



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

January 29, 2019

TO: The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 390 - RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM INCENTIVES**

Hearing: Monday, February 4, 2019, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol

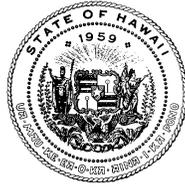
DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill. The national double up food bucks program helps Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants increase their purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables by doubling the value of their benefits spent and assists to keep 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 S.B. 390
RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

SENATOR RUSSEL E. RUDERMAN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: February 4, 2019 1:15 p.m. Room Number: 224

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 Senate Bill 390 (S.B. 390) 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

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.

1 individuals.^{4,5} This bill would double Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
2 recipients purchasing power when they use their benefits to purchase local fruits and vegetables.

3 Nutrition incentive programs similar to the one proposed in this bill are prevalent around
4 the United States, and similar bills have been passed in twenty states. Nutrition incentives are
5 often touted as a “win-win-win” for farmers, families, and local businesses. Data from these
6 interventions have shown improvements in dietary behaviors, reduction in household hunger and
7 food insecurity, and increased sales of local produce (by more than their dollar value alone).^{6,7,8}
8 In Hawaii, less than one in five adults reported eating five or more fruits and vegetables a day
9 (2015 Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System). The DOH supports S.B. 390 as one
10 component of a comprehensive approach to improve the availability and accessibility of healthy
11 foods to improve health outcomes for people in Hawaii, especially for people who face greater
12 health disparities.

13 Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

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.

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.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND AGRICULTURE
& ENVIRONMENT

FEBRUARY 4, 2019
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 390
RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM INCENTIVES

Chairpersons Ruderman and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 390 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.



Chairman of the Board
Mark Yamakawa

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Office: (808) 377-6630
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American Heart Association testimony in SUPPORT of SB 390 “Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives”

The American Heart Association strongly supports SB 390.

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.

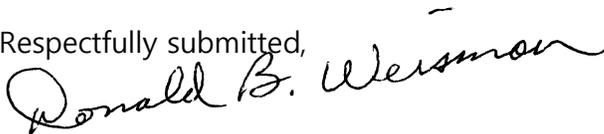
For more than 50 years, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP – formerly Food Stamps) has been vital in addressing food insecurity and nutrition in the United States. It has an impact on health, educational attainment and economic self-sufficiency. The program helps more than 45

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 SB 390 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,


Donald B. Weisman
Hawaii Government Relations/Communications Director

TO: Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and on Human Services
HEARING: Monday, February 4, 2019, 1:15 PM
PLACE: Conference room 224
FROM: Amy Asselbaye
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chairs Gabbard, and Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members:

Thank you for holding a hearing to provide the opportunity to share our support for S.B. 390, to allocate State funding for a double bucks program for SNAP recipients.

As a Co-Chair of the Obesity Prevention Task Force and in my work, I know that double bucks programs are a proven means to getting healthier foods to families that lack access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Previously, I worked in a community based organization that received private funding to offer double bucks at their farmers' market. I learned that SNAP recipients saw double bucks as a way to give back to the farmers in their community and to connect with those farmers at the market. Double bucks is the incentive behind the community building that takes place when neighbors gather around healthy food.

Double bucks can grow our local farmers' income and are a down payment on a healthier generation in Hawaii.

Thank you for your support for this bill.

Sincerely,
Amy Asselbaye

SB-390

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:37:26 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I wholly support SB390 for the positive impact it will make in society by directly focusing on a safe food system as a socioeconomic solution.

Regards,

Robert Quartero



**Testimony to the Senate Joint Committee on Human Services, Agriculture, and
Environment
Monday, February 4, 2019; 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**RE: SUPPORTING SENATE BILL NO. 0390, RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCENTIVES.**

Chair Ruderman, Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Joint Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 0390, 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 Senate Bill No. 390
Wednesday, February 4, 2019; 1:15 p.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.



Board Members

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Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

Trina Orimoto

Clinical & Research Psychologist

Kaipō Kukahiko

Executive Director,
KEY Project

Miwa Tamanaha

Deputy Director,
Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo

Date: January 30, 2019

To: Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair, Senator Karl Rhoads,
Vice-Chair, and members of the Committee on Human Services
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair, and
members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

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

Re: Support for SB390

Aloha Chairs Ruderman and Gabbard, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

The Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED) supports SB390, 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 Staff

Brent N. Kakesako

Executive Director

Keoki Noji

Chief Operating Officer

Athena T. Esene

Bookkeeper & Office Manager

Foley Pfalzgraf

Program Specialist

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.

