

**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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2022**  
**10:00 A.M.**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2431**  
**RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

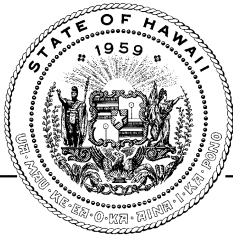
Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2431. The 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 offers comments.

The Department of Agriculture's mission is to further expand the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources for important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production. The Department is not a designated member of the proposed working group and respectfully requests to be agency member of the working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
DIRECTOR

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

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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**  
Wednesday, February 9, 2022  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325  
in consideration of  
**HB 2431**  
**RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports the intent of this measure and offers the following amendments** on HB 2431. 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 requests the following amendments to support the intent of this bill, provided that this bill does not replace, or impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget:

1. Page 4, line 14: extending the deadline from 2023 to 2024.
2. Page 4, line 20: dissolving the working group on December 31, 2023.
3. Adding an appropriation of \$150,000 for the purpose of executing this working group, coordinating stakeholder meetings, managing public meeting and website data management in accordance with the Sunshine Law, writing the plan, printing the plan, and potential services on a fee.
4. Adding an appropriation of \$60,000 for 1 FTE Sustainability Specialist to be employed by the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development’s Statewide Sustainability Branch.
5. Amending the bill’s effective date to: July 1, 2022.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**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

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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 Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

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 Hawai'ian 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



February 9, 2022

Rep. Mark Hashem, Chair  
Rep. Amy Perruso, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture

**RE: Testimony in support of SB 2431, Relating to a Sustainable Food Systems**

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawaii Foodbank, **I am writing in support of SB 2431**, which would establish a sustainable food systems working group within the office of planning and sustainable development.

Food security is a critical issue in Hawai'i, where one in six residents lacks comprehensive access to healthy, nutritious food. The pandemic has only amplified the need for Hawai'i to strengthen our local food systems, which would in turn support greater resilience, food security, environmental and human health, economic diversity, and stability. A statewide strategy is a necessary step to developing a more sustainable and resilient food system in Hawai'i and we welcome the opportunity to serve on the working group contemplated in this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Marvin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Amy Marvin  
President and CEO, Hawaii Foodbank



Hawaii Foodservice Alliance LLC, 2720 Waiwai Loop, Honolulu, HI 96819  
Tel: 808.839.2004 ~ Fax: 808.839.2033 ~ HFA@HFALHawaii.com

February 6, 2022

TO: Committee on Agriculture  
Chair Hashem  
Vice Chair Perruso

FROM: Chad Buck  
CEO  
Hawaii Foodservice Alliance LLC

RE: **Support** for HB 2431 pertaining to Sustainable Food System Working Group

I am writing this letter in **support for HB 2431** and the formation of a Sustainable Food System Working Group. House Bill 2431 includes representation from the key leaders and stakeholders in food security, agriculture, academia, health, climate change, sustainability, business, and Hawaii's native Hawaiian community.

**It is my strong belief that it will take the efforts and collaboration of all stakeholders to move our state toward a sustainable and food secure future.**

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **support of HB 2431**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Chad Buck", is written over a thin horizontal line.

Chad Buck  
Hawaii Foodservice Alliance LLC



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

#### **Executive Officers**

**Charlie Gustafson**, Tamura Super Market, *Chair*  
**Eddie Asato**, Pint Size Hawaii, *Vice Chair*  
**Gary Okimoto**, Safeway, *Secretary/Treas.*  
**Lauren Zirbel**, HFIA, *Executive Director*  
**John Schliff**, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor*  
**Stan Brown**, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*  
**Paul Kosasa**, ABC Stores, *Advisor*  
**Derek Kurisu**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

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TO: Committee on Agriculture  
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair  
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 9, 2022  
TIME: 10am  
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: HB2431 Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Position: Comments

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

HFIA supports the intent of this measure. Creating a vibrant and resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community. In order to ensure that the food industry is represented on this working group we ask that it be amended to include a "Representative of the Hawaii Food Industry Association, to be selected by the executive director of the Hawaii Food Industry Association." We thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

**HB2431**

Relating to Two-lined Spittlebugs

Wednesday, Feb 9, 2022, 10:00 AM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB2431** to establish the sustainable food systems working group within the office of planning and sustainable development.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director





67-332 Kaiea Pl.  
Waialua, HI 96791-9501  
808-383-4481  
[www.NSEVP.org](http://www.NSEVP.org)

February 7, 2022

House Committee on Agriculture  
Friday February 9, 2022, 10:00 am

SUBJECT: Support for HB 2431 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOODS

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso, 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 Establishes 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



**HB-2431**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 12:25:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ming Wei Koh	Center for Getting Things Started	Support	No

Comments:

Center for Getting Things Started supports HB2431 as a way to #fixourfoodsystem.

