

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**  
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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER

CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 28, 2022  
11:00 A.M.  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

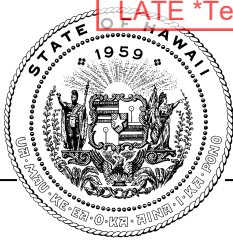
HOUSE BILL NO. 2431 HD1  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2431 HD1. The measure establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the office of planning and sustainable development, designates members, and tasks the working group with the development of a plan for a more sustainable, resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community. The Department supports the intent of this measure and appreciates the opportunity to contribute as a member of the working group. The Department defers to the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development regarding staffing and resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**OFFICE OF PLANNING**  
**& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS  
DIRECTOR

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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
Monday, February 28, 2022  
11:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308  
in consideration of  
**HB 2431, HD1**  
**RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports the intent of HB 2431, HD1**. This bill seeks to establish a temporary “sustainable food systems working group” within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development understands that the proposed working group originates from the initiative called “Transforming Hawai‘i’s Food Systems Together,” which seeks to build statewide capacity to develop an integrated food policy framework and food system resilience and equity strategy that is inclusive of Hawai‘i’s indigenous values and producer perspectives. The initiative intends to harness innovation and momentum developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, documents lessons learned, articulates policy and planning recommendations, and sets up the State to expand large-scale institutional purchasing of local foods.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development and the Statewide Sustainability Branch serves as partners with this collaborative statewide project and supports this initiative’s intent; however the Statewide Sustainability Branch, recently established by [Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §225M-8](#) in 2020, is presently only staffed with 1 employee.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development understands that a working group will require staffing or contract services to provide public noticed meetings, website management, meeting minutes, research, and coordination to fulfill the intent of this bill in accordance with the Sunshine Law.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development thanks the Committee on Agriculture for including the amendments that we requested. We support the intent of this bill, provided that this bill does not replace, or impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2431, H.D. 1

**February 28, 2022**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
**Room 308 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 2431, H.D. 1, establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group (SFSWG) within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD); requires the SFSWG to develop a plan for a more sustainable, resilient local food economy; requires the SFSWG to submit the plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the Legislature; appropriates \$150,000 in general funds for FY 23 to establish the SFSWG and support the development of the plan; and appropriates \$60,000 in general funds and 1.00 full-time equivalent (FTE) position for FY 23 for a sustainability specialist for OPSD. The SFSWG shall be dissolved on December 31, 2023.

B&F defers to OPSD with respect to the establishment of the SFSWG. However, B&F would like to point out that the FY 23 Executive Supplemental Budget submitted to the Legislature includes a request to add \$273,572 of general funds for 1.00 permanent FTE position and 3.00 temporary FTE positions to staff and support OPSD's Statewide Sustainability Branch.

B&F also notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriations in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



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February 28, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2431, HD1**  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference  
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 2431, HD1**, which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the office of planning and sustainable development and requires the working group to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the legislature.

The impacts of the COVID pandemic have highlighted the need to strengthen Hawaii's food system to ensure greater resilience, food security, human health, and economic diversity and stability.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



## Food+ Policy Internship 2022

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

February 26, 2022

To: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the House Committee on Finance

Subject: Testimony in Support of **HB2431 HD1**, Appropriation to Establish the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group Within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

I am writing on behalf of Hawai'i Food+ Policy to express our support for HB2431 HD1, Relating to Sustainable Food Systems. This measure requires the establishment of a sustainable food systems working group within the office of planning and sustainable development.

Establishing a sustainable food systems working group will help enhance a good working relationship between food producers, processors, distributors, retailers, consumers, waste management, academic institutions, non-government organizations, and government agencies. It will also present unique opportunities for multilevel and cross-sectoral partnerships and collaborations to help foster a robust and resilient food system (Dentoni, Pinkse, & Lubberink, 2020), engaging in regenerative and environmentally sustainable practices, for the support of Hawaii's economic and public health objectives.

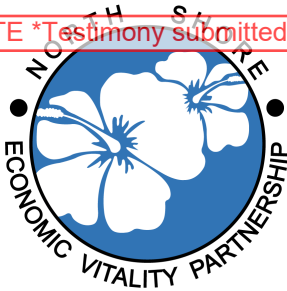
This measure will open an opportunity for the creation of green jobs, and the implementation of sustainable economic development for climate change mitigation. We of the Food+ Policy Program strongly support HB2431 HD1 and urge that it be passed into law.

