm income and increase farmers' customer base.
- ***Boost the local economy.*** Double Up is an effective way to keep federal funding circulating in the local economy. Using the USDA's economic multiplier coefficients, the \$1.6 million in SNAP at Hawai'i farmers' markets (2016) generates nearly double the economic impact, by encouraging more consumer spending at local businesses.

HB262 would provide a way to support our most vulnerable families with healthy options while supporting our local economy.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

Brent N. Kakesako

Executive Director

Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development



**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, January 30 2019; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

RE: SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 0262, RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCENTIVES.

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoute, 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** House Bill No. 0262, RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCENTIVES.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Establish a Local Health Food Incentive Program (Program) for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) within the Department of Agriculture (DOA);
- (2) Provide a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$20 per visit, per day, for SNAP recipients who use food stamps to make purchases at a farmers' market or other SNAP direct food retailers, to be used solely for purchases of Hawaii-grown fresh fruits and vegetables at the farmers' market, farm stand, mobile market, community-supported agricultural site, grocery store, or other direct food retailer that participates in SNAP;
- (3) Requires the DOA to adopt rules necessary to administer the program so long as the DOA may consult and cooperate with private organizations to develop and implement the rules;
- (4) Appropriate \$1,000,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2019-2020, and the same for fiscal year 2020-2021, for DOA to administer the program and provide matching funds; and
- (5) Take effect on July 1, 2019.

Testimony on House Bill No. 262

Wednesday, January 30, 2019; 9:00 a.m.

Page 2

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural 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 health.

As a member of the Obesity Prevention Task Force, the HPCA joins the Hawaii Public Health Institute and other advocates in support of efforts to promote healthy diets and the increased consumption of locally-grown vegetables and fruits in our schools and communities.

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting HB 262 – Relating to Elections
House Committee on Agriculture
Scheduled for hearing at Wednesday, January 30, 2018, 9:00 AM, in conference room 312

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB 262**, which would appropriate funds for a healthy food matching program for participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Over 160,000 Hawai'i residents draw down between \$460 and \$500 million in federal SNAP funds annually to purchase food. While SNAP is an important program for ensuring the food security of low-income Hawai'i households, the benefit is often still not enough to afford fresh fruits and vegetables. This results in most of these economic stimulus funds leaving the islands—right into the pockets of major mainland food companies, rather than getting channeled into our local agriculture industry. Passing this bill would be an impact investment for the State, channeling much-needed capital into local businesses and farms.

SNAP incentive programs similar to the one proposed in this bill are prevalent around the United States, and similar bills have been passed in eleven other states. The USDA estimates that every dollar in SNAP generates \$1.79 in economic activity.¹ Therefore, this \$1 million investment would result in \$3.6 million in impact, after factoring in this multiplier effect. What's more, the recent Farm Bill appropriates additional funds for SNAP incentives, which can only be unlocked through a match. Should this bill pass, Hawai'i's would greatly improve its odds of obtaining these additional funds, thereby quadrupling the State's investment.

SNAP incentives are a win for everyone—families, farmers and local businesses. There is no downside. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

¹ Hanson, Kenneth. (2010) *The Food Assistance National Input-Output Multiplier (FANIOM) Model and Stimulus Effects of SNAP*. United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Report Number 103. Available online at <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=44749>.

The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.



January 30, 2019

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair, Committee on Agriculture
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair, Committee on Agriculture
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT HB262** Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB262, which provides increased access to local produce to Hawaii's low-income families. All members of our community should have the opportunity to eat healthy foods. This bill puts more money into our local farming community, which results in more financial stability for farmers, and in turn can strengthen the local economy.

At Blue Zone Projects, we support well-being. Part of that is working to ensure that all people have access to locally grown fruits and vegetables. This measure helps the approximately 83,800 households (2018) who receive SNAP benefits to purchase more healthy foods at farmers markets by giving them a dollar per dollar match up to \$20, doubling their buying power for Hawaii grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

The million dollars requested for this program would translate into an estimated \$3.6 million statewide benefit, based on the USDA's economic multiplier. This state funding would then create a path for Hawaii to apply for federal dollars through the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives federal grant opportunities. Farmers will benefit by growing their customer base and increasing their income, which helps support our economy. Hawaii's families increase their health by eating right. Data from programs in other states have shown that families who "Double Up" eat an increased amount and more varied fruits and vegetables while consuming less chips, candy, and soda.

Currently there are SNAP incentive programs throughout the state that are making positive impacts. As Hawaii strives to become healthier, increase food security, and explore pathways to strengthen its financial well-being, programs that benefit families, farmers, and local economies need to be cultivated and broadened.

Pass HB262 and "Double Up Food Bucks to result in a Triple Win for Hawaii's Families, Farmers, and Local Economy". Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peggy Mierzwa

Peggy Mierzwa
Statewide Policy Lead
Blue Zones Project—Hawaii



HB-262

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 11:55:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol R. Ignacio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Creagan,

The Double Bucks program originated on Hawaii Island through grants to The Food Basket and One Island in the amount of 500K each for 3 years. The program is making a major difference in people's lives, with the purchase of locally grown fruits and vegetables. KTA Superstores is a partner with this program, allowing EBT card holders to purchase fresh produce at the grocery stores. Passing this important legislation will help our island continue this program.

Please support this bill. Thank you so much for your service to our community.

Carol R. Ignacio

Date: January 28, 2019

To: The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Re: **Strong Support of HB262**, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

Aloha House Committee on Agriculture,

I am writing in **strong support of HB262**, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

This matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawai'i's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is good for Hawai'i's families, farmers, and the local economy.