SB390 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



February 4, 2019
1:15 pm
Conference Room 224

To: The Honorable Sen. Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
The Honorable Sen. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Sen. Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

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

Re: SB390 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

AlohaCare is pleased to submit this testimony on support of SB390 which proposes to require 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 and appropriate funds.

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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TO:

The Committee on Human Services and The Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Russell E. Ruderman and Senator Senator Mike Gabbard , Chairs
Senator Karl Rhoads and Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 4, 2019
TIME: 1:15pm
PLACE: Conference Room 224

RE: SB390 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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. Data has shown that families using this program in other states have eat more fruits and vegetables, and a greater variety of fruits and vegetables, and fewer unhealthy foods like chips and cookies. Getting more fruits and vegetables for each SNAP dollar also means that low income families will have more in their budget to spend on things like housing and healthcare.

By prioritizing local produce this program also helps Hawaii farmers, who face many challenges of their own, and incentivizes retailers to continue to stock Hawaii produce. This is an infusion of funds into our local economy and a \$1 million investment from the state can generate nearly \$3.6 million in economic activity. 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.

December 30, 2018

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Rhoads, Chair Gabbard and members of the committees on Agriculture & Environment and Human Services:

Thank you for your dedication to our community and for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of SB390, relating to supplemental nutrition assistance program incentives.

Kaho'omiki, the Hawai'i Council of Physical Activity and Nutrition, believes in programs that support and encourage lifelong healthy lifestyles through physical activity and good nutrition and enhance the quality of life of Hawai'i residents. Along those lines, HB262 truly increases equitable access to healthy foods and can make a significant difference for many families.

In Hawai'i and across the country, access to fresh fruits and vegetables can be a major financial challenge, preventing many low-income families from incorporating these foods into their diets. We also know that diet-related diseases are disproportionately higher in low-income communities. Through both the USDA guidelines and multiple studies, fresh fruits and vegetables have extensive health benefits; fruits and vegetables supply dietary fiber, vitamins, minerals, and phytochemicals that function as antioxidants, phytoestrogens, and anti-inflammatory agents.^{1,2}

Kaho'omiki believes the double up food bucks incentive program can significantly remove major barriers to fresh fruits and vegetables and can support our families, our farmers, and the economy.

Twenty-four states have already established double up incentive programs, and in these states, SNAP recipients have increased their spending towards local agriculture by 70%, while supporting thousands of farmers.³

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Colby Takeda
President, Kaho'omiki

¹ Slavin, J. L. & Lloyd, B. (2012). Health benefits of fruits and vegetables. *Advanced Nutrition*, 3(4).

² USDA and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, 2010. 7th ed. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office; 2010.

³ Fair Food Network. (2018). *Double Up Food Bucks National Overview*.

Kaho'omiki is a registered 501(c)(3) organization (#47-0890686) working to support regular physical activity and good nutrition to enhance the quality of life of Hawai'i residents.

TO: Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and on Human Services
HEARING: Monday, February 4, 2019, 1:15 PM
PLACE: Conference room 224
FROM: Ron Mizutani
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Aloha Senators,

It is my honor and privilege to submit testimony supporting SB 390, 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



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting SB 390 – Relating to SNAP Incentives
Senate Committees on Human Services and Agriculture and Environment
Scheduled for hearing at Monday, February 4, 2019, 1:15PM, in conference room 224

Dear Chairs Ruderman and Gabbard, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB 390**, 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.



O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, February 4, 2019

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

RE: SB 390 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Aloha mai kakou Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee on Human Services; and Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 390 relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives.**

SB 390 provides that participants in the local healthy food incentive program who are beneficiaries of the supplemental nutrition assistance program shall receive a dollar-for-dollar match of up to \$20 per visit, per day, to be used exclusively for the purchase of Hawaii-grown fresh fruits and vegetables at a farmers' market, farm stand, mobile market, community-supported agriculture site, grocery store, or other direct food retailer that participates in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. DPH supports healthy, sustainable, and diversified local food product, and "Buy Local" strategies to assure greater food security and food safety. *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 9, In. 28-29.*

For the foregoing reasons, i.e., to support healthy, sustainable, and diversified local food product, and “Buy Local” strategies to assure greater food security and food safety, OCCLP supports SB 390 and urges its passage out of the Committee on Human Services and Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

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

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 10:02:01 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

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

Koran Munafo
Dba Humanity's Team
PO Box 1717
Hilo, HI 96712
knm@koranmunafo.com

2/1/2019

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 390

Dear Chairs Ruderman and Gabbard, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of S.B. 390, which appropriates funds for a healthy food incentive program for SNAP recipients. The program would give SNAP users 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.

