

OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Tuesday, March 2, 2021
9:30 AM
State Capitol
in consideration of
SB 338, SD 1
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee:

The Office of Planning **supports** the intent of this measure. The purpose of SB 338, SD 1 is to require the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. SB 338, SD 1 provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub.

The Office of Planning's newly-established [Statewide Sustainability Program](#) recently held a series of public meetings in the Fall of 2020 to update the [Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan](#), which was revised by [Act 146, SLH 2019](#) to "serve as the state's climate and sustainability strategic action plan." Through this timely statewide public outreach during the COVID-19 global pandemic and its corresponding economic impacts to Hawai'i, public participants raised the vital importance of and need for: community food security, access to locally-produced food, and the availability of USDA certified food processing facilities. The need to improve Hawai'i's local food production and rural community food security was prevalent in nearly every Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan public meeting.

Recently the State of Hawai'i also enacted [Act 151, SLH 2019](#), one of the state's sustainability targets, which required the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor, to develop a strategic plan to achieve the goal of doubling food production and increasing food exports by 2030.

Food hubs may become a more important link in the supply chain to channel more local food to the consumers and institutions of the state. Food hubs, as centrally located facilities with a business management structure that facilitates the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution and marketing of locally grown produce, are an integral but missing piece of agricultural infrastructure required to achieve and sustain the doubling of local food production in Hawai'i.

The Office of Planning looks forward to supporting the Department of Agriculture in these sustainable endeavors to increase Hawai'i's food security.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 338, SD 1.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
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 PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021
9:30 A.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 338 S.D. 1
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 338 S.D. 1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to nutritious local food. It provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub, requires reports to the Legislature, appropriates funds, and authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds.

The Department supports this measure provided it does not adversely impact priorities in the Executive budget and offers comments.

Food hubs are centrally located facilities with a business management structure that facilitates the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of locally grown produce, and are an integral missing piece of agricultural infrastructure required to sustain the efforts to double local food production.

The sugar and pineapple plantations built the required infrastructure to effectively and efficiently process and package their single crop production. Supporting diversified crop production requires a more flexible and coordinated operation which no small, local farmer can afford individually.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation's Whitmore Food Hub Master Plan illustrates the complexity of the food hub concept as it must support the scale and scope of the farming operations it will serve. Timing is critical to ensure that production and processing/packaging support are developed in synchrony.



Additionally, establishing new or improving existing qualifying food hubs throughout the State with the grant funding would ensure that the required planning and community facilitation are conducted before project implementation.

The Department is now aware of four food hubs on Oahu, four on Hawaii Island, two on Maui and one on Molokai that are providing jobs, representing hundreds of small to medium sized farms, serving thousands of customers and producing over \$10.1 million in annual gross income. They are:

- Oahu: Kahumana Farm Hub (Waianae), Farmlink Hawaii (North Shore), Kokua Kalihi Valley Cultural Food Hub (Kalihi), and Oahu Fresh (Honolulu);
- Hawaii Island: Adaptations (Kona), The Ulu Producers Cooperative (Kona), The Food Basket (Kona), and The Kohala Food Hub (Kohala);
- Maui: Local Harvest (Lahaina) and Maui Food Hubs (Haiku); and
- Molokai – Sustainable Molokai.

Improving the visibility of food hubs or assisting with the planning and community involvement to establish food hubs on Kauai and Lanai are strong possibilities with this measure.

The Department agrees that food hubs may become a more important link in the supply chain to channel more nutritious local food to the consumers and institutions of the State. As demonstrated in the coronavirus pandemic, food hubs can also serve as “back-up” infrastructure for our local food systems. This measure addresses the challenge of local small farmers to scale-up production by providing a pathway to the larger purchasers of safe and marginally processed, nutritious, locally grown, fresh fruits and vegetables.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 338 SD1 – RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of SB 338 SD 1 relating to the development of a food hub pilot program.

According to the 2017 NASS Agriculture Census, approximately 87% of Hawai'i farms produce just 10% of total agriculture sales. Twelve percent of Hawai'i farms sell food crops directly to local sources and represent just 22% of total sales; and 96% of sales to local sources (2% of all farms) comes from farms with more than \$50,000 in total sales.

These data point out the poor platform from which Hawai'i strives for food security; and that food security will come from larger operations. Agriculture is a business of scale, hence the need for food hubs.

These data represent the situation prior to the pandemic, which no doubt has made the situation worse.

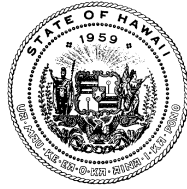
Food hubs are represented by a wide range of business models. Thus, developing a food hub means asking “what kind of a hub” is wanted. A study by the National Good Food Center notes that profitability is marginal - that a “typical food hub operates at a close to break-even level. The highest performing 25 percent posted a 4 percent profit, compared to the average of -2 percent”. The top 25 percent of food hubs “may have earned their 4% profit through 3 percent lower cost of goods sold...and through greater labor productivity”. Clearly, food hub management is the key to success.

Given the nature of Hawai'i agriculture, food hubs would be an obvious advantage if they can be made economically solvent, which means eventually not operating grants and gifts, but by sound management.

SB 338 SD1 proposes a food hub pilot program to be “administered” by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). We defer to HDOA's opinion on whether that is possible given the resources available. Our recommendation is that HDOA should not

administer, but more correctly help “initiate” food hubs; and document the success or failure of the subsequent management. This is more in line with the intent of the bill and puts the responsibility of success in the hands of the entrepreneurs.

The University supports the intent of SB 338 SD1 with comments but is aware of the current financial climate of the State of Hawai'i and realizes that state funding is reduced. For the next fiscal biennium, the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents approved a budget request for the University that was flat, and did not seek any increased funding to the University. UH defers to HDOA on their priorities.



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. 338, S.D. 1
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: March 2, 2021

Room Number: Videoconference

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 Budget Request.

4 **Department Testimony:** The DOH supports Senate Bill 338, Senate Draft 1 (S.B. 338, S.D. 1)
5 to establish a five-year food hub pilot program under the DOA to increase access to locally
6 produced food products.

7 Major health authorities (including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Centers for
8 Disease Control, and the World Health Organization) recommend increasing fruit and vegetable
9 intake as a means to prevent chronic disease and improve overall health.^{1,2,3} However, access to
10 fresh produce for income-limited individuals can be difficult and is one of the reasons why they
11 often have poorer diets and higher rates of chronic disease than middle class and wealthy
12 individuals.^{4,5} Hawaii has the highest cost of living in the nation with food costs that are 82%

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 higher than the national average.⁶ In Hawaii, less than one in five adults reported eating five or
2 more fruits and vegetable a day (2015 Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System).⁷

3 The pandemic increased attention to the vulnerability of food systems and nationally
4 local food hubs demonstrated the ability to shift and meet the needs of growers and consumers.⁸
5 According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, food hubs may improve local and regional
6 food systems, increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables in low-income communities, and
7 facilitate fruit and vegetable purchases by institutions such as schools and hospitals.⁹ The DOH
8 supports S.B. 338, S.D. 1 as one component of a comprehensive approach to improve the
9 availability and accessibility of healthy foods to improve health outcomes for people in Hawaii,
10 especially for those who face greater health disparities.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

⁶ United States Department of Agriculture: Official USDA Food Thrifty Plans.

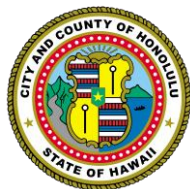
⁷ Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Hawaii State Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2016.

⁸ [Local Food Systems Response to COVID, Building Better Beyond](#), accessed 2/2/2021.

