



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, March 31, 2023 at 9:45 a.m.

By

Anna Wieczorek, Interim Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 308 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 308 HD1 SD1 which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). The purpose of this working group is to develop an interagency food systems plan linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for a more sustainable, resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community.

A sustainable food system is defined as one that provides sufficient food to meet current food needs while maintaining healthy ecosystems that support continuous food production for generations to come. To ensure equitable access to nutritional food that is produced with minimal impact on the environment, Hawai'i needs to encourage the development of sustainable food systems. Our food systems need to be serving our population's health, the environmental health of our land, and the economic health of our food and agricultural sector. Hawai'i needs to be proactive in making locally produced food widely available to our population. Similar to other parts of the world, Hawai'i is especially vulnerable to natural and human disasters that may have a negative impact on our own food security. Hence, the establishment of a working group focused on making our local food production more sustainable is one we certainly support.

In summary, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources supports HB 308 HD1 SD1, and defers to HDOA regarding the working group membership and the resources for the development of the interagency food systems plan. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

March 29, 2023



Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, March 31, 2023
9:45 am
Via Videoconference

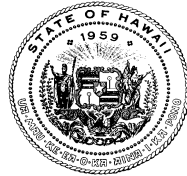
RE: **HB308 SD1** Relating to Sustainable Food Systems (**Support**)

Dear Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa & Members of the Committee,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC) testifies in strong support of HB308 SD1, which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture, requires the working group to submit an interagency food systems plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the Legislature, and appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions within the Department of Agriculture.

As business owners who strive for a triple bottom line and know we can strengthen our economy without hurting workers, consumers, or the environment, we urge this committee to pass HB308 SD1 because it will move us toward greater food security and strengthen our circular economy. It will increase "green" job opportunities and allow us to focus on land stewardship and environmental protection, and better prepare us for climate change resiliency.

With more and more families facing food insecurity, and farmers struggling to access affordable water and land, the time is now to do a better job planning for a stronger local food system.



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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 308, H.D. 1, S.D. 1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

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

Hearing Date: March 31, 2023

Room Number: Conference Room 211

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

4 **Department Testimony:** The DOH offers comments on House Bill 308, House Draft 1, Senate
5 Draft 1 (H.B. 308, H.D. 1, S.D. 1) which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working
6 Group within the DOA to develop and submit an interagency food systems plan.

7 The DOH strongly supports the development of a sustainable food system to ensure
8 access and availability of healthy food for the people of Hawaii, especially for those who face
9 greater health disparities. Major health authorities (including the U.S. Department of
10 Agriculture, Centers for Disease Control, and the World Health Organization) recommend
11 increasing fruit and vegetable intake as a means to prevent chronic disease and improve overall
12 health.^{1,2,3} However, access to fresh produce for income-limited individuals can be difficult and
13 is one of the reasons why they often have poorer diets and higher rates of chronic disease than

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

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

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

1 middle class and wealthy individuals.^{4,5} Hawaii has the highest cost of living in the nation with
2 food costs that are 82% higher than the national average.⁶ In Hawaii, less than one in five adults
3 reported eating five or more fruits and vegetable a day (2019 Behavioral Risk Factors
4 Surveillance System).⁷ The pandemic increased attention to the vulnerability of Hawaii’s food
5 systems and the need for a comprehensive approach and collaborative work towards a
6 sustainable food system.

7 The DOH coordinates the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education
8 (SNAP-Ed) and supports policy systems and environmental changes that make healthy lifestyles
9 easier where people eat, live, work, learn, shop, and play. Included in this work is the support of
10 Food Access Coordinators in each county to collaborate with stakeholders and build a network
11 dedicated to improving healthy food access and capacity within partner organizations and food
12 insecure populations. Through this work, the DOH has gathered many lessons learned and can
13 contribute knowledge around food security, climate change, social equity and food justice, and
14 community health and well-being.

15 The DOH stands ready to participate and appreciates the opportunity to contribute
16 knowledge from the many years of work on this important issue as a part of the Sustainable Food
17 Systems Working Group.

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

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

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

⁶ 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, 2019.