Here on the Big Island, long distances and remote locations make regular access to healthy fruits and vegetables difficult for those who could benefit the most. As the evaluator for The Food Basket's DA BUX and DA BUS programs, I am witnessing the positive impact of the Double Up Bucks program firsthand. This includes a positive impact on families healthy food behaviors, a positive impact on local farmers, and an overall positive impact on the local community and economy.

Existing successful program models, a strong coalition of public/private sector entities invested in food security, public support, and available United States Department of Agriculture Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives (USDA FINI) matching funds would further bolster the funding and programmatic opportunities that would be made possible if S.B. 390 is passed.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

Koran Munafo, MEd
Consultant dba Humanity's Team
Program Evaluator
DA BUX/DA BUS Programs

Double Up Food Bucks: A Triple Win for Hawaii's Families, Farmers, and Economy!



**THE
FOOD BASKET**
HAWAI'I ISLAND'S FOOD BANK

Presented by:

Chelsea Takahashi
Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive
Manager
The Food Basket

Koran Munafo
Consultant
Program Evaluator
Dba Humanity's Team

The Problem: Food Insecurity in Hawaii

53%

Of DA BUX and DA BUS SNAP participants (n=60) surveyed in 2018 reported they **sometimes or often** run out of food at the end of the month.

How are we addressing this?



Trio of Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Programs



DA BUX
Double Bucks Incentives are currently being offered by →

The Food Basket Programs:

- Ho`olaha Ka Hua **DA BOX**
(monthly subscription FFV - 50% off with DA BUX)
- **DA BUS** Mobile Market
(8 market sites per month - FFV 50% off with DA Bux)

Community Partners:

- KTA Super Stores
- Hilo and Volcano Farmer's Market
(offered third Wednesdays and Sundays)
- Dimple Cheek Farm
(offered 3rd Saturdays)

Impact

The DA BUX program generated approximately **\$45,000** in customer savings **and** income to Big Island farmers and grocers during its first year.

What FAMILIES are saying...

Impressed what you're doing for the people here.

This is fabulous what you guys are doing.

Fantastic Vegetables!

This is wonderful I'm so glad you people are here.



Impact

FAMILIES - Food Behaviors

Preliminary qualitative data shows emerging themes that point to the program's **POSITIVE impact** on SNAP recipients' **budgeting and purchasing** for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.



Impact

FARMERS - Dimple Cheek Farm

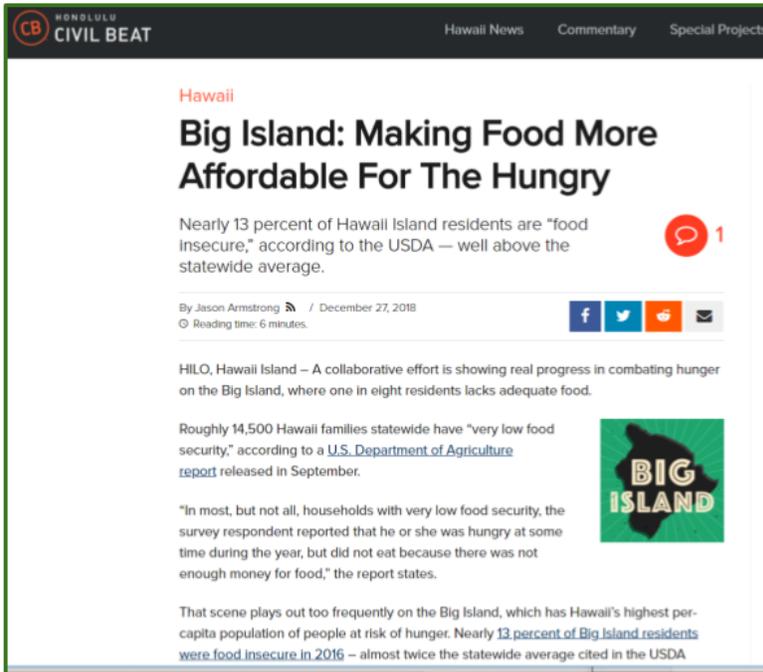
- ★ 80% INCREASE in sales as a result of being a DA BUX supplier.
- ★ Addition of 4 new greenhouses to expand capacity
- ★ Plans for additional greenhouse expansion