⁹ United States Department of Agriculture. The Role of Food Hubs in Local Food Marketing. 2013.

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

MATTHEW GONSER, AICP, CFM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021, 9:30 A.M.

STATE OF HAWAII
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 338, SD1
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM**

BY,

MATTHEW GONSER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The City and County of Honolulu (City) Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR) **supports** Senate Bill SB338, SD1, which establishes and appropriates funding for a five-year food hub pilot program under the Department of Agriculture to award grant funds to applicants establishing or expanding food hub infrastructure.

In the City's O'ahu Resilience Strategy,¹ it is noted that Hawaii's reliance on imported foods makes its food supply and communities vulnerable to shocks and stressors, while also driving up greenhouse gas emissions alongside costs of living. SB338, SD1 represents a step forward in addressing these challenges by investing in our local food economy with grant funding for construction or improvement of facilities and technical assistance to those seeking to establish or expand food hubs. In this way, SB338, SD1 also helps to promote the statewide *Aloha+ Challenge* goal of doubling local food production by 2030,² as well as the City and the state's statutory goals of achieving net-carbon negative emissions by 2045.

CCSR further notes that SB338, SD1 is essential to pandemic recovery efforts, complementing work being done at the City level to invest in local agriculture. The

1 City and County of Honolulu, *Ola: O'ahu Resilience Strategy*, Action 10 Promote New Agricultural Models for Economic and Food Security, p.43, <https://resilientoahu.org/resilience-strategy>.

2 Hawaii's Green Growth, *Aloha + Challenge*, Local Food, <http://aloha-challenge.hawaiigreengrowth.org/aloha-goals/local-food/>.

Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran
SB338, SD1
March 2, 2021
Page 2

majority of O‘ahu’s farms—707 out of 927 or about 76 percent—are between one and nine acres, and the majority are family-owned.³ Investing in food hub infrastructure across O‘ahu and the state will support the economic viability and market penetration of these small local farmers in helping to scale production and providing storage, aggregation, distribution, and marketing. Food hubs also help backyard farmers or micro-producers derive additional sources of income from their products.

Finally, food hubs also play a role in making local, culturally significant, and native foods more affordable and accessible to local communities. In supporting food hubs, SB338, SD1 therefore also supports local job retention and growth while strengthening the local food economy and lowering food costs. Additionally, by increasing the State’s food self-sufficiency, food hubs can help make our community more resilient to future shocks and stressors, including pandemics.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB338, SD1.

3 United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service. (2017). *2017 Census of Agriculture County Profile, Honolulu County, Hawaii*, https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Hawaii/cp15003.pdf.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, March 2, 2021; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 0338, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 0338, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would create a five-year food hub pilot program, under the Department of Agriculture, for the establishment of food hubs throughout the State. Specifically, this bill would:

- (1) Appropriate \$1,000,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2021-2022, and the same amount for fiscal year 2022-2023, to provide grants and technical assistance for the establishment and expansion of food hubs to promote locally grown food; and
- (2) Authorize the issuance of \$1,500,000 in general obligation bonds for fiscal year 2021-2022, to complete critical infrastructure upgrades at Honalo Marshalling Yard.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 0512, Senate Draft 1
Tuesday, March 2, 2021; 9:30 a.m.
Page 2

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely threatened the health and welfare of our citizens, especially Hawaii's underprivileged and rural communities. With so many people unemployed, entire families are struggling to put food on the table on a consistent basis. All one needs to do is visit one of our member FQHC's food distribution events and see the line of cars stretch for miles and people wait for hours to receive some surplus food.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated the need for a program like this. Our over-reliance on tourism has weakened our ability to bounce back from COVID's dire economic realities.

The only way for us to protect ourselves from the next global pandemic is for Hawaii to diversify its economic base and become more self-sufficient. And for us to do that, we need to grow more food.

We urge your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

SB338, SD1

RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

Tuesday, March 2, 2020, 9:30 a.m.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB 338 SD1**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food and provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub.

It is important to support small farmers, who have less access to facilities and infrastructure to aggregate, process, and distribute products to local consumers. Food hubs are an important subset of food value chains, have proved to be beneficial in shifting distribution methods during the COVID pandemic. Many farmers and ranchers, especially small-sized operations, often lack the capacity to access retail, institutional, and commercial foodservice markets on their own, and consequently miss out on the fastest-growing segment of the local food market.

By offering a combination of aggregation, distribution, and marketing services at an affordable price, food hubs make it possible for many producers to gain entry into new larger-volume markets that boost their income and provide them with opportunities for scaling up production.

Nicole Galase
Managing Director





Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB 338 SD1

Tuesday March 2nd, 2021 9:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports SB 338 SD1 to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. We believe that this measure will help to grow our local food production and economy.

Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce from small local farmers to help bring produce to market while promoting local production of culturally appropriate nutritious food and promoting the local economy. Food hubs can be thought of as helpful middlemen that connect producers (farmers and ranchers) with institutional buyers (restaurants, hospitals, schools, etc) and directly to consumers^[1].

Often finding access to distribution into mainstream markets and stores is challenging for local, small-scale producers. Food hubs can also help overcome this challenge by helping producers to market their products^[2].

Food hubs do not replace farmers markets, which still provide a direct outlet for farmers and a unique opportunity for producers to have direct contact with their customers. Food hubs are beneficial for producers who do not have the time or personal interest to sell at farmers markets. They also provide continual available access to local food sources for those that can not make it to the farmers market^[1].

The functions and structure of a food hub vary, but often include the following:

- Market access for local producers
- Information sharing
- Transportations and distribution
- Brokerage services
- Product bundling and aggregation
- Season extension
- Maintaining producer-consumer connections
- Producer-oriented technical assistance

Food hubs are also believed to assist with the development of resilient and equitable local food systems which provide greater food system equity, taking better care of those in “food deserts”, where people have limited access to a variety of healthful foods^[3].

Research has indicated that consumers are willing to pay a premium if they know the origins of their local and regional foods^[2]. Making access easy and convenient in the form of online hubs or physical locations makes access more possible while taking the burden off the farmer allowing them to focus on expanding and growing more food. Food hubs therefore play a critical role in expanding local food production.

SB 338, and the support of food hubs, will actively help to better prepare us for situations of food scarcity. During this past year we have been reminded of the priceless value of food security and self sufficiency as the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to look around and question the long term viability of our current food supply system. We have seen what happens in emergency situations, such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on supply, especially during the initial months of the pandemic.

The more we support local food production, aggregation and consumption the more we decrease our carbon footprint associated with incoming shipping costs while growing our food security.