HB308 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

March 20, 2023

1:01 PM

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers its **STRONG SUPPORT** for HB308 HD1, which would establish the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to develop a plan for a more sustainable and resilient local food economy. **OHA appreciates the Legislature’s amendment to this measure, which would ensure that Native Hawaiian interests will be represented in Hawai’i’s sustainable food systems.**

He ali’i ka ‘āina; he kauwā ke kanaka. OHA wishes to express its strong support for this measure to establish a robust network of partners “to create a vibrant and resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community.” As the principal public agency in the State responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians,¹ OHA represents a vast community of hānai ‘ai (food producer-practitioners), a great many of whom are kahu holoholona (ranchers), mahi‘ai (farmers), lawai‘a (fishers), kanaka hahai holoholona (hunters), and hānai ‘ai (food producer-practitioners). Our traditional Native Hawaiian cultural practices are deeply rooted in familial bonds with the natural world and the cultivation of these connections over the span of millennia now serve as exemplary models for any sustainable Hawai’i-based food system.

Unfortunately, the fetid flow of historical injustice over the past 130 years has systemically severed Native Hawaiians from their ‘āina (the natural world), their traditions, and their cultures. Accordingly, Native Hawaiians now endure some of the worst socio-economic conditions among all peoples in this State, with ongoing inequities and disparities that continue to undermine Native Hawaiian existence. One of the most challenging social determinants of health for Native Hawaiians is economic well-being,² where Native Hawaiians have the highest rate of poverty and unemployment among Hawai’i’s major ethnic groups, and “lower average annual earnings than statewide averages for both men and women.”³ Once again, at the highest rate among the State’s major ethnic groups, 63% of Native Hawaiians are finding it difficult to survive,⁴ with a 60% majority of Native Hawaiians unable to make ends meet.⁵

¹ Id.

² Dept. of Native Hawaiian Health, John A, Burns School of Medicine, *Assessment and Priorities for the Health and Well-Being in Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders*, 2020, p. 12

³ Id.

⁴ Aloha United Way, *Alice in Hawai ‘i: 2022 Facts and Figures*, Nov. 2022, p.9.

⁵ Id. at 6.



HB308 HD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The late Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli once observed, “the health of the land is the health of the people.” Native Hawaiians, i ka wā kahiko (in the time long before), intimately understood the need to develop systems and practices – like mālama ‘āina – that would ensure the survival of the people into perpetuity. It has become preeminently clear, over the long struggle to address the inequities and disparities associated with the disturbing status of Native Hawaiian health, that the greatest hope for recovery is through the dismantling of these tangled systems that have kept Native Hawaiians landless and impoverished.

Widespread Native Hawaiian participation in a far-reaching Hawai‘i-based sustainable food system economy would be integral to achieving vast improvements in Native Hawaiian health and well-being by reconnecting Native Hawaiians with ‘āina and their traditional cultures, while simultaneously elevating Native Hawaiian socio-economic conditions through potentially limitless economic development opportunities. Na ke kanaka mahi‘ai ka imu ō nui (the well-filled imu belongs to the person who tills the soil).

Since its establishment in 1978, OHA has made substantial contributions toward the preservation and protection of agricultural lands and the perpetuation of hānai ‘ai cultures and practices. Through meaningful participation in this Working Group, OHA will continue to meet its strategic goals to address health outcomes and economic stability for the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians.

Finally, OHA appreciates and supports this provision for its insight into the value of Native Hawaiian representation and the potential contribution of Native Hawaiian knowledge to advance the purpose and function of this working group. **OHA is certain that its contribution to this Working Group would be unique, as OHA is best-positioned to represent the interests and aspirations of the Native Hawaiian people as the only entity with the constitutional and statutory mandate to serve the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians.**

OHA appreciates the opportunity to support this measure and asks the Legislature to **PASS HB308 HD1 SD1**. Mahalo nui loa.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson



**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2023
ROOM 211
9:45 A.M.**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 308, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 308, HD1, SD1. There is a companion measure, Senate Bill 420. Senate Draft 1 requires the Department of Agriculture (Department) to establish a 34-member "Sustainable Food Systems Working Group" (Working Group) that is responsible for creating an "Interagency Food Systems Plan" (Plan) linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for a more sustainable, resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community. The Plan is to focus on the following issues:

- (1) Food as a human right and healthy food for all;
- (2) Social equity and food justice;
- (3) Food system resilience;
- (4) Agriculture and food system sustainability;
- (5) Food at the center of a circular economy;
- (6) Sustainable education, workforce development, and fair labor; and
- (7) Good food governance.