Impact ECONOMY - KTA Super Stores

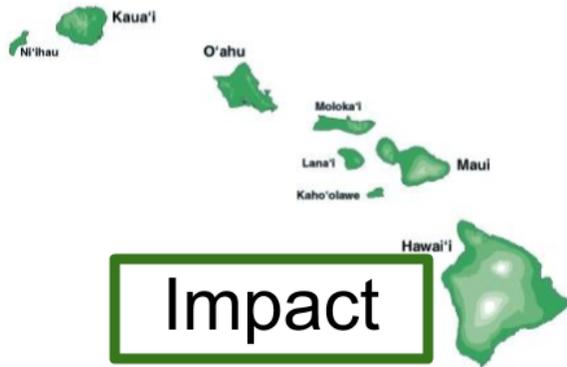
- ★ Grocery partner for DA BUX Program
- ★ During Pilot 1 (4 months) total DA BUX dollars spent by SNAP customers at KTA:

\$7,400



[Read the Feature Article](#)

Feature Article



- ❖ **Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center** \$10,000 Yr 1 → \$100,000 Yr 3
- ❖ **Kookaa Kalihi Valley** farmers choose their farmer's market which has INCREASED sales
- ❖ **Sustainable Molokai** has increased their SNAP sales 10% → 25%

Scalability of Evaluation Methodology

Cloud based framework for synchronous and asynchronous remote access.



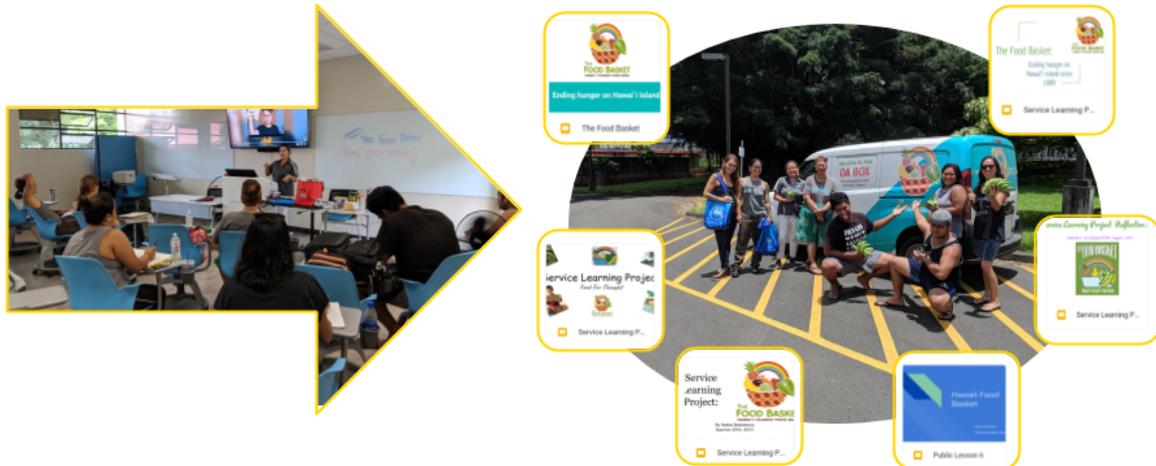
Field data collection methodology and neighbor island partnerships for data collection on statewide scale.

Leverage community & school partnerships for the creation of student internship opportunities for service learning and community engaged research.

Hybrid low-tech/high-tech methodology and “local style” approach garners data from populations across the continuum.

Multi-disciplinary approach to data collection and reporting for relevant and *usable* documentation of program results.

Community Focused - increasing capacity through collaboration



Service learning → opportunity to connect services to University of Hawaii System

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LJ Duenas
Hawaii Director
American Diabetes Association

February 1, 2019

Sen. Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Sen. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair
Sen. Sen. Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

RE: WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 390

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) supports SB 390, 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 SB 390 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



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

February 4, 2019 1:15 AM Room 224

In **SUPPORT of SB 390**: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Human Services and Agriculture and Environment Committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters and as a member of the Common Good Coalition, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **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 and appropriates funds.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i supports efforts to keep food sustainability strong and thriving, as well as making locally-grown produce equitable and accessible for all of Hawai'i's residents. Giving "double bucks" for Hawai'i-grown produce incentivizes SNAP participants to purchase healthy and nutritious fruits and vegetables- which in turn helps local farmers and our agricultural economy, improves SNAP participants' health, and supports greater local food production into the future.