Please support SB 338 SD1 and food hubs throughout the islands as part of the solution to help grow our local food economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Anne Frederick
Executive Director

[1] Sustainable America: Rogers, Nicole (2013) *What is a Food Hub*
<https://sustainableamerica.org/blog/what-is-a-food-hub/>

[2] SDSU Extension Community Vitality Field Specialist: Blachford, Sierra under direction of O'Neill, Kari & Zdorovtsov, Chris; *The Benefits of Food Hubs*
<https://extension.sdstate.edu/benefits-food-hubs>

[3] MSU Center for Regional Food Systems: Weiss, Andrea (2020) *Equity and collaboration for resilient local food systems across the U.S.*
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/equity-and-collaboration-for-resilient-local-food-systems-across-the-us>

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:52:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai Climate action coalition	Support	No

Comments:

In support of local farmers growing food for our community, giving the community easier access to locally grown food and reducing our contributions to dangerous greenhouse gases from shipping and industrial farming

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:50:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is one of those "essential bills" if we are ever to have a working local food system that can provide both space, infrastructure, and personnel to work with small and medium size farms to aggregate for institutional purchasing, provide new markets and marketing assistance for our small family farms that make up the vast majority of the farms in the State. If we get food hubs in all regional areas of the State there will be new markets available for farmers, and more farmers will farm.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 7:56:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Fox	Testifying for Malama Kauaâ€™i	Support	No

Comments:

Food hubs are critical links between producers and markets, allowing our small farms to aggregate and reach larger markets, lower transportation and labor costs for distribution, and more. As an operator of an early-stage food hub ourselves, we've seen first hand the power of food hubs to serve in emergency response and critical ag industry pivoting that was necessary this past year. Focusing investment in food hub expansion will allow these facilities to grow and flourish to provide local food for our communities and diversify our economy. I humbly request you to please support this.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:47:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Dandurand	Testifying for Kauai Food Hub	Support	No

Comments:

The time for this Bill to pass has come. One would need to be living in a cave to not support this bill.



February 28, 2021

To: Chair Dea Cruz
Vice Chair Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: **SUPPORT for SB338 SD1**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of SB338 SD1. Blue Zones Project was brought to Hawaii by HMSA to help increase overall well-being of our communities and to make Hawaii a healthier, happier place to live, work and play. To accomplish that goal, we address ways that we can lower rates of obesity, tobacco use, and chronic disease.

Food hubs can be an especially supportive resource for families to get access to healthy produce, especially in disadvantaged communities with little or no fresh produce retailers. These “food deserts” often force families to seek alternative food sources with higher proportions of processed foods, including fast food and pre-packaged foods. At the same time, food hubs require initial start-up investment for shared resources and support, which is why this bill is so critical to helping Hawai‘i expand our food hub network.

We are extremely pleased with the success of other ‘food hubs,’ such as the Food Basket on Hawai‘i Island, which brings together nonprofits, community leaders, public and private investment, and our local agriculture community for the benefit of our families.

Food hubs can help the families of Hawai‘i enjoy healthier lifestyles, which is why Blue Zones Project strongly **supports SB338 SD1**.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB338 SD1.

Colby Takeda, MBA, MPH
Senior Manager



SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 2:11:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helen Cox	Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I am writing to strongly support SB338, the Food Hub Pilot Program. The bill not only helps small farmers, it also improves the quality of food on the islands and will help to grow the local food economy.

As the former chancellor of Kauai Community College, a member of the Kauai Farm Bureau, I am well aware of the gap between farm production and produce sales. While efforts such as the Farm Bureau's and Kauai CC's Farmers Market has helped some small farmers be able to sell their products, there is a continued need for Food Hubs to help small farmers bring produce to market.

There are at least 2 additional reasons to support this bill. First, we are all aware of the possibility of emergency situations and the increased frequency of such situations due to the climate crisis. Food Hubs will help relieve pressure in emergency situations such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on the national food supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finally, this bill has a social justice aspect in that it will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local "food deserts".

I urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo,

Helen Cox

Kauai Climate Action Coalition

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 2:23:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mulinix	Testifying for Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 7,000 members and supporters, we are in SUPPORT of SB338. Food Hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market, and will help to grow our local economy.

Please vote in support of SB338.

Mahalo for your kind attention,

Dave Mulinix

Hawaii State Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii



PO Box 1177 Koloa HI 96756
808.652.5286 hawaiiSEED.org

February 28, 2021

Hawai`i SEED Supports: SB338

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

Hawai`i SEED strongly support SB338, relating to the Department of Agriculture establishing a Food Hub Pilot Program. The food hubs that are currently up and running by private groups are very additive to our community needs and desires to increase access to local grown food. Food hubs are a great benefit to the farmers and provides a practical and time saving opportunity for marketing their products. We will gain a great deal of knowledge by starting more food hubs and documenting operations, successes, and management tools.

This pilot program will support the growth of our local food economy. It is also vital for relieving pressure in emergency situations such as the recent challenges for food security during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mahalo,
Jeri Di Pietro, President



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 — 9:30 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 338 SD 1, Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

Ulupono supports SB 338 SD 1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food and provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub. This bill also authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the Honalo Marshalling Yard.

Ulupono supports the efforts of food hubs statewide as they serve as critical aggregation, food processing, and distribution for small farmers to access local markets. By increasing local market accessibility, small farmers will be able to provide a fresh, healthy product for consumers statewide. According to the 2017 USDA NASS Census of Agriculture, of Hawai'i's 7,328 farms statewide, 66%, or 4,868 farms, are between 1–9 acres and 78%, or 5,701 farms, produce less than \$25,000 in sales. Hawai'i's agricultural producer majority is small farmers. State supported food hubs may give Hawai'i's producers the opportunity to compete with local markets while also remaining financially viable. We recognize that you face many difficult decisions this year to balance the budget in the midst of this economic crisis, but we hope that this support for local agriculture can be considered.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Food+ Policy Internship 2021

food@purplemaia.org

February 28, 2021

To: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB338, Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Brian "Ioane" Jahn and I am writing on behalf of the UH West Oahu Food+ Policy Internship to express our collective and unequivocal SUPPORT for SB338, Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program.

SB338 requires the department of agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food, and it provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub. It also authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the Honalo marshalling yard, and requires reports be made to the legislature.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (1996), "Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."

In 2020, Feeding America.org stated, "In Hawaii, 159,040 people are struggling with hunger - and of them 55,710 are children." In other words, one in every nine people in Hawai'i are struggling with hunger, and one in every five of those struggling people are keiki.

Food hubs promote the local production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods. This measure will not only contribute to more local jobs in hub processing and distribution centers, but it will also serve to connect more smallholders and small businesses to larger stores, thereby improving the local economy by keeping money in Hawai'i. This will result in a closer

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2021, the pilot cohort of interns are juniors, seniors, and recent graduates of the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems program. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, and Hawaiian culture.



Food+ Policy Internship 2021

food@purplemaia.org

connection between producers and consumers, decreasing the time it takes to receive fresher, more preservative-free foods. This is extremely important because many populations in Hawai'i live in areas called "food deserts," where access to healthy food is almost nonexistent.

Aside from the several health and economic advantages to Food Hubs, the lessened impact on the natural environment will be substantial as well. There is a true environmental cost associated with importing food to Hawai'i via long, fossil fuel-powered voyages across the Pacific on ships that pollute the very water in which they travel. Food Hubs will also help contribute to the reduction of carbon and methane emissions, and packaging will be substantially less, resulting in less impact on local landfills.

Finally, the creation of Food Hubs will provide Hawai'i residents with a more secure, sustainable means of healthy food provision, less likely to be so drastically affected by shipping issues, natural disasters, or global pandemics such as COVID-19.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Food+ Policy Internship, I would like to thank Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means for considering the comments made herein.

Me ke aloha,

Brian "loane" Jahn & the Food+ Interns

Sources

FAO (1996) Declaration on world food security. World Food Summit, FAO, Rome.

Hunger in Hawai'i. (2020). Retrieved March 01, 2021, from <https://www.feedingamerica.org/>.

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2021, the pilot cohort of interns are juniors, seniors, and recent graduates of the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems program. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, and Hawaiian culture.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 6:41:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing SB338 SD1 RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

Hearing: Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 9:30 a.m., Rm. 211 and by videoconference

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

From: Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **SB338 SD1– RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.**

Tuesday March 2, 2021, 9:30 a.m., CR 211 and by videoconference

The Climate Protectors Coalition is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis. The Climate Protectors **STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 338 SD1!** As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, food insecurity, loss of protective coral reefs, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

Facilitating more local food production, as this bill would do, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions released in transporting food to Hawaii, reduce our food insecurity, and help local farmers.