I **strongly support HB262** and respectfully ask you to pass this bill out of committee.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Kea'au, HI

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 5:11:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

www.WeAreOne.cc

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:05:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Gonce	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 6:32:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
C. Azelski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this win-win-win measure as it benefits our local economy, farmers and residents. Thank you.

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 7:06:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawai'i Island Community is increasingly becoming food insecure. According to the Hawai'i Food Basket recently, 50% of all Schools on Hawai'i Island serve a student population that is 100% Free and Reduced. This means that families are struggling to stretch their food dollars. This is a proven program that helps our most vulnerable families in need.

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 7:45:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP)

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, January 30, 2019
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 312 State Capitol

RE: HB 262 Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Aloha mai kakou Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 262 relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives.**

HB 262 requires the Department of Agriculture to create a dollar-for dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program who use their benefits to purchase Hawaii-grown produce. HB 262 appropriates funds.

We must take a number of proactive steps so that all people – regardless of location, income or history – have the opportunity to live full, healthy lives. Democrats will fight for increased investments and coordination in public health to better address emerging threats as well as persistent needs across our State. Health equity among the communities remain elusive – higher income is strongly associated with longer life expectancy and the gap in life expectancy between the richest and poorest people is increasing. We continue to see unacceptable differences in health outcomes by race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. A growing body of research demonstrates the link between social factors – such as poverty, unemployment, experience of discrimination, and housing instability – and poor health. DPH will continue to pursue polices addressing these social factors and empowering communities to respond to their most pressing health needs. *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 13, ln. 6-15.*

As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. DPH supports healthy, sustainable, and diversified local food production, and “Buy Local” strategies to assure greater food security and food safety. *Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Platform (2018), p. 9, ln. 26-29.*

DPH supports community health initiatives that provide opportunities for overall health of communities through strategic projects and programs focusing in increased interaction and physical activities among all age groups, as well as on better nutrition. *Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Platform (2018), p. 13, ln. 22-24.* The establishment of dollar-for dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program would assist in establishing this goal.

For the foregoing reasons, OCCLP supports HB 262 and urges its passage out of the Committee on Agriculture.

Mahalo nui loa
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

Ph. (808) 258-8889

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Amplify the Power of Giving

January 28, 2019

To: Hawai'i House of Representatives, Committee on Agriculture

Re: H.B. 262

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee,

In 2016 the Hawai'i Community Foundation commissioned a study of the "State of Hunger" in our State. The findings were appalling: nearly 1 in 7 residents are at-risk of going hungry including more than 20% of our keiki and 10% of seniors. In response HCF organized funding from 9 private donors and foundations to fund a 3-year effort to help reduce hunger in our community.

Over the past year, 13 organizations calling themselves the *Hawai'i Hunger Action Network*: (Blue Zones, Good Food Alliance, Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development, Hawai'i Appleseed, Hawai'i Community Foundation, Hawai'i Foodbank, Hawai'i Food Basket, Kapi'olani Community College, Kōkua Kalihi Valley, Lanakila Pacific, Maui Food Bank, Parents & Children Together and Sustainable Moloka'i) have been meeting to identify the most effective ways to ensure that all people in Hawai'i have enough food to live healthy, dignified and productive lives.

In terms of resources for quality food and nutrition for low-income individuals and families, *Double Up Food Bucks* programs have been shown to:

- **Reduce food insecurity.** Doubles the purchasing power of Hawai'i's low-income families, freeing up room in their budget for other expenditures like housing and healthcare.
- **Improve dietary behaviors among low-income families.** Evaluation data from programs in other states have shown that families eat more fruits and vegetables, eat a larger variety of fruits and vegetables, and eat fewer chips, candy, and cookies.
- **Support farmers.** Nutrition incentives increase sales and farm income and increase farmers' customer base.
- **Boost the local economy.** Is an effective way to keep federal funding circulating in the local economy. Using the USDA's economic multiplier coefficients, the \$1.6 million in SNAP at Hawai'i farmers' markets (2016) generates nearly double the economic impact, by encouraging more consumer spending at local businesses.

On behalf of HCF and our partners at the Hawai'i Hunger Action Networks I wholeheartedly support H.B. 262.

Sincerely,

Micah A. Kāne
CEO & President

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 9:19:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
christine spencer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill. It is our responsibility to make sure that people living in the crisis of poverty and who depend on the government for assistance, to have access and options for fresh fruits and vegetables. Especially with obesity rates climbing on Maui County.

Thank you,

Christine Spencer

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 12:07:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cody Chapin	Hawai'i Localist	Support	No

Comments:

Good Morning to the Ag Committee!

I'm testifying in support of HB262. This bill is a great step forward for building equity, helping out our local farmers, and keeping more money in our local economy here in Hawai'i. These types of programs aren't just a "hand out," they are a powerful tool for strengthening our economy. SNAP purchases will contribute to the "multiplier effect"—in other words, money spent with local, independent businesses stays here, paying for local services, supplies, staff, and sometimes inventory. Those businesses then spend most of that money with other local businesses, and so on. Each transaction creates on average **three times more income, jobs, and wealth** for your community.

HUGE YES for this bill! Thank you for you time and hope you have a beautiful day!

Cody Chapin | Hawai'i Localist | Kea'au, HI

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 1:32:09 PM
Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Greenleaf	Greenleaf Farm	Support	No

Comments:

Double value for fresh produce at Farmers Markets is a triple win: 1) it helps low-income families bring home more healthy and nutritious food, 2) it allows local farmers to gain new customers and bring in more income, and 3) more food dollars stay in the local economy

As more young people begin to farm, this bill gives them a much needed leg up of support.