One of the Sustainable Hawai'i Initiatives is to double local food production by 2020¹, yet 90% of the state's food is imported and 80% of local production is exported². Passage of this bill **would provide one mechanism to move toward food self-sufficiency, while also improving the health of our lower income communities and encouraging sustainable agricultural practices throughout the islands.**

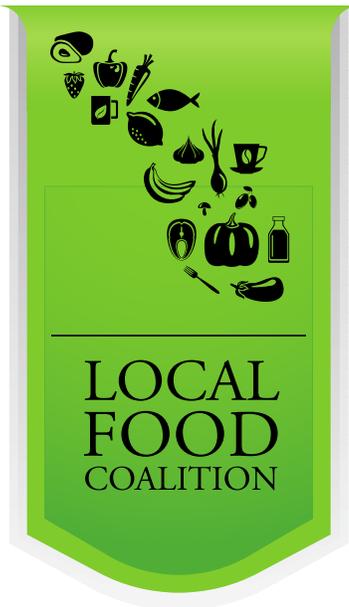
Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 390**.

Mahalo,

Jodi Malinoski, Policy Advocate

¹ <https://governor.hawaii.gov/sustainable-hawaii-initiative/>

² <https://mauimagazine.net/empty-isles/>



SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Monday, February 4, 2019 – 1:15 PM - Room 224

**RE: SB 390 - 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
College of Tropical
Agriculture and Human
Resources - University of
Hawai'i at Manoa

Aloha Chairs Ruderman and Gabbard, Vice Chair Rhoads and
Members of the Committees:

The Local Food Coalition **strongly supports SB 390**, 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
Hawaii's 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 SB 390. Thank you for the
opportunity to submit testimony.

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



February 4, 2019

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair Committee on Human Services
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair Committee on Agriculture and Environment

RE: STRONG SUPPORT SB390 Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Chairs Ruderman & Gabbard, and Members of the Committees on Human Services and Agriculture & Environment:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB390, 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 SB390 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





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

February 4, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 390
RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
INCENTIVES

Room 224
1:15 PM

Aloha Chairs Ruderman and Gabbard, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committees:

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 SB 390, 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.

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 3:56:16 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

This program has proven to work, and put more fresh and possibly local vegetables into the diets of the peoples of our Islands who most need this type of nutrition. Let's really give this a chance, this is a good time to support our growing food insecure population here on Hawai'i Island, where now 50% of ALL public schools are 100% free and reduced lunch, meaning that all students qualify for this federal program due to the low combined income of both of their parents. However we can both support our local farmers and help food insecure people eat healthier, that is a win win.

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 6:27:37 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suellen Barton	Testifying for Maui Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:52:16 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helmut Klauer	Testifying for A'a Li'i Farm	Support	No

Comments:



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Date: February 3, 2019

To: Senator Russell Ruderman, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Members of the Human Services Committee

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell Ruderman, Vice Chair
Members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee

Re: Strong Support for SB390, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program Incentives

Hrg: February 4, 2019 at 1:15pm at Conference Room 224

The Obesity Prevention Task Force of the Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Strong Support of SB390**, 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.

SB390 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.

SB390 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 SB390** out of committee.

Mahalo,



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).

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 6:56:59 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon Adamson	Testifying for Maui Mobile Marine	Support	No

Comments:

As, a local business owner, I know how important it is for Hawaii, more than most other states, to support locally owned and operated business. When money leaves here, it is unlikely to come back through any other means than tourism, and our tourism dollars are supposed to effect growth of our economy, not make up for losses.

A great deal of the food that we eat is imported from the mainland, and a great deal of that is supported by subsidy - our tax dollars leaving the state to support large, unsustainable agriculture. On top of that, much of the federal snap money being spent here is being used to purchase those foods, further preventing use of money to support our economy, and creating a black hole for reliance upon these imported foods. This is a reliance, which we all know is not wise for our isolated island, yet we continue to cross our fingers that there will not be a loss of supply.