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for a five-year food hub pilot program under the Department of Agriculture to increase access to local food.

Farmers in Hawaii face many challenges in achieving economic sustainability, including the limited availability of reliable markets and food hubs, which are facilities used to secure food and process value-added products. Food hubs, as centrally located facilities with a business management structure that facilitates the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of locally grown produce, are an integral but missing piece of agricultural infrastructure required to achieve and sustain the doubling of local food production in Hawaii.

State supported food hubs may give Hawaii's producers the opportunity to compete with local markets, while also remaining financially viable. Hawaii's agricultural producer majority is small farmers who struggle with access to facilities and infrastructure to aggregate, process, and distribute products to local consumers and face high costs in land, labor, energy, and limited access to water supply for irrigation. Allowing small farmers to participate in larger markets will ensure their economic survival and Hawaii's long-term ecosystem survival. Therefore, a food hub pilot program will help lower costs for and increase revenue to farmers in the State, help farmers become or remain economically sustainable, and ensure public access to locally grown food and value-added products.

Please pass this bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and food insecurity by facilitating more local food production. Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)



To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 9:30am

In strong support of SB338 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee members of Ways and Means,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. On behalf of our 6,000 members and supporters, 350Hawaii.org **strongly supports SB338 SD1** that requires the department of agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food.

Facilitating more local food production, as this bill would do, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions released in transporting food to Hawaii, reduce our food insecurity, and help local farmers.

The pandemic has made it very clear that we need greater food security and self-sufficiency. With the growing instability of our climate system, it is reckless to import 90% of our food, making us completely vulnerable to natural disasters and global events that might disrupt shipping and our food supply. SB338 SD1 will help our food system be more resilient and sustainable, and better prepared for any possible future pandemics or disasters.

Please pass this important and overdue legislation.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this key issue.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



Farmer owned, 'āina grown

February 28, 2021

RE: SB 338 – Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program – In Support

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of the 100+ family farmer-members of the Hawai'i 'Ulu Co-op (HUC) in support of SB338 to establish a food hub pilot program that will facilitate expansion of existing Hawai'i food hubs and development of new ones. Food hubs statewide have played a critical role during the pandemic to ensure continued market access for island farmers and distribution of nutritious local food to communities in need. These grassroots organizations fill systemic gaps and provide essential services that fuel operation of our local food system. They also, increasingly, help the state to meet its agricultural development goals – such as achieving greater food security and economic diversification.

In addition, we strongly support inclusion of a project-specific CIP within this bill, for expansion of a well-established food hub at the state-owned Honalo Marshaling Yard, which is managed by the State Department of Agriculture. Since 2017, HUC has operated this facility on behalf of our 100+ family farmer-members located on Hawai'i Island and Maui (see member roster below), to aggregate, process and market breadfruit and other indigenous local staples statewide. In 2019, the legislature appropriated \$1.1 Million to the Dept of Ag to work with HUC to retrofit this facility for expanded production of up to 2 million pounds of local staple crops per year. A recently completed Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) solicited by the DOA as part of this project indicated a \$1.5 million budget shortfall needed to complete this project (after additional federal funds raised directly by HUC for equipment were taken into account).

This outstanding funding need is now being requested under SB338 to accomplish this food hub expansion and modernization project, which will support the food hub pilot program by demonstrating early success and viability of concept – thereby fostering increased public support for other food hubs and showcasing an effective public-private partnership model that benefits many small diversified farmers.



Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

79-1017 E Honalo Rd, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740 | 808-238-8869 | eatbreadfruit.com | info@eatbreadfruit.com



Farmer owned, 'āina grown

A detailed budget outlining use of the \$1.5 million for Honalo Marshaling Yard capital improvements is attached.

While it is well-known that Hawai'i imports some 85% of its food, local production is highly uneven across food groups – with the lowest degree of self-sufficiency occurring in the most critical category, staples; the proposed project will significantly increase local staple crop production and consumption by enabling the completion of critical upgrades to the state's only dedicated aggregation, processing and distribution facility for local starches – including breadfruit ('ulu), taro (kalo), sweet potatoes ('uala) and squash (pala'ai) - efficiently managed and operated by a farmer-owned cooperative representing many small family farms on multiple islands.

If you have questions regarding HUC's support of this legislation or specific use of the requested funds for the Honalo Marsaling Yard CIP, please contact me at (808) 238-8869 or by email at info@eatbreadfruit.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dana Shapiro'.

Dana Shapiro
General Manger



Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

79-1017 E Honalo Rd, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740 | 808-238-8869 | eatbreadfruit.com | info@eatbreadfruit.com



Farmer owned, 'āina grown

HUC Farmer-Member Roster

Common Stock #	Account Holder Name
3101	'Ano'Ano Farm
3102	Mo'oloa Farm
3103	'Io Ag, LLC
3104	E-Scape Enterprises
3105	Kona Ulu
3106	Sweet Cane
3107	Māla Kalu'ulu Cooperative
3108	Naniseni Farm
3109	Kohala Institute
3110	Sam Keliihoomalu
3111	Mike Nakada
3112	Evan Belaga
3113	Greg Owen
3114	Gayle and Henry Cho
3115	Arlene Hamblet
3116	Tom Menezes
3117	Tina and Jack Turner
3118	Sam Choi
3120	Haku Nui Farms
3121	Marian and David Tompkins
3122	Robert and Therese Mulroy
3123	Isaac Tanaka & Roberta Jaques
3124	Dee Anne Dominick
3125	Deborah Ward
3127	Nathan Trump
3128	Howard Ling
3129	Johnson Family Farms
3133	Thomas Weinstein
3135	Dan Bolton
3136	Linda Larish
3137	Robin Black



Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

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3138	Craig Mastandrea
3139	Henry Cho III
3140	Kip Onaka
3141	Stan Eugenio
3142	Richard s. Kodani
3143	David Horne
3144	Ralph Johnston
3145	Malama Solomon
3148	Clarence Medeiros
3149	David Wiseman
3150	William Deboe
3152	Ala Savio
3154	Josiah hunt
3156	June Van Leynseele
3157	Joan Mccarty
3161	Timothy Farry
3162	Robert Kamigaki
3164	Guy Nicholson
3165	Justin Udovch
3167	Brett Lomont
3169	Randall Bachman
3170	Hana Ranch Agriculture, LLC
3172	Makani Kai Pacific LLC
3173	Kyle Datta
3174	Adrienne Hale
3175	Barbara Anderson
3176	Margaret Piaskoski-Wills
3177	Mike and Stephanie Woods-Bettis
3178	Punachicks Farm
3179	Teiko Kuma
3180	Kai Ikena Farms
3181	Kona Art Farm
3182	James Weatherford
3183	Kaivao Farm LLC
3184	Hana Horizons
3185	Downes Grounds
3186	Hamakua Coast Farms
3187	Makai McMichael



3188	M&S Farms
3189	One Village Project
3190	Anthony Olayon
3191	Lisa Dowd
3192	Big Island Orchards LLC
3193	Trippy Dish Farm
3194	Lono Farms
3195	Dave Lambrecht
3196	Daniel Mahalak
3197	Matthew Medeiros
3198	Collin Kuwahara
3199	Richard Hellmund
3200	Susan & Ronald Aronson
3201	Karen & Gerald Akers
3202	Hawaii Time Farm
3203	John Pollard
3204	Jonathan Hutchinson
3205	Suzette Kale
3207	Jan Roberts
3208	Matthew Ray
3209	Aileen Wong
3210	HIP Agriculture
3211	Wallace Wong
3212	Jessica Castle
3213	Lincoln Ohana Farm