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:11:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christy Stesky	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:18:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:23:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helmut Klauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:28:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marta greenleaf	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am wholeheartedly in favor of this win-win Bill. HB262 will help the families who receive snap benefits by giving them more fresh, locally grown food in their homes so their families will eat healthier and have fewer medical problems that are diet related. This bill will also help the small, local farmers who desperately need support. This bill also has the potential to attract more farmers to start growing healthy, organic food which helps our local economy.

Please vote in favor of HB262

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:28:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christian Zuckerman	Kahumana Organic Farms	Support	No

Comments:

I, Christian Zuckerman, am testifying in support of this bill. I manage an organic farm and we attend several farmers market where SNAP is available to market attendees. This is a very beneficial program and needs more support.

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:34:03 PM
Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raphiell Nolin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this measure to encourage consumers supporting Hawaii farmers.

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:34:25 PM
Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
A Kathleen Lee	Temple of Spiritual Healing and Education, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Representatives of we citizens of Hawai'i,

I do affirm that you will deeply consider the many facets of Good that will be accomplished by this bill. Not only are the vital occupations of the many kinds of farmers supported by it, the physical and psychological health of our children and communities are, too.

Mahalo for your intelligent and thoughtful vote for HB262,

Reverend April Lee

BA with majors in Psychology and Biology

Living in a farming area of Hawai'i Island

decoite2 - Sara

From: Alan Tada <flowersforever@hawaiiantel.biz>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 8:39 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I Support HB450

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, & Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 450 - Relating to Agriculture Emergencies, which specifies the conditions in which the Board of Agriculture can submit a request to the Governor to declare an agricultural emergency, establishes the Agricultural Emergency Trust Fund, and requires the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement measures to respond to the agricultural emergency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:50:07 PM
Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
W Gregory Askew	Deep Harbor, Inc. (OnoPops Hawaiian handmade frozen pops)	Support	No

Comments:

With approximately 90% of the food we consume in Hawaii not being produced in Hawaii, we need to do everything we can to stimulate demand for local agriculture. This bill appears to support increasing local agricultural demand. Mahalo nui loa...

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:59:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathalie Jackson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

decoite2 - Sara

From: Alan Gottlieb <alan@prloffice.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 4:11 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I Support HB450

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, & Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 450 - Relating to Agriculture Emergencies, which specifies the conditions in which the Board of Agriculture can submit a request to the Governor to declare an agricultural emergency, establishes the Agricultural Emergency Trust Fund, and requires the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement measures to respond to the agricultural emergency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 3:20:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rob Weltman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 3:31:26 PM
Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ember Behrendt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB 262 as it is good for Hawaii farmers and better nutrition for those who need help the most.

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 3:44:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

decoite2 - Sara

From: atrinh3@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Alan Trinh <atrinh3@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 6:46 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Alan Trinh
Hilo, HI 96720

decoite2 - Sara

From: angelraybpc@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Angelina Mercado
<angelraybpc@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 8:37 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Angelina Mercado
Honolulu, HI 96819

decoite2 - Sara

From: ksolomon@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Angelique Solomon
<ksolomon@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 1:40 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Angelique Solomon
Honolulu, HI 96817

decoite2 - Sara

From: DrT@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Brent Tamamoto
<DrT@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 5:37 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Brent Tamamoto
Aiea, HI 96701

decoite2 - Sara

From: bmih@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Bryan Mih
<bmih@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 11:52 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Bryan Mih
Honolulu, HI 96822

decoite2 - Sara

From: ccnal@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Camille Chong
<ccnal@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 2:24 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Camille Chong
Honolulu, HI 96826

decoite2 - Sara

From: kainoankiana@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Cherie Andrade
<kainoankiana@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 3:06 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Cherie Andrade
Kailua, HI 96734

decoite2 - Sara

From: cricketlachica@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Christopher La Chica
<cricketlachica@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 7:11 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Christopher La Chica
Mililani, HI 96789

decoite2 - Sara

From: colleenosheawallaace@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Colleen Wallace
<colleenosheawallaace@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 2:49 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

Aloha Chair Creagan and Vice Chair, DeCoite,

I am writing from Maui to support HB262 - to improve access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

This is a great bill! Increasing accessibility of healthy foods, especially for this population, is essential. Plus building healthy eating habits for families and young children is of prime importance because children eat what their mothers and fathers eat - and foods that kids grow up eating are the foods that they chose and eat for the rest of their lives! hope you will pass this bill without changes.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo nui loa,

Sincerely,
Colleen Wallace
Makawao, HI 96768

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 3:50:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Honorable Chariman Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and Committee Members.

I support this legislation, as it will greatly boost sales of local produce and increase our food security.

Me ka ha'aha'a

Simon Russell

Farm Maui LLC

POB 92

Makawao, HI

96768

decoite2 - Sara

From: cmrow@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Courtney Mrowczynski
<cmrow@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 11:09 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Courtney Mrowczynski
Honolulu, HI 96816

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 3:53:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William South	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

decoite2 - Sara

From: weeklyupdate@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Cristeta Ancog
<weeklyupdate@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 3:31 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

I am a retired pediatrician, who worked on the Waianae Coast for 25 years. I saw many families struggle to buy fresh fruit and vegetables. They want to eat healthy. They like fresh fruit and veggies. Let's make it easier on them to be healthy, and decrease the incidence of diabetes, heart and kidney disease in our communities.