I urge the Hawaii state legislature to pass this bill for the sake of our economy, our self-reliance, our communal health, and our subsequent success as a more independent entity. Investing in our own agriculture, by providing the incentive for folks to purchase it, will create jobs, improve the health of our families, and hopefully lead to creation of opportunities for entrepreneurs to take advantage of excess crop production. Such opportunities include creating new, shelf stable products for our own consumption and export, and supporting local charities.

Tax dollars invested in this would also create taxable income and estates, so that the money isn't lost back into the private economy completely.

We deserve access to fresher, healthier, locally grown food.

We deserve a self-reliant food economy.

Please pass this bill

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:02:41 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Winslow	Testifying for Hawaii Farmers Union	Support	No

Comments:



SB390
HMS/AEN
Monday, February 4, 2019
1:15 p.m.
Room 224

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

February 4, 2019

Re: SB390 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

In Strong Support

Dear Sen. Ruderman, Sen. Rhoads, Sen. Gabbard and members of the Committees:

Several other states have successful “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 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 using the range of fresh produce available they will rely less 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.



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).

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

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

In 2017 the USDA awarded a \$3.9 million Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) grant—the largest 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 \$1.79 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

TO: Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and on Human Services
HEARING: Monday, February 4, 2019, 1:15 PM
PLACE: Conference room 224
FROM: Aly Hite
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chairs Ruderman and Gabbard, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of S.B. 390, 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.

TO: Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and on Human Services
HEARING: Monday, February 4, 2019, 1:15 PM
PLACE: Conference room 224
FROM: Colleen Inouye
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chairs Ruderman and Gabbard, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of S.B. 390, which appropriates funds for a healthy food incentive program for SNAP recipients.

As a physician on Maui I know that approximately 25% of Maui adults are obese. Approximately of those obese, 50% are Native Hawaiian and 24% are Filipino. When I talk about losing weight and eating healthy food with my patient, the point is always brought up that healthy food costs more money. By passing this bill this will allow ACCESS for patients, especially of low-income, to eat healthier and more nutritious food. By investing in something that decreases obesity, you are decreasing future Hawaii costs of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this measure.

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

TO: Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and on Human Services
HEARING: Monday, February 4, 2019, 1:15 PM
PLACE: Conference room 224
FROM: Jun Shin
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chairs Ruderman and Gabbard, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of S.B. 390, 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.

TO: Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and on Human Services
HEARING: Monday, February 4, 2019, 1:15 PM
PLACE: Conference room 224
FROM: mike sayama
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chairs Ruderman and Gabbard, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to SUPPORT S.B. 390, 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 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 which can actually lower healthcare costs. This program also increases the income 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 of this measure.

From: [Elizabeth Cole Cole](#)
To: [HMS Testimony](#); [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 390: Relating to SNAP Incentives
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019 9:45:35 AM

TO: Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and on Human Services
HEARING: Monday, February 4, 2019, 1:15 PM
PLACE: Conference room 224
FROM: Elizabeth Cole Cole
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chairs Ruderman and Gabbard, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of S.B. 390, 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.

Note that the small Double Bucks program administered by Hawaii Island's Food Basket has already resulted in our local farmers adding production capacity to meet the new demand generated from EBT purchasing.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

From: [Hunter Heavilin](#)
To: [HMS Testimony](#); [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 390: Relating to SNAP Incentives
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019 10:08:27 AM

TO: Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and on Human Services
HEARING: Monday, February 4, 2019, 1:15 PM
PLACE: Conference room 224
FROM: Hunter Heavilin
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chairs Ruderman and Gabbard, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of S.B. 390, 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.

From: [Samantha Keaulana](#)
To: [HMS Testimony](#); [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: In STRONG SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to SNAP Incentives
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019 9:27:15 PM

TO: Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and on Human Services
HEARING: Monday, February 4, 2019, 1:15 PM
PLACE: Conference room 224
FROM: Samantha Keaulana
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chairs Ruderman and Gabbard, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of S.B. 390, which appropriates funds for a healthy food incentive program for SNAP recipients. The program would give SNAP users 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.

These programs are a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. Local fruits and vegetables are often only affordable to the more affluent residents of Hawaii, putting both low-income families AND local farmers at a disadvantage. SB 390 would channel existing federal funds into local agriculture and businesses that would have normally been spent on food shipped from the mainland.