Description	Amount	Units	Unit Cost	Probable
Blast Freezer and Packing Room				
Packing Room Construction		64 SF	\$ 250	\$ 16,000
Industrial Batch 9-truck blast freezer		1 EA	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000
Conventional refrigeration system for packing room		1 LS	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
				\$ -
Receiving Building with Scales				
Receiving Building		1000 SF	\$ 300	\$ 300,000
Scale		1 EA	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500
Ethylene Scrubber		1 EA	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300
Inline Water Cooler		1 EA	\$ 23,000	\$ 23,000
				\$ -
Enlarged Kitchen Area				
Kitchen Construction		800 SF	\$ 300	\$ 240,000
Industrial Batch 9-truck Steamer		1 EA	\$ 173,000	\$ 173,000
				\$ -
Improvements to Wash Area				
Retrofit and paint wash area structure		480 SF	\$ 35	\$ 16,800
Additional Power		1 LS	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Additional Hose Bibs		1 EA	\$ 200	\$ 200
				\$ -
Architectural (see PER for details)				
Update exit doors		1 EA	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500
				\$ -
Civil (see PER for details)				
Upgrade domestic water supply connection		1 EA	\$ 310,000	\$ 310,000
				\$ -
Electrical (see PER for details)				
Upgrade HELCO service/metering		1 EA	\$ 134,000	\$ 134,000
				\$ -
Mechanical (see PER for details)				
Upgrade exhaust system		1 EA	\$ 81,500	\$ 81,500
				\$ -
Plumbing (see PER for details)				
Plumbing upgrades		1 EA	\$ 53,000	\$ 53,000
				\$ -
Structural (see PER for details)				
Repair purlins and flashing		1 EA	\$ 21,750	\$ 21,750
TOTAL				\$ 1,517,550



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 2, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 338, SD1
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Conference Room 211
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 1,800 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 338, SD1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food and provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub. It also authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the Honalo marshalling yard.

Small farmers typically do not have access to facilities and infrastructure to aggregate, process, and distribute products to local consumers. The challenge to small growers is also complicated by stringent regulations of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), jeopardizing the ongoing viability of many small growers due to the costs of compliance.

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

The Hawaii 'Ulu Cooperative provides an important service to Hawai'i farmers by aggregating, processing, and marketing 'ulu and associated co-crops grown in diversified farming systems. The Honalō Marshaling Yard facility is owned by the State of Hawai'i and was developed over 25 years ago to support these very activities. The facility is now in gross need of public investment to enable increased production and the scaling of local food industries that have demonstrated the potential for both economic development and long-term food security and sustainability.

By 2025, the Hawaii 'Ulu Cooperative anticipates handling nearly 2 million pounds per year of 'ulu and associated co-crops based on existing members' production figures, for an overall farm gate value of over \$6.5 million paid out directly to local farmers. Investing in the Honalō facility today is a worthwhile and vital investment in the capacity of Hawai'i's agricultural sector and in the ability of our islands to not only feed ourselves nutritious food but to export high-value dense crops and processed agricultural products for revenue growth and job creation.

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

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:24:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Walter Ritte	Testifying for aina momona	Support	No

Comments:

Aina Momona strongly supports sb 338. Our community is willing and able to provide food hubs to get farm products to our people, incentives from the state will go along way.



Kamehameha Schools®

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: March 2, 2021

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Where: Via Videoconference

TESTIMONY

By Marissa Harman

Director of Asset Management

RE: **SB 338, SD1 - Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program**

E ka Luna Ho‘omaluku Dela Cruz, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Keith-Agaran, a me nā Lālā o kēia Kōmike, aloha!

We are writing in **SUPPORT of SB 338, SD1**, which seeks to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food and provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub.

Kamehameha Schools believes that our educational mission is best achieved in a society that supports and enables the success of our learners. One significant component of such a society is a sustainable, local food system. For this reason, we have heavily invested in agriculture on our lands across Hawai‘i to contribute to the State’s Aloha+ Challenge goal of doubling local food production by 2030.

The majority of Hawai‘i farms fall into the small farm category, with 87% reporting less than \$50,000 in annual sales (2017 Ag Census). Food Hubs remove some of the barriers for farmers by providing shared infrastructure and access to larger institutional and retail markets. This allows farmers to focus on farming and supports farmers’ livelihoods by allowing them to retain more of the profit. Food hubs can also increase consumers’ access to fresh healthy food.

While we recognize the State is facing budget shortfalls, we strongly believe that successful implementation of a Food Hub pilot, as one component of a more comprehensive strategy of investments and supports, will help the agricultural industry increase local food production, stimulate economic recovery, and enable greater long-term resilience.

Accordingly, we kindly request you **PASS SB 338, SD1**.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership. Mahalo nui!

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:22:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hunter Heavilin	Testifying for Supersistence	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

This bill would provide support for the network of food hubs across the state to expand their work, in doing so farmer incomes and consumer food access will be enhanced. For these reasons **I strongly support SB338.**

Food hubs play the critical role in our food system of connecting small farmers with a diversity of markets. In decades past, farmer cooperatives were a strong tool for smallholders to get to market. As cooperatives fell apart so did the small farm economy. Food hubs are a new approach to that collective work to increase market access for groups of farmers, even more crucial now because the marketplace that farmers must interface with has changed drastically. Local grocers have been replaced by big box operations with global supply chains and producers need social-organizational tools like food hubs to interface with the primary places where most consumers access their food. The mismatch between parcel sizes (and farm output) and the purchasing scale of many food buyers is bridged by food hubs.

Support of this bill will expand the critical work and build a stronger local food economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

-Hunter Heavilin

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:23:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Mcknight	Testifying for DPH Environmental Caucus	Support	No

Comments:

The Democratic Party of hawaii Environmental Caucus **STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 338 SD1!** As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, food insecurity, loss of protective coral reefs, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

Facilitating more local food production, as this bill would do, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions released in transporting food to Hawaii, reduce our food insecurity, and help local farmers.

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for a five-year food hub pilot program under the Department of Agriculture to increase access to local food.

Farmers in Hawaii face many challenges in achieving economic sustainability, including the limited availability of reliable markets and food hubs, which are facilities used to secure food and process value-added products. Food hubs, as centrally located facilities with a business management structure that facilitates the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of locally grown produce, are an integral but missing piece of agricultural infrastructure required to achieve and sustain the doubling of local food production in Hawaii.

State supported food hubs may give Hawaii's producers the opportunity to compete with local markets, while also remaining financially viable. Hawaii's agricultural producer majority is small farmers who struggle with access to facilities and infrastructure to aggregate, process, and distribute products to local consumers and face high costs in land, labor, energy, and limited access to water supply for irrigation. Allowing small farmers to participate in larger markets will ensure their economic survival and Hawaii's long-term ecosystem survival. Therefore, a food hub pilot program will help lower costs for and increase revenue to farmers in the State, help farmers become or remain economically sustainable, and ensure public access to locally grown food and value-added products.

Please pass this bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and food insecurity by facilitating more local food production. Mahalo!



67-332 Kaiea Pl.
Waiialua, HI 96791-
9501
808-383-4481
www.NSEVP.org

SUBJECT: Support for SB338 – Food Hub Pilot Program
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 211 & Videoconference



Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee,

On behalf of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (North Shore EVP), I would like to extend our full support of SB338, which will establish a five-year food hub pilot program within the Department of Agriculture.