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Cristeta Ancog
Aiea, HI 96701

decoite2 - Sara

From: Elizabeth Cole Cole <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 11:39 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 262: Relating to SNAP Incentives

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
HEARING: 9:00 AM, Wednesday, January 30, 2019
PLACE: Conference Room 312
FROM: Elizabeth Cole Cole
RE: In support of HB 262: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

I testify in support of H.B. 262, which appropriates funds for a healthy food incentive program for SNAP recipients. The program would give those on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh, local fruits and vegetables, doubling the purchasing power of SNAP users, and channeling federal funds into the pockets of local farmers.

With food costs estimated to be 82% higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP participants can't afford healthier options. Research shows that such programs not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but can actually lower healthcare costs. Nutrition incentives increase sales and farm income by increasing local farmers' customer base, effectively keeping federal funding circulating in our local economy. These programs are a win for everyone, and an investment for the State.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

decoite2 - Sara

From: Joyfuljourney2be@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Alana Busekrus
<Joyfuljourney2be@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 9:05 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

As a Diabetes Nurse and a mother of four daughters striving to afford life in Hawaii, I see the passage of HB262 as a way to enable Hawaii's people to afford healthy lifestyle choices. Thank you for considering my request.
Holomua!

Sincerely,
Alana Busekrus
Kailua, HI 96734

decoite2 - Sara

From: hbarrow@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Helen Barrow
<hbarrow@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 7:34 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

Aloha ! I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee. Please consider passing this important bill that is a win-win for our keiki & our farmers.

Sincerely,
Helen Barrow
Makawao, HI 96768

LATE

decoite2 - Sara

From: Jayme Barton <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 3:19 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 262: Relating to SNAP Incentives

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
HEARING: 9:00 AM, Wednesday, January 30, 2019
PLACE: Conference Room 312
FROM: Jayme Barton
RE: In support of HB 262: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

I testify in support of H.B. 262, which appropriates funds for a healthy food incentive program for SNAP recipients. The program would give those on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh, local fruits and vegetables, doubling the purchasing power of SNAP users, and channeling federal funds into the pockets of local farmers.

With food costs estimated to be 82% higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP participants can't afford healthier options. Research shows that such programs not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but can actually lower healthcare costs. Nutrition incentives increase sales and farm income by increasing local farmers' customer base, effectively keeping federal funding circulating in our local economy. These programs are a win for everyone, and an investment for the State.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

decoite2 - Sara

From: keikidoc1998@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jenny Welham <keikidoc1998@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 5:28 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Jenny Welham
Honolulu, HI 96816

decoite2 - Sara

From: jordannicole9513@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jordan Smith
<jordannicole9513@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 3:50 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

Hello Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and the members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

My name is Jordan Smith and I am a resident of Hawai'i, House District 29, and a strong supporter of HB262.

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

In a time filled with growing inequality and inequity, it is crucial to provide low-income families with the ability to live healthier and more fulfilling lives. No one's access to healthy foods and vegetables should be penalized for being poor. Passing HB262 out of committee is the first step to telling Hawaii's low income families that not only do their health and well being matter, but they matter.

Sincerely,
Jordan Smith
Honolulu, HI 96817

decoite2 - Sara

From: keawe9@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula
<keawe9@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 2:07 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula
Honolulu, HI 96813

decoite2 - Sara

From: kcorpuz4@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kathleen Corpuz <kcorpuz4@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 2:32 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Corpuz
Honolulu, HI 96817

LATE

decoite2 - Sara

From: calikate@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Katie Folio
<calikate@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 1:27 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

Aloha,

I am writing as a private citizen in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

This type of legislation is much needed in our communities. It will help our families to eat healthier more nutritious food, it will help our farmers to sustain their businesses, and it will help our local economy. I know from experience how difficult it can be to eat a healthy diet when you are financially strapped, especially at Maui prices. To make the dollar twice as powerful when it comes to healthy foods will have a huge impact on how families are able to eat. And this in turn will make for healthier keiki with better health outcomes in their futures.

Thank you for considering this legislation and please pass HB262 out of committee!
Mahalo nui

Sincerely,
Katie Folio
Kula, HI 96790

decoite2 - Sara

From: kirsten.fujitani@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kirsten Fujitani
<kirsten.fujitani@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 9:22 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Kirsten Fujitani
Lawai, HI 96765

decoite2 - Sara

From: kea.kaufman@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of La'akea Kaufman
<kea.kaufman@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 4:33 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
La'akea Kaufman
Wailuku, HI 96793

decoite2 - Sara

From: Laksmi Abraham <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 5:13 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 262: Relating to SNAP Incentives

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
HEARING: 9:00 AM, Wednesday, January 30, 2019
PLACE: Conference Room 312
FROM: Laksmi Abraham
RE: In support of HB 262: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

I testify in support of H.B. 262, which appropriates funds for a healthy food incentive program for SNAP recipients. The program would give those on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh, local fruits and vegetables, doubling the purchasing power of SNAP users, and channeling federal funds into the pockets of local farmers.