Research shows that these programs are effective. They not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but can actually lower healthcare costs. In addition, pilot programs in Hawaii have already channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars into the pockets of local farmers.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

From: [Michelle Tagorda](#)
To: [HMS Testimony](#); [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: In STRONG SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to SNAP Incentives
Date: Friday, February 1, 2019 8:53:54 AM

TO: Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and on Human Services
HEARING: Monday, February 4, 2019, 1:15 PM
PLACE: Conference room 224
FROM: Michelle Tagorda
RE: In SUPPORT of SB 390: Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Incentives
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chairs Ruderman and Gabbard, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of S.B. 390. I write this testimony as an individual and public health professional advocating for improved access and opportunity for low-income families to live and eat healthier. SB 390 appropriates funds for a healthy food incentive program for SNAP recipients. The program would give SNAP users 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.

These programs are a triple win for families, farmers, and the local economy. Local fruits and vegetables are often only affordable to the more affluent residents of Hawai'i, putting both low-income families AND local farmers at a disadvantage. SB 390 would channel existing federal funds into local agriculture and businesses that would have normally been spent on food shipped from the mainland.

Research shows that these programs are effective. They not only increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but can actually lower healthcare costs. In addition, pilot programs in Hawai'i have already channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars into the pockets of local farmers.

Growing up in Puna, on Hawai'i Island, I was fortunate to enjoy locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables. I would like to see the same opportunity afforded to communities across our state and to support the hard work and dedication that our local farmers and businesses provide.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

Date: January 31, 2019

To: The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Re: **Strong Support of SB390**, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives

Hrg: February 4, 2019 at 1:15 PM in Capitol Room 224

Aloha Senate Committees on Human Services and Agriculture and Environment,

I am writing in **strong support of SB390**, 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 SB390** and respectfully ask you to pass this bill out of committee.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Kea'au, HI

SB-390

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 4:22:08 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Summer Yadao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for creating such an amazing bill and a wonderful opportunity to not only help get fresh produce into the hands of every person in Hawai`i, especially children who are also the beneficiaries of the SNAP program. Providing more incentive for people to buy their produce from local farmer's markets is another great aspect of this bill, however there are some vendors that have goods there that don't seem to be grown here but just repackaged store bought things. Hopefully the bill will pass and be able to help not only needy families in Hawai`i and local farmers but lead us away from having our food shipped in and give our local food producers a boost to be sustainable ofr years to come.

SB-390

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 4:02:14 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support **SB390** because of its benefit to individuals' health, local farming communities and our state's economy. Thank you.

SB-390

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 4:04:33 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kate Paine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Judging by the introduction names, would believe this measure will be accepted.
Support and passage will SAVE money and can support local ag.

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 2:00:07 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Gustafson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as written.

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 3:50:22 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith Ranney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 3:56:32 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 4:28:06 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Claudia Kamiyama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill S.B. 390 supports local family farms while benefiting the hungry. It's a great idea.

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 4:32:02 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Encouraging the need to eat fresh Hawaii grown produce is the way to support our Hawaii farmers and our fellow citizens!

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 4:49:54 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louisa Oâ€™Neil	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Supporting Hawaii farmers and helping SNAP recipients acquire fresh Hawaii-grown produce is a win-win proposition. We need stronger agricultural markets for local farmers. This bill gives farmers an incentive to plant larger crops

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 5:14:14 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Havilah Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 5:42:45 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Crawford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sounds like a good idea to me, support families in need and local growers at the same time!

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 7:01:08 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harriet Witt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need this bill to help us declare our food-independence of the mainland.

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 7:04:56 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 7:06:27 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele Bats	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am support of SB390. Lets support Hawaii farmers and make healthy, organic, fresh foods available to SNAP users. It's the pono way!

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 7:16:34 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 9:50:06 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raphiell Nolin	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 9:51:07 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Forman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:10:15 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Cenzano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is an enlightened way to achieve double positive impact to our local community while supporting strongly what is at the root of our sustainability...the food.

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 6:58:13 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:02:18 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bobbie Patnode	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My farm, Patnode Family Farm, sell our produce weekly at the Upcountry Farmers Market in Pukalani. We have been accepting SNAP for 6 years, and we see directly who is benefiting from the program. It is a good program and this bill will make it better and give more people fresh produce to eat.

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:21:47 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Key	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:36:52 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:03:36 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Jana Bogs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:16:09 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Kelly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a good way to help lower income families eat healthy and eat local!