The North Shore EVP was formed in 2015 as a result of a comprehensive, community-based economic analysis that identified the need for a food hub to fill serious gaps in the food supply chain of the North Shore region of Oahu. Our non-profit organization worked with community leaders to develop realistic strategic plans focused on securing that critical infrastructure and providing new opportunities for ag and ag-tourism businesses and creation of new jobs in agriculture in the region.

As we started planning for a food hub we became aware of the Food Safety & Modernization Act (FSMA) and the impact that law would have on the operations of the facility. Specifically, we anticipated that the target markets of the food hub (schools, hotels, etc.) would eventually require documentation of food safety practices from the growers. USDA and Hawaii Department of Agriculture data indicated that very few farms in Hawaii had such training and documentation.

We subsequently started a USDA GroupGAP program that allows groups of farms to work together to obtain their USDA Harmonized GAP certification and spread the cost savings across all members of the group. In December 2019 we certified 2 more farms on Oahu and in January 2020 the program successfully passed its first USDA Harmonized GAP audit. We are now working with farms on Oahu, Hawaii Island, and Kauai. We are the 15th GroupGAP program in the country and are currently the only food safety training program focused on farm certification and FSMA compliance in the state.

With the GroupGAP program now operating statewide we have recently turned our attention back to the North Shore regional food hub. We have identified commercial and institutional buyers that are ready to begin working with a fully certified food hub and will use access to these buyers as a way to help farms increase production and pursue food safety certification.

Our research indicates that in Hawaii a viable food hub will require approximately 7,500ft² of floor space (2,000ft² refrigerated), 7-10 employees, 1-2 trucks and gross revenue of ~\$1.5 million or more. The challenge to local food hubs is growing quickly enough to attain this level of sales quickly enough to become truly viable businesses. We believe SB338 is a positive step in the right direction for establishing a network of food hubs across the state that can open new markets for small farms, increase the availability of fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables and expand the tax base through new job creation and import substitution.

North Shore EVP strongly supports this bill.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kelly
President & CEO
North Shore EVP



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

LATE

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 211
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021 AT 9:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair;
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

COMMENTS SB338 SD1 RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

My name is Pamela Tumpap. I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, in the county most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of our dependence on the visitor industry and corresponding rate of unemployment. I am writing to share our comments on SB338 SD1.

We love the idea of this bill and supported it in the past (with concerns about the appropriation amount). We desperately need to support our Ag Industry, who saw huge losses with visitor industry declines and restaurants and the Department of Education purchasing far less. We are looking for more ways to do more value-added manufacturing and making sure we can package, refrigerate and warehouse food here longer for our overall sustainability. In Maui County, we need solid economic development solutions and shoring up our Ag Industry is a key component of that.

However, we are providing comments today because we do not feel there is enough money appropriated to achieve what you are looking for. The \$1,000,000 appropriation for the whole state equates to \$250,000 per county, which we believe is inadequate for the type of facilities described in the bill. We suggest a minimum of \$2,000,000, but if the State is really serious about this effort, we recommend \$1,000,000 per County to establish a location, get something built and consider this an ongoing investment.

This is a time when we need to look at top priorities and if this is one of the state's top priorities, we urge you to allocate more funding to this program.

Mahalo for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 8:38:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Ramirez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Food hubs make it possible for small farmers to help bring produce to market, especially local culturally appropriate, nutritious foods such as kalo and sweet potatoes. This will grow our local food economy and help in emergency situations such as the recent food shortage in stores during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hawaii needs greater food system equity and more access to healthy local food.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 8:01:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashleigh Loa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

N/a

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 8:14:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

A good way to organize so small farms can be part of the larger economy and provide communities with healthy, fresh, local food in an efficient manner.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 8:48:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm writing in support of SB338 because of the following reasons:

- Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market.
- Promote the productions of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Will support the growth of our local food economy
- Would help relieve pressure in emergency situations such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on the national food supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local "food deserts".

Support this bill.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 10:13:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
claudia rosenbaum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm Claudia Rosenbaum and I support bill SB338. Supporting food hubs will help increase distribution of locally grown foods, providing the security our small family farmers need to continue producing their crops.

Sincerely,

Claudia Rosenbaum

Kula, HI

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 10:19:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support food hubs for better community access to local food, and to have systems/infrastructure in place for food distribution during the next emergency.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 10:56:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support!

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 11:13:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support our `Ä• ina.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 7:03:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Dean	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Providing easy access to locally grown food is critical to making local farming a profitable and sustainable business.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 7:25:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alani Bagcal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Alani Bagcal and I am very supportive of this bill's ability to increase access to local food and promote local jobs. I think it is very necessary to provide an equitable food system for our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for SB 338

Alani Bagcal

96815

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 12:55:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support sb338 sd1

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 7:06:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rexann Dubiel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill makes sense.

Support small local farmers with a venue to sell their food.

We need to be self reliant and reduce imported food. We need to reduce our carbon footprint and this is the way.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 9:03:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market.
- Promote the productions of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Will support the growth of our local food economy
- Would help relieve pressure in emergency situations such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on the national food supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 10:45:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sunny Savage	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

So needed, yes yes yes in support!

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:10:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of Food Hub Programs. The state should not look into "reinventing" the wheel with a pilot Program however, as some of the Islands have already established Food Hubs due to the pandemic. Learn from them and help them to expand.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:14:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support having a Food Hub pilot program.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:54:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT!

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 12:18:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
R.Momi Ventura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Alohamai My Name Is R.Momi Ventura I Currently Have No Home But Am Certainly Able To Submit Testimony With My Tablet. Food Hubs Provide The Necessary Segway For Smaller Farmers To Help Bring Produce To The Farmers Market. To Help Bring Culturally Appropriate, Nutritional Foods That Will Support The Growth Of Local Food Market's. My Family And I Would Contribute Because Of Our Knowledge Of Growing Foods Of Old Hawai'i. We Posses These Planting Traits Passed Along Through Generation's Before Us. It's An Absolutely Amazing Bill. Mahalo Very Much For Your Time And Consideration.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 2:29:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

please support food security in our state by encouraging programs like SB338 does.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:18:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chezlani Casar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to do everything in our power to increase local food self-sufficiency. Importing the vast majority of our food leaves us vulnerable to any number of catastrophes that can befall a remote island chain, disrupting our food supply. Food hubs are an important part of the distribution chain that can get locally produced food onto the plates of our people.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:29:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Bishop	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Daniel Bishop and I am in Support of SB338

Mahalo

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:46:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a great concept worth pursuing!

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 4:46:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Food Hubs will help small farmers to get their food to market, thereby allowing for more local food production.

Hawaii needs to produce more food locally in order to reduce our dependence on imported food. If we remain so dependent on imported food, it will increase our carbon footprint and make us vulnerable to food shortages in an emergency.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 7:43:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please support food hubs--they are working great on Hawai'i Island and Maui!

Requires the department of agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. Provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub

mahalo,

Cory Harden

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 8:42:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi Joan here from West Hawaii supporting SB338. This bill establishes a 5 year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. Good for farm economics and access for consumers.

Thank You

Joan Gannon

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 9:01:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators, please support this bill, since food hubs provide the necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. This will support the growth of our local food economy, and will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts” in Hawai’i.