With food costs estimated to be 82% higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP participants can't afford healthier options. Research shows that such programs not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but can actually lower healthcare costs. Nutrition incentives increase sales and farm income by increasing local farmers' customer base, effectively keeping federal funding circulating in our local economy. These programs are a win for everyone, and an investment for the State.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

decoite2 - Sara

From: lenap@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lena Phomsouvanh
<lenap@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 2:06 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Lena Phomsouvanh
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

decoite2 - Sara

From: mkyono@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mae Kyono
<mkyono@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 5:36 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Mae Kyono
Honolulu, HI 96826

decoite2 - Sara

From: mgagen@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of MARILYN J.Gagen
<mgagen@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 6:29 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community. It breaks my heart when I am in line at the grocery store behind a young mother, and she is buying mostly frozen or processed foods. Any incentive to help these families eat more healthy from our wonderful local produce would help stem the tide of childhood obesity.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
MARILYN J. Gagen
Kamuela, HI 96743

decoite2 - Sara

From: okihirom@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of May Okihiro
<okihirom@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 9:14 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
May Okihiro
Kaneohe, HI 96744

decoite2 - Sara

From: mdeycaza@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of michael deYcaza
<mdeycaza@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 1:45 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
michael deYcaza
Honolulu, HI 96815

decoite2 - Sara

From: nihipalim001@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Michele Nihipali <nihipalim001@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 5:59 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Michele Nihipali
Hauula, HI 96717

decoite2 - Sara

From: mmg2b@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Michelle Gray
<mmg2b@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 1:33 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Michelle Gray
Honolulu, HI 96825

decoite2 - Sara

From: michelle.tagorda@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Michelle Tagorda
<michelle.tagorda@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 8:33 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing as an individual and public health professional in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Michelle Tagorda
Honolulu, HI 96826

LATE

decoite2 - Sara

From: Mike Sayama <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 2:49 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 262: Relating to SNAP Incentives

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
HEARING: 9:00 AM, Wednesday, January 30, 2019
PLACE: Conference Room 312
FROM: Mike Sayama
RE: In support of HB 262: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

I support H.B. 262, which appropriates funds for a healthy food incentive program for SNAP recipients. The program would give them a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh, local fruits and vegetables, doubling their purchasing power and channeling federal funds into the pockets of local farmers.

With food costs estimated to be 82% higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP participants can't afford healthier options which can actually lower healthcare costs. The program also increases the revenue of local farmers, effectively keeping federal funding circulating in our local economy. These programs are a win for everyone, and an investment for the State.

Thank you for your consideration.

decoite2 - Sara

From: mldawson@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Miles Dawson
<mldawson@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 9:59 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Miles Dawson
Waimanalo, HI 96795

decoite2 - Sara

From: minamihachiya808@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Minami Hachiya
<minamihachiya808@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 1:32 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Minami Hachiya
Honolulu, HI 96815

decoite2 - Sara

From: rgonce@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Randy Gonce
<rgonce@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 3:20 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Randy Gonce
Kaneohe, HI 96744

LATE

decoite2 - Sara

From: kellelyrg@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Rebecca Petit
<kellelyrg@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 12:34 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Petit
Honolulu, HI 96818

decoite2 - Sara

From: rdelafield@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Rebecca Delafield
<rdelafield@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 9:47 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Delafield
Honolulu, HI 96816

decoite2 - Sara

From: kurikir001@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ronald Kuriki <kurikir001@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 3:26 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Ronald Kuriki
Honolulu, HI 96816

decoite2 - Sara

From: Samantha Robinson <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 8:10 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 262: Relating to SNAP Incentives

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
HEARING: 9:00 AM, Wednesday, January 30, 2019
PLACE: Conference Room 312
FROM: Samantha Robinson
RE: In support of HB 262: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

I testify in support of H.B. 262, which appropriates funds for a healthy food incentive program for SNAP recipients. The program would give those on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh, local fruits and vegetables, doubling the purchasing power of SNAP users, and channeling federal funds into the pockets of local farmers.

With food costs estimated to be 82% higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP participants can't afford healthier options. Research shows that such programs not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but can actually lower healthcare costs. Nutrition incentives increase sales and farm income by increasing local farmers' customer base, effectively keeping federal funding circulating in our local economy. These programs are a win for everyone, and an investment for the State.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

decoite2 - Sara

From: scstensrud@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Scott Stensrud
<scstensrud@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 6:29 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Scott Stensrud
Kapolei, HI 96707

decoite2 - Sara

From: scottyreismoniz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Scotty Reis-Moniz
<scottyreismoniz@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 1:51 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Scotty Reis-Moniz
Waimanalo, HI 96795

decoite2 - Sara

From: sniimiburch@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Seri Niimi-Burch
<sniimiburch@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 11:56 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Seri Niimi-Burch
Honokaa, HI 96727

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 4:26:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taylor Cunningham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an individual who relies on S.N.A.P. I would love to be able to purchase Hawaiian grown produce more often! One cannot always buy local as it is not always cost effective for a monthly grocery budget. This bill would make it possible for me to eat healthier and support local farmers. I support HB262. Thank you.

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 4:28:11 PM
Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
petra zoeller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 5:03:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine Brooks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 4:56:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 4:54:17 PM
Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marcy montgomery	One Island's 'Same Canoe Local Food Challenge'	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for considering this important legislation. Our non-profit organization represents over 5,000 SNAP EBT users and community stakeholders that are receiving federal funding that matches SNAP produce purchases with free additional produce coupons. Same Canoe is delivering these services in Hawaii County in 5 rural districts. We emphasize buying local, eating healthy, and supporting the island's ag communities and economy. We also educate the wider to community to better understand SNAP resources as a complementary funding to health insurance - it is food insurance.

In 2015-2016 we conducted the first SNAP match program funded by the USDA in Hawaii. Now in 2019 we are half way through a larger SNAP match program, also funded by the USDA, and are seeing strong success through implementation of a variety of financial incentives including coupons, food and nutrition classes, chef demos, school gardens, and farm tours.

We encourage the State and Dept of Agriculture to make this type of program available on all islands, year round, by establishing perpetual funding through supportive legislation. As we have seen in recent weeks, federal support is not reliable; the federal programs may jump start a good idea, but it takes local support from the State of Hawaii to embed this type of win-win, pro consumer health / pro local family farmer partnership. In turn, these matching funds can help build food security by increasing the demand and buying power for locally grown foods.