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:31:41 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susannah V V Gudmundson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Hawaii food sovreignty, local food, local farmers. E ala ea

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:43:00 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Senators,

Mahalo for hearing SB390. Double Bucks makes a difference in the lives of those struggling to make ends meet and at the same times to eat healthy. Please pass this bill and ensure that Double Bucks may be used in grocery stores as well as farmers markets, etc. Hawaii Island has been very successful with the Double Bucks initiative. Please support and pass this measure.

Mahalo nui,

Carol R. Ignacio

District 1 Hawaii Island

LATE

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 7:04:50 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Genevieve N Neumann	Testifying for Lokoea Farms	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:16:12 PM
Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Florig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I've lived in Hawaii since 2012, except in 2016 when I moved back to Ohio for grad school and also got a job facilitating the implementation of a grant funded by this program in Ohio. I moved back to Hawaii at the beginning of 2018, and plan to buy land and stay for good. I have personal experience with this program in another state, and believe it would be a benefit to both the under-privileged and especailly the farmers of Hawaii.

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:40:11 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noa Lincoln	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

The Honorable Senators Ruderman and Gabbard
Senate Committees on Human Services, Agriculture and Environment
Hearing: February 2, 2019 1:15pm
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225

Testimony of Kasha Ho'okili Ho, Senate District 23

In SUPPORT of Senate Bill 390, RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCENTIVES

Senate Chairs Ruderman and Gabbard, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members,

I submit my testimony in strong support for SB390. For that past seven years, I have been working with communities here on O'ahu to develop food systems solutions that address access, affordability of locally grown foods for low-income and mobility challenged community members. Through GreenWheel Food Hub, we established SNAP acceptance at 5 O'ahu farmers markets that sell only locally grown produce. At Kōkua Kalihi Valley, we started SNAP acceptance at two Kalihi farmers markets, one located inside of the Towers at Kalihi Park (KPT) for residents. Currently, with Emergent Island Economies Collective, are working with KEY Project to establish a food hub, where Ko'olau farmers can aggregate and sell local produce to their neighbors. KEY Project's food hub just received SNAP authorization this week, and this bill would provide an important benefit to our community.

As you know, Hawaii imports upwards of 90% of our food from overseas. The high import costs mean that Hawai'i families spend 70% more on groceries than families on the Continental United States.ⁱ At the same time, Hawai'i has some of the lowest wages and the highest cost of living in the country.ⁱⁱ According to the USDA, an average family of four with young children should be able to eat on a "thrifty" food budget of \$562 per month. In Hawai'i, it costs the same family \$1,161 for the same meals.ⁱⁱⁱ

We are struggling to survive on both ends of the food system in Hawaii. Farming has always been hard work, and it is particularly difficult to make a living farming in Hawaii with limited access to land, high costs of inputs, infrastructure, and having to compete with imported, industrial agriculture that is heavily subsidized.

The farmers we work with are doing what they do for the love of the land and the health of their communities, but it is not easy to support your family as a small farmer in Hawai'i. We need to invest in these local farmers in order to see a future where we are able to feed ourselves once again in Hawaii. This bill would provide a much-needed infusion into the local food system, allowing those with SNAP benefits to mutually support our local farmers. Over \$40 million comes into Hawaii through SNAP benefits each month.^{iv} Shifting SNAP dollars over to local produce would have a huge benefit to local farmers and the local economy.

In my experience running SNAP programs at local farmers markets, the availability of incentives such as the one proposed by this bill has an enormous impact on SNAP customer participation at the market. I strongly support this bill and am available for further questions.

Mahalo,



Kasha Ho'okili Ho

ⁱ Murakami, Kery (2013) [Living Hawaii: Why Is the Price of Paradise So High?](#) Civil Beat

ⁱⁱ Dill, Kathryn (2014) [The Best And Worst States To Make A Living In 2014](#) Forbes Magazine

ⁱⁱⁱ United States Department of Agriculture (2017) [USDA Food Plans: Cost of Food](#) Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion

^{iv} SNAP State Activity Report FY 2016

LATE

SB-390

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:03:33 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/4/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Craig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Locally grown produce for SNAP recipients makes good nutritionally, economically and carbon footprint wise for the State and our people.



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Amplify the Power of Giving

LATE

February 3, 2019

To: Hawai'i State Senate, Committee on Human Services & Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Re: S.B. 390

Dear Chairs Ruderman and Gabbard, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committees,

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 S.B. 390.

Sincerely,

Micah A. Kāne
CEO & President