Also, to be incorporated into the Plan are the counties' "food access plans".



The Department is to provide necessary staff support. There are two appropriations to the Department in support of the Working Group and its efforts, and the hiring of an unspecified number of “sustainability specialist” positions. The Plan is to be submitted to the 2025 Legislature. The Department offers comments and recommendations.

The Department is concerned about the size of the Working Group that is now 34 members, an increase of 11 members from the initial 23. The Department appreciates the addition of one farmer from each of the four counties that are to be selected by the Department Chair. The Department suggests that references to “representatives of the agricultural sector” (page 4, paragraphs (14) and (16)) be replaced with “farmers” to ensure the perspective sought is from agricultural producers.

The Department has been directed by the legislative and executive branches to focus on increasing local food self-sufficiency and we will expect the outcome required in this measure to comport with this goal. The Department would greatly appreciate legislative guidance to bring definitional clarity to the 7 issues that the proposed 34-member Working Group is to eventually develop into a coherent and functional “Interagency Food Systems Plan” with realistic recommendations.

Finally, while the measure proposes the creation of “sustainability specialist” positions to the Department, the Department currently lacks adequate staffing to host and support a working group of this size and importance at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Ke'ena Kuleana Ho'okipa O'Hawai'i
Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
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kahua pa'a web hawaii-tourismauthority.org

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor

John De Fries
President and Chief Executive Officer

LATE

Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, March 31, 2023
9:45 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 308 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

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

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of HB308 HD1 SD1, establishing the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture to complete an interagency food systems plan.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority's Destination Management Action Plans, also known as DMAPs, were developed in collaboration with Hawai'i's communities. Contained within the six plans are hundreds of actions and sub-actions identified by kama'āina, many of which speak to the importance of supporting local agriculture, shopping and dining with local businesses, and building capacity for agritourism.

The further development of sustainable food systems in Hawai'i addresses those DMAP actions, advances the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the principles of the 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures Declaration (to which HTA has committed), and moves us closer to a model of regenerative tourism. It also offers more avenues to capture visitor spending – over \$19 billion in 2022 – and keep those dollars circulating in Hawai'i.

HTA stands ready to participate in the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group, defers to our colleagues at the Department of Agriculture on matters of implementation, and appreciates the intent of HB308 HD1 SD1 to advance sustainable food systems in Hawai'i. Mahalo.



Monday February 20, 2023

Hawai'i State Senate
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

RE: SUPPORT of HB308 HD1 SD1

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee,

Too many families in Hawaii are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. A more resilient food system can address these various challenges, which require a coordinated approach.

A sustainable food system is one in which producers, retailers, members of the community, non-governmental organizations, and government agencies partner to create a vibrant and resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support HB 308 HD1 SD1 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Annalyssah Camacho, co-founder



HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 7:07:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vince Kana`i Dodge	Testifying for `Ai Pohaku- The Stone Eaters	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou!

Testifying in strong support of HB308HD1SD1 as a small business owner. Our current food system is a dinosaur, and obviously has not been able to adapt to the absolute need for much much greater food security in our beloved Hawaii nei.
Do some thing different.

This bill has garnered much supportive testimony. Please pass HB 308HD1SD1.

Mahalo Nui!

Vince Kana'i Dodge



Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB308 HD1 SD1

Friday, March 31, 2023 9:45 a.m. Conference Room 211

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

We support HB308 HD1 SD1 which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture. Requires the working group to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the Legislature. Appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions to be employed by the DOA.

A sustainable food system is one in which producers, retailers, members of the community, non-governmental organizations, and government agencies partner to create a vibrant and resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community.

Developing a more sustainable food system for Hawaii represents an opportunity to create a new food economy that integrates the objectives of "green" job creation, sustainable economic development, land stewardship, food security, environmental protection, and climate change resiliency with community health and well-being.

Please support HB308 HD1 SD1.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



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

March 31, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 308, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
9:45 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 308, HD1, SD1, which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the department of agriculture, requires the working group to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the legislature, and appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions to be employed by the department of agriculture.