We ask for your support in legislating matching funding for SNAP produce purchases. The beneficiaries this will help include low income households, children and seniors, small farms, farmers' markets, and grocers - all stakeholders in the Future of Food in Hawaii.

decoite2 - Sara

From: shay.chanhodges@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Shay Chan Hodges
<shay.chanhodges@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 5:48 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Shay Chan Hodges
Haiku, HI 96708

LATE

decoite2 - Sara

From: shayda_marciel@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Shayda Marciel
<shayda_marciel@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 12:33 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

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Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Shayda Marciel
Lihue, HI 96766

decoite2 - Sara

From: shelly.ogata@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Shelly Ogata
<shelly.ogata@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 1:42 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Shelly Ogata
Hilo, HI 96720

decoite2 - Sara

From: suzmaui@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Suzanne Fields
<suzmaui@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 3:31 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

This is a NO BRAINER - you MUST SUPPORT!!!

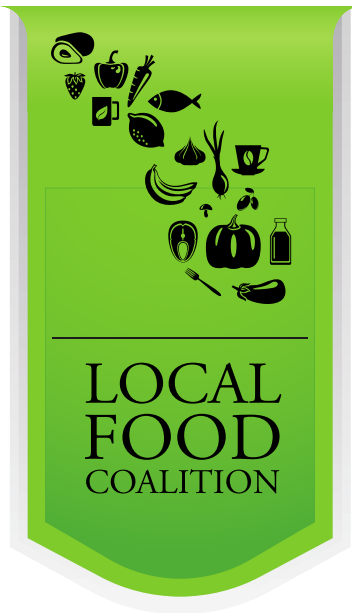
I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Importantly, when people eat healthier, they stay healthier and that's good news for everyone - caring for healthy people costs much less than health care costs for unhealthy people who eat foods high in sugars and fats.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Fields
Haiku, HI 96708



LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, January 30, 2019 - 9:00 AM - Room 312

**RE: HB 262 - Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
Program Incentives - In Support**

Hawai'i Aquaculture &
Aquaponics Association
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council
Hawai'i Farm Bureau
Federation
Hawai'i Farmers' Union
United
Hawai'i Food Industry
Association
Hawai'i Food
Manufacturers Association
Kohala Center
Land Use Research
Foundation of Hawai'i
Malama Kaua'i
Maui School Garden
Network
Ulupono Initiative

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and Members of the
Committee:

The Local Food Coalition **strongly supports HB 262**, which requires
the Department of Agriculture to create a dollar-for-dollar matching
program for beneficiaries of the federal Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program who use their benefits to purchase Hawaii-grown
produce.

This collaborative program helps low-income residents afford more
fresh, local foods by providing a one-to-one match for every dollar of
SNAP benefits spent at participating locations. The goal of the
program is to provide local people with limited means, access to
healthy fruits and vegetables, while supporting local farmers and the
Hawaii economy.

This successful incentive program has been implemented in more
than 20 states and will promote healthy eating among Hawaii's low-
income families.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers,
ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations
working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of HB 262. Thank you for the
opportunity to submit testimony.

John Garibaldi
808-544-8319
jgaribaldi@wik.com

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 5:18:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eloise Engman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 5:53:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Derek Lindes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 6:20:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon Levine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have seen people get healthy produce at farmers markets with food stamps, etc. and believe this to be a good program.

Thank you,

Sharon Levine

Waianae, Hi.

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 6:48:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Seikai Darcy	Share Your Mana	Support	No

Comments:

As someone who works with individuals marginalied an almost made invisible, this is an entry point which will create a seamless step towards significant physical health. Kudos!

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:27:14 PM
Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:34:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kekai Quartero	K&R Enterprises	Support	No

Comments:

I wholly support HB262 for the positive impact it will make on society and the direct focus it places on a healthy food system.

Regards,

Robert Quartero

The Honorable Richard Creagan
Chair, House Committee on Agriculture
Hawai`i State Capitol, Room 427



Testimony in Strong Support of HB 262

Aloha e Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and members of the committee,

I write today to you as a private citizen in strong support of House Bill 262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Incentives. I wholeheartedly believe this investment is the kind of policy that will truly create the change all of us are looking to achieve in agriculture today, and here are a few reasons why.

Policy makers want to effectuate the greatest amount of change while being afforded a reasonably high probability of success. At its best, this investment will improve the health and resiliency of low-income residents of the State, it will sustain and expand local farming businesses, introduce our keiki to fresh produce, serve as a conduit to food education and awareness, foster collaboration and coordination between non-profits, government, and the private sector, attract and keep more federal dollars in Hawai`i, and contribute to our food security and resiliency. If all of the above do not occur, this \$1 million dollar investment ends up being a \$3 million dollar Grant-in-Aid as the money passes first through the hands of local, low-income SNAP recipients, then through the hands of local grocers, then through the hands of local farmers. Regardless of any Federal grant match for incentives, this money will be matched dollar for dollar by SNAP.

You may also want to create policy that is as far-reaching as possible. There is a oft-quoted statistic from CTAHR saying that replacing 10% of imported food would have an economic effect of over \$300M. The SNAP program, on a yearly basis, spends around \$500M, more than any GIA, more than any discretionary Health and Human Services program coming out of the Legislature today. That is money that is already here. Redirecting those funds through incentives and behavioral change can be a sustained force for the economic improvements we are all seeking.

You may want to create policy that aligns with Federal intent. The SNAP program is housed in the United States Department of Agriculture because it was meant as an agriculture subsidy. Incentivizing residents to spend dollars on local produce is an unassailable use of these funds.