Thank you for your consideration.
Elizabeth Hansen,
Hakalau, HI

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 9:41:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators, please support this bill, since food hubs provide the necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. This will support the growth of our local food economy, and will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts” in Hawai‘i.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 12:54:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

It is simply incomprehensible to me for anyone to oppose this bill. Supporting local food hubs and local food production should be one of our top priorities.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 5:51:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Freeman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill will increase the availability of healthy food in areas currently without such access, thereby improving the health of citizens.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 6:54:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Lander	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB338 SD1.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 9:41:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
M. Llanes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senate members:

Please support SB338 SD1 regarding local food hubs. During the pandemic it became even more evident that Hawai'i HAS TO become self-sustainable, especially with regard to food. Local food hubs demonstrated the ability to meet the needs of the local population in providing healthy food. We need this in Hawai'i. There are several food hubs that exist and we need to have more.

Mahalo for considering my testimony,

MeleLani Llanes

Kapolei resident

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:08:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marianne george	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

One of the main hurdles farmers often cite is lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawai'i

Will help reduce our dependence on imported food

Will support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:45:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Lukens	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market.
- Promote the productions of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Will support the growth of our local food economy
- Would help relieve pressure in emergency situations such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on the national food supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:50:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Noelani Ahia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

- Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market.
- Promote the productions of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Will support the growth of our local food economy
- Would help relieve pressure in emergency situations such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on the national food supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:51:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arika Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to support local food!

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:25:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Leo Braulick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 28, 2021

Members of the Committee:

I support SB338 which establishes a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food, and provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub.

As you know, food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. SB338 will also promote the production of nutritious foods and support the growth of our local food economy.

SB338 would also improve Hawaii's food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local "food deserts", and help relieve pressure in emergency situations that impact the national food supply.

I hope you will also support SB338.

Sincerely,

Nathan Leo Braulick

2333 Kapiolani Blvd.

Honolulu, HI 96826

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:27:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a very good bill and needs to be implemented. We have many kapunas and others who have great knowledge in growing, storing n preparing local foods and all aspects of growing, preparing and storing local foods sounds like great food hubs. These crops are easy to grow, usually with little pest problems. Please pass this bill to the floor or next committee,

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:57:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Bursack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a wonderful example of creating local based food security solutions.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 12:17:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I am writing in support of SB338. Small farmers will be the lifeblood of our sustainable agriculture in HI. They need better infrastructure to market their produce. Encouraging more small farmers is a very important effort for the State.

Thank you for your consideration,

Susan

Lawai, HI

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 12:57:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marsha Hee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB338 because access to local food is so important now during the pandemic and this will continue as time goes on. Our community has experienced a drastic increase of families and individuals from 100 to over 500 in the past year who have come for help at our community food bank. Expanding a food hub in our rural area is needed and the state can help in this way.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 1:15:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marian Head	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for your consideration of this important bill. Since participating in Kauai's 'Ai Pono Challenge, I have become aware and a customer of food hubs and produce aggregators on the island. I used to feel frustrated at Farmer's markets, not knowing if the produce I was purchasing was free of pesticides or even if it was grown on our island (and not purchased from Costco and re-sold). Now I order directly from farms or through food hubs each week. The quality of the food is magnificent. I am grateful.

By supporting this bill, we can both help small farmers bring their produce to market, encourage healthy eating, and support the growth of our local food economy.

Marian Head, Kapaa

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 2:00:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melia Leslie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- I SUPPORT this bill for the following reasons:
- Food hubs provide the necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market
- Promote the productions of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Will support the growth of our local food economy
- Would help relieve pressure in emergency situations such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on the national food supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 2:36:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Heartfield PhD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- This bill makes sense! It helps local farmers and will support the growth of our local food economy
- Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market.
- Promote the productions of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Would help relieve pressure in emergency situations such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on the national food supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 2:37:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sydney Millerd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sydney Millerd and I am writing to express support for SB338. As a student of the University of Hawaii - West Oahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems program, I understand how food hubs can greatly support our food system. Food hubs help to promote the local production of culturally appropriate, and nutritious foods, and connect smallholders to larger stores. Thus, not only would food hubs be beneficial for the community but also for the economy of Hawaii.

As a 22-year old soon-to-be college graduate, I look to our legislative leaders to make the right choices now to create a brighter future for Hawaii for my fellow youth and me to live in. This brighter future for Hawaii should include support for more local, culturally appropriate, and nutritious foods such as through a food hubs program.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:13:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Please, SUPPORT this vital legislation.

Hawaii needs FOOD SECURITY!

It's an EMERGENCY!

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:25:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

This is an important issue to support. Getting the food from the farmers to the consumers is critical for our food security.

Please support SB338 SD1.

Mahalo.

Ms. Barbara Barry

Maui

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:29:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Please, SUPPORT this vital legislation.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 4:42:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 338: Food Hub Pilot Program, which entails a 5-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. It also provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub.

This measure is vital as food hubs provide the necessary organization for small farmers to help bring produce to multiple local markets. It will help to promote the productions of culturally appropriate, nutritious and local foods such as taro and sweet potatoes which will boost the growth of our local food economy. This would help relieve pressure in emergency situations such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on the national food supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic, and provide more food security than our current 'just in time' model for Hawaii food storage and security. It also adds to environmental justice as it will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local 'food deserts' that only have access to fast food or convenience stores as affordable and accessible food options. Thank you.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 5:04:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha committee members, please support SB338 SD1, which would establish a 5-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food.

Food hubs provide the necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market and promote the productions of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods.

Supporting food hubs will support the growth of our local food economy and help relieve pressure in emergency situations by reducing dependence on lengthy food supply chains.

Finally, this bill will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local "food deserts," boosting public health and reducing hunger in our underserved communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 5:30:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Jahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha 'aina kakou,

My name is Brian "Ioane" Jahn, and I live in Wahiawa, Kukaniloko, O'ahu, with my three keiki and my pops. We live on a small street where we witness many of our neighbors experience food insecurity on a daily basis. Some get food from food banks, but it comes expired, or it is not very healthy. Most of this is due to issues related to COVID-19, however, many of the nutrition issues our friends and family face are a result of a broken food system. We have some access to healthy foods, but our cheapest, easiest access is to fast food from our own Central O'ahu Restaurant Row; Wendy's, McDonald's, Taco Bell, Jack in the Box, etc. As most people understand, these foods are poisonous and they are being consumed by a number of our local residents daily. Food hubs promote the local production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods, as well as providing more local jobs. SB338 will also help connect more smallholders and smaller businesses to larger stores, resulting in the enhancement of our local economy. This past weekend, I worked with my son in Wai'anae, volunteering with the Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center to distribute food to local families. I saw more produce and healthy foods in those bags than I have ever seen on the West side in my life. We have to do better, or we are contributing to the genocide of Hawai'i people. I know that money is an issue, and we are in an economic crisis. I bring this up because SB338 looks to appropriate funds, and this might be a reason to dismiss this bill. However, a healthy, sustainable Hawai'i can exist if we can contribute to the creation of Food Hubs and other important food system programs. Mahalo for your time.

Me ke aloha,

Brian "Ioane" Jahn

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 7:30:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emma Trainor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I live in Pahoia HI and am in support of SB338

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 7:40:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 7:51:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chelle Galarza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a mother of 2, family of 4. We reside on Maui. I support food hubs and a five year food hub poilet program would be a great addition to the community. We need access to local foods. We shouldn't rely on imported goods here on island Grants for qualified applicants would be amazing for those who wish to expand a food hub. I think this is an excellent idea to grow more local foods and support this bill.

Mahalo, Chelle Galarza

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:17:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Uma Nagendra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to SUPPORT SB338, which establishes a food hub pilot program for local food distribution.

A food hub pilot program would help boost the local food economy. It can also increase food equity by providing access to healthy locally produced food in "food desert" areas.

Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. This would help relieve pressure in emergency situations such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on the national food supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration,

Uma Nagendra

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:18:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB338.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:33:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tane Datta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 9:43:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
brandi corpuz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly support this bill to create a food hub pilot program. Maui and Molokai already have created food hubs that are serving their communities greatly. However, I believe that more needs to be done to support this types of food ennovations. Thank you, Brandi Corpuz (Kihei, Maui)

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 9:52:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marlies Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support locally grown food and belong to a farm coop here!

I love to support local

We need to grow our own and not depend on others

Marlies Lee

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:13:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony in strong SUPPORT of SB 338 SD 1, requiring the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food.

As this last year of the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated, our local food producers and agriculturalists are resilient and resourceful, ramping up existing food hubs and creating new ones in communities around the islands. Creating equitable access to locally grown food not only benefits farmers, ranchers and consumers, but stimulates our local economy by providing local employment.

As a subscriber to Farm Link, here in Hale'iwa, I am continually impressed with the variety of produce on offer, not only collected from our North Shore community but from all corners of O'ahu, providing nutrient-rich, sustainably grown fruits and vegetables.

Please pass SB 338 SD 1 to strengthen our local food system and thereby reducing Hawai'i's food insecurity.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:44:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Laliberte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I give my strong support to SB338, in favor of a food hub pilot program. This bill will help grow the local economy as well as diversify it. Food production is a critically-needed economic activity and if developed smartly, can reduce healthcare costs, create jobs, help to conserve lands and build community. Local food hubs will give rural communities access to fresh, locally-sourced foods and help support small businesses. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Liz Laliberte

Hilo , HI

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 5:48:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and WAM Committee members,

I strongly support SB338 HD1 to create a 5-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. However, I would like to echo some testifiers who stated that management and accountability are key elements in food hubs.

Food hubs help connect farmers with customers. These relationships can take many forms, so they are not one-size-fits-all. Educating all parties as to what to expect and assigning responsibilities will help operations run more smoothly. The end result should be a fiscally balanced system—not a one-way money sink. Accountability should be expected, especially with limited state funds.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how broken and unequal our current system is AND how important food is—to our health and to our well-being. With food hubs we have a chance to change things up. Food hubs can help immensely with food preparation and distribution, bringing jobs to a community and ensuring food security where there was none. For these reasons, now is the perfect time to initiate this program.

Right now, many farmers are producing food, but have no outlet for their product. This bill can be the catalyst that shows them a way forward. Please support this very important bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Siincerely,

Jan Pappas – Aiea, Hawaii

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:50:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelston DeSilva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a very good start to becoming sustainable. It makes a lot of sense to harvest popular resources that people are going to buy instead of harvesting resources and not knowing if people are going to buy it for sure. Doing this will keep the numbers of resources up. People will start to take only what they need and not be so greedy and take more than they need. Our resources for our future generations will be plentiful.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:19:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James McCay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the WAM Committee,

I'm in STRONG SUPPORT for SB338. This last year of COVID has shown us the importance of self resilience - and also creativity and adaptability that will be direly needing moving into periods of more extreme global weather events. I've experienced first hand the amazing people behind some of the existing Food Hubs and this is a HUGE focus within the ag community and also the Hawaii Farmers Union United. This is a great initiative to include smaller farmers into the critical suport to supply local & healthy foods.

Please support this important bill and mahalo for your service,

James McCay
Honolulu

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:21:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support!

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:31:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ingrid Peterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill that supports agriculture, a sector of our economy we need to promote as we work toward diversifying our economy. Doing so also lessens our vulnerability of being so heavily reliant on food from outside Hawaii. (From a Windward O'ahu resident since 1963.)

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 11:44:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

3/2/2021: Testimony Supporting SB 338, S.D. 1/ Relating to A Food Hub Pilot Program

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

As the manager of a family farm in Wai`anae, I write in support of SB 338, SD 1, in which the Hawai`i Department of Agriculture would establish a five(5) year Food Hub Pilot Program to increase local food production. This bill in its present form allocates up to \$1,000,000 in grant funding for critical food hubs like Kahumana Organic Farm in Wai`anae and the issuance of \$1,500,000 of general obligation bonds for fiscal year 2021-2022 for the Honalo Marshalling Yard on the Kona Coast. These and other food hubs on all islands provide critical services to small farms like ours to help us aggregate, store, process, distribute, and also marketing our produce. The services that food hubs provide to our local growers urgently need whatever monetary support can be gathered during these disastrous economic times to prevent our population from becoming even MORE food-insecure. Reports indicate that currently, Hawai`i's non-military population has only sufficient food supplies for 1-2 weeks in the event of a natural or other disaster.

Accordingly, for all of the above reasons, I respectfully request that you please **PASS SB338/S.D. 1 out of your committee WITH the funding to sustain food hubs like Kahumana Organic Farm and Hanolo Marshalling Yard.** Many thanks for this opportunity to present this testimony in the interest of supporting Hawai`i's farmers and increasing our food security in support of SB338/S.D.1.

Nancy Jones, PO Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792

LATE

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 12:28:39 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zeb Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

3/2/2021: Testimony In Support of SB 338, SD1 / Relating to A Food Hub Pilot Program

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

As a long-time Wai`anae grower, I am writing to support SB 338, SD 1, so that the Hawai`i Department of Agriculture can establish a five (5) year Food Hub Pilot Program that will increase local food production. This bill's current form allocates up to \$1,000,000 in grant funding for critical food hubs like Kahumanu Organic Farm in Wai`anae and also allows for issuing up to \$1,500,000 of general obligation bonds for fiscal year 2021-2022 for the Honalo Marshalling Yard on the Kona Coast. These and the food hubs throughout Hawai`i provide critical services to small farms like ours in that they help us aggregate, store, process, distribute, AND market our produce. Despite the major budget shortfalls we are experiencing, services that food hubs provide to our local growers urgently need whatever monetary support that can be mustered to further prevent our population from becoming even MORE food-insecure. I am alarmed by reports indicating that currently, Hawai`i's non-military population has only sufficient food supplies to last 1-2 weeks in the event of a natural or other disaster.

Given the above reasons, I respectfully urge you to please **PASS SB338/SD1 out of your committee WITH sufficient funding to further the missions of food hubs like Kahumana Organic Farm and Hanolo Marshalling Yard.** Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony in support of SB338/SD1 to further assist Hawai`i's farmers and increase our food security.

ZEBUEL JONES, PO Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792

LATE

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 2:08:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle K.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market.
- Promote the productions of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods
- Will support the growth of our local food economy
- Would help relieve pressure in emergency situations such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on the national food supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Will provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Please pass this bill into law. Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 3:14:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cecilia Rose Reilly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

A food hub to increase the community's access to local food is an excellent idea. Our local food hub has had tremendous success doing just that and there's so much room to provide more opportunity for our communities.

LATE

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 3:58:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB Bill 338 SD1 because these food hubs work. It helps farmers and customers both to find oneanother in a convient location. Many growers are not big enough to buy a table at a market. I myself have had a hard time finding a market for our produce. Many of us have a lot of one thing at any one time, but by combining our fruits and veges, we can make a market.

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 6:00:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill because it helps us build food hubs throughout the state of Hawaii. Here on Maui the food hub that has been started truly helped getting locally grown food from farmers onto our table. I really appreciate this program and the more locally grown food we can get on our tables the more sustainable and food secure we will become.

Mahalo,
Fitz

SB-338-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 6:02:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Rodwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I thouroghly support this Bill SB338