Mahalo,

Erwin & the Food+ Interns  
#fixourfoodsystem

References Cited:

Dentoni, D., Pinkse, J., & Lubberink, R. (2020). Linking Sustainable Business Models to Socio-Ecological Resilience Through Cross-Sector Partnerships: A Complex Adaptive Systems View. *Business & Society*, 1-37.



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February 27, 2022

House Committee on Finance  
Monday February 28 2022, 11:00 am

SUBJECT: Support for HB 2431 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOODS

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, 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 HB 2431**, which would establish the sustainable food systems working group within the office of planning and sustainable development.

The North Shore EVP was formed in 2015 as a result of a comprehensive, community-based economic analysis that identified the need for a regional food hub to fill serious gaps in the food supply chain of the region. Our work has expanded statewide to include a USDA GroupGAP (Good Agricultural Practices) food safety training and certification program (Hawaii GroupGAP) that lowers the cost and effort of attaining Harmonized GAP certification to farms anywhere in Hawaii.

There is considerable activity in the private sector around the state to document and analyze the food chain of our state. Hawaii County, for example, recently won a US Economic Development Administration Build Back Better Regional Challenge award focused on creating a robust agricultural economy in Hawaii county. To understand the food chain statewide, efforts like these need to be expanded to all counties.

Establishing the sustainable food systems working group within the office of planning and sustainable development would be a significant step towards coordinating these efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kevin M Kelly, President





**Officers**

Vincent Mina  
State President  
HFUU

Anabella Bruch  
Vice-President  
HFUU

Maureen Datta  
Secretary  
HFUU

Reba Lopez  
HFUU Treasurer

**Chapter Presidents**

Dash Kuhr  
Kohala, Hawai'i

Drake Weinert  
East Hawai'i

Steve Lund  
Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer  
K'au, Hawaii

Maureen Datta  
Kona, Hawai'i

Robert Boudreaux  
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez  
Haleakala, Maui

Bobby Pahia  
Mauna Kahalawai,  
Maui

Kaipo Kekona  
Lahaina, Mau

Brynn Foster  
North Shore, Oahu

Christian Zuckerman  
Wai'anae, Oahu

Vincent Kimura  
Waimanalo, Oahu

Anabella Bruch  
Kauai

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB2431 and seeks an amendment to add an HFUU representative to the sustainable food systems working group.**

Local agriculture is a critical component of sustainable food systems. As most farms in the state are smallholder and family operations, which compose the majority HFUU farm members, we believe our participation in this working group will add an important and necessary perspective. Furthermore, HFUU's dedication to sustainable food systems has been a driving force of its membership growth, educational activities, and legislative goals. To exclude the voice of an organization representing small and family farmers with a dedication to sustainable agriculture would negatively impact the goals set forth in HB2431.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vincent Mina President HFUU/HFUF

**HB-2431-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 12:03:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support!

**#fixourfoodsystem**

**HB-2431-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 1:47:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the establishment of a sustainable food systems working group within the office of planning and sustainable development. Efforts towards a sustainable, resilient food system are a win:win for our community and the climate.

I strongly urge that a representative from the Hawaii Farmers Union United be added to the working group, as they would provide a highly knowledgeable, important and necessary perspective. I am unclear as to the logic of including a representative from the Hawaii tourism authority to this effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure!

**HB-2431-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 9:48:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rainbow Ulii	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**I would like to testify in SUPPORT of HB2431 HD1. I am a current student in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program at UH Mānoa, and have been doing research focused on food system planning at the state level. At the state and regional level, food system planning has become quite popular with more than 50% of states having an active plan, or one that is in development. From as early as 2005, states like California have been planning to create food system charters or plans that will help to move forward positive food system change. Local governments have been more aware of food insecurity within recent years, helping to identify a need for state and regional food system planning. Hawai'i's policies should support the creation of a state plan to encourage consumption of healthy foods, increased public health benefits, food security and access for all, and a less vulnerable food system of Hawai'i.**