This program is fair. No well-connected lobbyist or political crony stands to derive any more benefit than anyone else, nor can any SNAP recipient spend the dollars on the infamous steak and lobster dinner, unless maybe its local beef and keahole lobster.

The choice on where to spend precious household dollars resides solely with the low-income resident. In a capitalist society where voting with your dollar is often how decisions get made, we are reducing the role of price on nutrition choices. This frees our low-income households to make the choices based on health, not strictly on value, real or perceived.

Sometimes, policy made at the Legislature does not always trickle down to the community as foreseen. At one time, I was an Administrator in a small office in the Department of Labor with Level 2 Procurement Authority. From the SPO website, this means: "*Personnel tasked with procurement duties that include specification writing; drafting, reviewing, editing or compiling of procurement solicitations; or approving or conducting procurements.*" While Legislators may have had the best of intentions while drafting policy, it is up to specifications writers in each department to research and describe the actual activities to be performed that will fulfill the legislative intent. This program is a specification writer and program evaluator's dream. There are already national metrics, a connected community of practice spanning multiple states, and multiple nationwide agencies whose existence is predicated on the evaluation of these programs. Specifications for the program can be matched to Federal specs and copied and pasted, reducing a lengthy procurement process. Interestingly, federal support for this program is on the rise, with the recent Farm Bill allocating \$250M for the program nationwide.

It was the privilege of a lifetime to be the Executive Director of The Food Basket on Hawai`i island starting in 2013. As a food bank and the primary source of food for many Hawai`i island residents, we believed that if our constituents were not eating healthy, we had a share of the blame. While our farmers and local grocers were supportive of us, we felt we had very little we could offer in return. That was the wrong perspective. As time went on we realized that our clients, the 43,000 strong that receive SNAP benefits in our County, had just as much say at the local grocer as anyone else. Unlike cars or jewelry where the products are highly stratified, food is largely equitable, with high end consumers and low-end consumers paying very similar prices for products. To mobilize our clients would be just as effective in creating change in the local food system, and more so in the local health system due to the glaring disparities in health outcomes. The current implementation of the incentive program beyond my tenure has shown quantifiable results, which you will likely hear about in other testimony today. At the program's conception, we believed SNAP incentives would allow us to better serve our clients through more food options while offering local

farmers an additional revenue source and allowing local grocers to prioritize local vendors and support the sale of local products. All of these have come to pass.

In my current role, our company is a start-up seeking to produce hydroponic vegetables on the island of Lana`i. Beyond the straightforward increase to revenue companies farming locally may see, all of us as producers have suffered from a serious lack of data caused by the loss of Departmental statisticians. While this program will not directly fund statisticians, the data collected will be a window into buying habits for local residents, especially the habits of those for whom food buying decisions are very carefully considered.

From a technical standpoint someone will have to administer the money and most likely every department will say it shouldn't be them. This is a policy call. There are advantages to each, the Department of Health runs the SNAP-Education (SNAP-Ed) part of the Federal program. If you believe the place to start to engage the community is through existing outreach channels and marketing, housing the program at DOH is a great way to go. If you believe the first point of engagement should be an agency tasked to comprehensively care for residents who need help; in other words that this program should be coordinated well with Homeless branch, HPHA, Quest, etc. then you probably want to house the program at the Department of Human Services. If you believe the place to engage for a program like this is at the level of the producers, the Department of Agriculture is a great choice. As previously stated, I believe that developing an RFP process, or in this case I would tend toward an RFQ to be more inclusive, would be relatively easy given the well-established Federal guidelines and programs in other States.

This is common sense, win-win-win Legislation, I thank the committee for your favorable consideration and appreciate the opportunity to testify.

En Young

95-1224 La`ipu Street

Mililiani, HI 96789

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 6:01:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
PHC HNL	Pioneering Healthier Communities of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

January 29, 2019

RE: HB262 Double Bucks

From: Pioneering Healthy Communities – Honolulu

The Pioneering Healthier Communities Initiative brings together local, diverse leaders to discuss and support strategies, policies and programs that we can accomplish together to build healthier communities in our island home. The Honolulu Committee was established in 2009. The members of PHC of Honolulu are involved in helping children and families to become healthier through schools, afterschool programs, healthcare and community initiatives such as farmer's markets.

Our State today is in the middle of an epidemic of obesity and chronic disease such as diabetes. The risk begins in early childhood; today about 1/3 of children are overweight or obese and at risk for developing metabolic complications, such as diabetes. In many of our rural and low-income communities, the problem is much more prevalent and more severe. This translates to thousands of children, adolescents and young adults with significant chronic disease risk in each of our communities.

Making matters worse, many Hawaii residents, live at or near the poverty level and struggle to buy, prepare, and eat healthy foods. When the high cost of living in Hawaii is considered, local residents have the 10th highest poverty rate in the Nation.

If we are serious about supporting children and families, promoting health and wellness, tackling healthcare costs and creating vibrant, more productive communities in Hawaii, *we must support families and prevent obesity and chronic disease before they start.* This will take a sustained, comprehensive strategy involving every aspect of our society – including government, business, healthcare, employers, schools, childcare and more. It also includes making fresh foods, especially fruits and vegetables, more accessible to our community members.

Numerous report on programs across the U.S. that incentivize nutritious produce purchases among SNAP recipients, such as the “Double Bucks” programs, indicate that they are an effective way to encourage more fruit and vegetable purchasing, reduce hunger and supporting healthy diets. Double Bucks programs have emerged at Farmers Markets in Hawaii, such as those associated with the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center and Kalihi Kokua Valley Health Center. The programs have been very popular and very successful in motivating community members to purchase more fruits and vegetables but need ongoing resources. We also are aware of positive economic, education, and environmental benefits for individuals, and communities, from these Double Bucks Programs.