The impacts of the COVID pandemic have highlighted the need to strengthen Hawai'i'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.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Friday, March 31, 2023 —9:45 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of HB 308 HD1 SD1, Relating to Sustainable Food Systems.

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 the 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 choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports the intent of HB 308 HD1 SD1 and offers amendments. This bill establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementation, and any proposed legislation.

Developing a statewide plan around food economics may help to serve the State of Hawai'i and the future of the local agricultural industry. However, while we acknowledge that this working group shows merit with its intentions, the sheer number of 34 participants, along with an inadequate number of actual food producer voices, creates some concern around efficiency and appropriate representation. We believe that more local producers need to be at the table and that the Department of Agriculture, whose responsibility is to serve those agriculturalists, should determine who those local farmers and ranchers should be.

Of the working group's 34 members, there are currently 8 potential producer voices identified on this working group, 4 listed as a "farmer" and 4 listed as "representatives of the agricultural sector." **We recommend adjusting the working group to double each category ("farmer" and "representatives of the agricultural sector") from 4 to 8 in order to ensure that the local producer's voice is heard and prioritized within the working group and consider limiting/removing other entities to promote efficiency.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:56:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Climate Protectors Hawaii support this measure for a sustainable foods working group within the Department of Agriculture. More local food means less greenhouse gas emissions associated with importing food from distant locations and greater food security and resilience.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

HB308 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Friday, March 31, 2023, 9:45 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB308 HD1 SD1** which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the department of agriculture.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports efforts to coordinate a comprehensive sustainable food plan for Hawaii. We thank the legislature for including us in this and are prepared for a representative from the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council to be included in this important working group. Cattle is consistently among Hawaii's top agricultural commodities, and it is important to have a representative present who is knowledgeable of the complex workings of the industry. In addition to being a top commodity, Hawaii's paniolo are stewards of the land and there are huge opportunities to utilize climate smart and circular economy practices in ranching.

Hawaii's cattlemen are well-equipped to provide a high-quality protein for farm to state procurement programs and the community as a whole. Raising cattle responsibly provides an important food source while ranchers steward the land. Land stewardship that cattle producers provide like rotational grazing and invasive species removal are beneficial practices for the land, and a strong cattle industry is important for food security in the state.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Madeline Ross
Kohala, Hawai'i

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Chantal Chung
Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

Brynn Foster
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki
Kauai

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means 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 HB308.**

As an amendment HFUU would like to, similar to all other parties, select its own representative to the working group.

We also urge the inclusion of a citizen's assembly focused on food into the planning approach of HB308. Citizen's assemblies provide a crucial platform for public input and collaboration, and incorporating a citizen assembly into HB308 will bolster community ownership and engagement in Hawaii's food system. By involving a diverse range of stakeholders in decision-making, we can collectively address the challenges we face, such as climate change, soil degradation, and water scarcity.

Moreover, while expert insights, like those represented in the task force, play an essential role in addressing food system challenges, they are unlikely to capture the diverse perspectives and unique needs of the communities this plan will impact. To wit, community lived experience should be central to food systems policy. A citizen's assembly would complement expert knowledge by incorporating local insights, cultural considerations, and the lived experiences of community members. This inclusive approach helps to ensure that policies and decisions are better tailored to the needs of the people they affect, fostering trust and buy-in from the community.

Over 500 such assemblies run in recent years have addressed myriad issues from homelessness to healthcare reform, and been managed from community to national scales. Further, there are robust tools developed by groups like the United Nations to guide these well documented processes.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

LATE



Aloha Committee Members,

My name is Arwen Revere and I am a high school student from Kailua. Today, I am testifying on behalf of the environmental organization Wild Kids. **We are in strong support of HB308 which would improve the health of our communities as well as our natural environment.**

In Hawai'i, nearly one in six residents, many of which are children, lack access to nutritious food. The pandemic has only heightened this, making food insecurity one of our state's greatest challenges. This bill supports greater food security, environmental and human health, as well as economic diversity and stability.