We have two suggestions/amendments.

1. Clearly include more neighbor island representation in the working group. While it does state on p. 3 (7) that at least one native Hawaiian representative must be from a county other than Honolulu, we propose that inclusion of neighbor islanders be more explicit in (b).

2. Include an educator who is currently teaching about food systems. Hawai'i Dept. of Education has an approved course ACCN SIF3503 with the course name of **Sustainable Food Systems**. This course will be taught in High Schools all over the state starting in the Fall of 2022. It will be beneficial to have this voice on the working group.

Mahalo nui loa.

Koh Ming Wei, PhD.

Executive Director/Ecoliteracy Educator

Center for Getting Things Started

**HB-2431**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:00:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Vince Kana`i Dodge	`Ai Pohaku	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou!

Writing and strong support of HB 2431.

Aloha Nui!

Vince Dodge

**HB-2431**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:35:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Teresa Gardner	Art Farm	Support	No

Comments:

As A Farmer I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT OF establishing sustainable food systems office.

With coordinating efforts we could be growing and employeing many in the agricultural field. Lets not over look our greatest resource is not just tourism but the aina istself and our plan to live in harmony with it in continuation of the Hwaiian cultural practices into a new modern age. How will we move forward as a state and a series of small counties and neighborrhods. How do we want to exist together?

**HB-2431**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 8:20:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Brian Miyamoto	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

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.

We request that HDOA be included as part of the Working Group.

**HB-2431**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:15:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lucas McKinnon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of the establishment of a sustainable food systems working group within the office of planning and sustainable development. Cross-sectoral and interdepartmental working groups will be essential for understanding and solving the challenging, intersectional issues of sustainable food systems here in Hawaii. Effective leadership and action on this matter can only be taken if there is cohesive and collaborative leadership from an office such as this. It is imperative, also, that the working group be comprised of multidisciplinary and diverse backgrounds, as laid out, to ensure that a diversity of voices is respected and able to influence the trajectory of "sustainable food systems" in the state.

**HB-2431**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:07:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Rainbow Ulii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I absolutely SUPPORT this bill. We NEED a plan for the food system of Hawai'i.

**HB-2431**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:56:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jennifer Rodwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a long time Hawaii resident, educator in our schools and sustainability advocate I strongly urge the support of this Bill to ensure progress for Hawaii and it's people.

**HB-2431**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 8:44:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

More Waste in the Government. We do not need a nother Department to do something that is all ready Covered that the Main Department .This is just like Money lundering.



**HB-2431**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:37:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Suzanne Fields	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This initiative to promote and advance sustainable food systems is LATE! This should have been done more than 50 years ago.

DO the right thing and move this proposed legislation forward. Government - specifically the Department of Agriculture - has been lagging for far too long.

The future is now or we will not have a food future!

**HB-2431**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:28:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB2431.

Sincerely, Deborah Umiamaka.

**HB-2431**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:39:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Karen Reid	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha -fully suport this bill that establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the office of planning and sustainable development as it is so vital & necessary. Mahalo, Karen

**HB-2431**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:50:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Charles Matthew Shofman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In strong support of HB 2431 Relating to Sustainable Food Systems. Hawai'i must focus our energies on sustainability in the food supply. We need to work together to grow this sustainability. We can achieve this by removing barriers against our farmers, and, establishing the legal and social framework to support that progress. Mahalo.

**HB-2431**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:30:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lauren Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

A Sustainable Food Systems Working Group is needed within the Office of Planning and Sustainable to ensure a sustainable future for Hawai'i. Agricultural systems are the number one polluter globally – but they have the potential to be close loop. Food is key to Hawai'i's sustainability and future. Please vote to support, #fixourfoodsystem

**HB-2431**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:52:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Rivah Winter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am in strong support of this bill, which will empower our local food system and make it more sustainable. #FixOurFoodSystem

**HB-2431**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:11:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Helmut Klauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support

**HB-2431**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:17:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sunny Savage	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

in strong support