As such, we strongly urge you to pass this Bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Michael Broderick

May Okihiro

Daniel Leung

Tina Tamai

Diane Tabangay

Daniela Kittinger

Ray L'Heureux

Stacy Evensen

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 11:30:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frank Genadio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to support HB262, to improve access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The matching incentive program, called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Viola E. Genadio, APRN, CDE

92-1370 Kikaha Street

Kapolei, HI 96707

(808) 672-9170

LATE

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 7:01:45 AM
Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jo Kimm	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-262

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 7:03:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Aloï	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

decoite2 - Sara

From: ozland@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Colleen Inouye
<ozland@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 6:42 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

To the Honorable Chairs Creagan and Decoite and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

I am a physician on Maui which has an adult obesity rate of approximately 25%. 50% of those obese are Native Hawaiian and 25% are Filipino. I am constantly counseling my patients on how to reduce their weight through healthier eating. The one item that constantly comes up is the cost of healthy food. Please support HB262 so my patients have ACCESS to better quality and healthier food. Until we can minimize the cost, which this bill does, my patients will continue to buy processed foods, gain weight, and increase healthcare costs of diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The money we invest toward healthier eating and decreasing obesity will be an investment toward lowering the money the legislature spends on chronic diseases.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,
Colleen F Inouye MD MMM CPE FACOG Jefferson Pop of Health

Sincerely,
Colleen Inouye
Kahului, HI 96732

LATE

decoite2 - Sara

From: morenochow@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of MARIA MORENO-CHOW
<morenochow@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 3:38 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Strong Support of HB262, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: January 30, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Capitol Room 312

I am writing in strong support of HB262, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program, sometimes called a "Double Up Food Bucks" program, is a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. It makes healthy eating more accessible to Hawaii's low-income families, increases sales and farm profits, and keeps money in the community.

Double Up Food Bucks is a triple win for Hawaii's families, farmers, and the local economy. I strongly support HB262 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
MARIA MORENO-CHOW
Kailua, HI 96734

LATE

decoite2 - Sara

From: Ron Mizutani <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 4:37 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 262: Relating to SNAP Incentives

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
HEARING: 9:00 AM, Wednesday, January 30, 2019
PLACE: Conference Room 312
FROM: Ron Mizutani
RE: In support of HB 262: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

It is my honor and privilege to submit testimony supporting House Bill 262, which appropriates funds for Hawaii's Double Up Food Bucks program.

The term "food insecurity" has taken on a life of its own in the last few months in Hawaii. An increase in natural disasters and the recent partial government shutdown, has forced people who have never experienced hunger in their lives, to search for options. Loosely defined, it is the lack of access to nutritional foods, which can lead to health concerns and even malnutrition. There is no easy solution to address hunger in Hawaii but there is a program already in place, serving as a lifeline for thousands of island residents.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly referred to many of us as the Food Stamp Program, is the largest food assistance program in the country, including Hawaii. According to data from Per Center on Budget and Policies Priorities, in Fiscal Years 2017, 169,000 Hawaii residents, or 12% of Hawaii's population, were receiving benefits from SNAP. Of those, more than 63% of SNAP participants are in families with children, almost 31% are in families with members who are elderly or have disabilities and more than 51% are in working families.

Despite government benefits, there is an enormous gap when it comes to access to healthy foods and that is where the Double Up Food Bucks Program becomes vital. Double Up Food Bucks provides an additional dollar for every dollar a SNAP family spends, essentially stretching their purchasing power, increasing their financial accessibility of eating more fruits and vegetables. That alone can help alleviate financial stresses so families can focus on other expenses such as rent and childcare costs.

The healthier options also contribute to an improved diet and overall health and wellness while, lowering healthcare costs. Healthy food has proven to have positive impacts on a child's immune system, energy level, digestion and attention span.

Finally, this nutrition incentive is good for Hawaii's farmers. The Double Up Food Bucks Program has already shown it can help increase sales and our farmers' customer base by keeping food dollars within the local community. It can stimulate farm expansion in acreage and diversity. Using the USDA's economic multiplier coefficients, the \$1.6 million in SNAP at Hawai'i farmers' markets (2016) generates nearly double the economic impact, by encouraging more consumer spending at local businesses.

Hunger can be a temporary issue or it can be chronic and a result of the causes of malnutrition. It is not enough to provide families in need with food, want families to have access to a healthy variety of foods. Hawaii's Double Up Food Program is helping us change the conversation.

With much respect and aloha,

Ron Mizutani
Hawaii Foodbank
President and Chief Operating Officer

LATE

decoite2 - Sara

From: Thomas Tizard <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 9:42 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 262: Relating to SNAP Incentives

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
HEARING: 9:00 AM, Wednesday, January 30, 2019
PLACE: Conference Room 312
FROM: Thomas Tizard
RE: In support of HB 262: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

I testify in support of H.B. 262, which appropriates funds for a healthy food incentive program for SNAP recipients. The program would give those on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh, local fruits and vegetables, doubling the purchasing power of SNAP users, and channeling federal funds into the pockets of local farmers.

With food costs estimated to be 82% higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP participants can't afford healthier options. Research shows that such programs not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but can actually lower healthcare costs. Nutrition incentives increase sales and farm income by increasing local farmers' customer base, effectively keeping federal funding circulating in our local economy. These programs are a win for everyone, and an investment for the State.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.