A sustainable food system provides sufficient food to meet current food needs while maintaining healthy ecosystems that support continuous food production for future generations as well. To ensure equitable access to nutritional food that is produced with minimal impact on the environment, Hawai'i needs to encourage the development of sustainable food systems. Our food systems need to be serving our population's health, the environmental health of our land, and the economic health of our food and agricultural sector. Hawai'i needs to take bigger steps in making locally produced food widely available to our citizens. Hawai'i is especially vulnerable to natural and human disasters that may have a negative impact on our own food security. Additionally, the current food system we have in place is extremely damaging to our environment and if action is not taken soon, this harm will be irreversible.

Thank you for hearing our testimony,

Arwen Revere on behalf of Wild Kids



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

Executive Officers

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

LATE

TO: Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 31, 2023
TIME: 9:45am

RE: HB308 HD1 SD1 Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Position: Support

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

HFIA is in support of this measure. Creating more sustainable, resilient local food economy is a goal we all share. HFIA has important industry knowledge and expertise to contribute to this group and we are glad to participate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 1:41:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 1:42:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel M Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity. Our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support HB308 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration, Samuel Mitchell Makiki NB-10

HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 5:10:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity. Our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these challenges only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support HB308 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

I appreciate your consideration,

Ezgi Green, Kaimanu/Waialua

HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 6:27:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB308 HD1 SD1.

HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 6:29:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Providing an income tax credit like the reimbursement transportation cost payment program that similarly reimburses producers for a portion of the cost to transport agricultural goods between the counties will reduce cost impacts to farm viability and consumer food price and support progress towards the State's Aloha+ Challenge commitment to increase local food consumption and production.

Please support local food producers and distributors and pass HB607.

Thank you for your consideration,

Your Timothy Starbright, Kapaa, Kauai

HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 7:10:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bethan Pualani Baptista	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha all concerned with this process. Please support this bill and every effort that's being the initiated for food reliance on each island and encourage the purchase of healthy food from Healthy Environments for healthy people. This is a pressing need and your support of this initiative, which includes providing and maintains healthy environments for a healthier economy and constituency must be a priority. I believe we all want and deserve a healthier environment economically, physically and financially. Health is wealth. Please support this effort, the people and future of the next generation. We need your full participation and heartfelt effort. Mahalo in Advance for Your Vote in the affirmative, Bethan Pualani Baptista

HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:11:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

TWe allknow that there are too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity. Our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support HB308 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration, Do the right thing.

Mary Lu Kelley, Kap', Kauai, HI

HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 6:48:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn J Ishii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity. Our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support HB308 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lynn Ishii, Wahiawā

HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:34:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity. Our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support HB308 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration,

Shay Chan Hodges

Haiku, Maui, Hawaii

LATE

HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 9:55:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support HB308 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

pamela burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

LATE

HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 12:17:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity. Our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support HB308 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration,
Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili

LATE

HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 12:23:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB308 HD1 SD1.

I really am on board with the idea of diversifying our economy to develop our local agricultural system.

It is my opinion that our reliance on outside foodstuffs, 'just-in-time' food supplies, and intense focus on mass tourism to fortify our economy is detrimental to our security and lifestyle here on the islands. Doing whatever we can to feed ourselves in this time of fraying globalization is of utmost importance.

And, as you know, too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity, which is appalling in a region where year-round agriculture is possible. Our farmers struggle to access affordable (and clean) land and water. Climate change, water supply, soil health, and other ecological concerns pose threats to our local food production.

However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to fixing our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

I believe having this group will help all sectors of our economy work together in cooperation instead of each group working from loose ends. Free enterprise does not have to be threatened, meaning that the group does not have to enforce policy but offer recommendations and information.

I believe many different sectors, if they have the right information will feel incentivized to work towards self-sufficiency in this manner and the working group can be a facilitator for this enterprise.

Mahalo for your hard work.

LATE

HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 1:48:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunny Savage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support!

LATE

HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 1:50:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Geyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support efforts to make our food systems more sustainable.

LATE

HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 2:17:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Establishing the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop a plan for a more sustainable, resilient local food economy will bring together the groups working on Sustainable Food in Hawaii and it's great to see so many organizations testifying in support.

It establishes this area as critical to the future of Hawaii. I always buy local and love the fresh food and local products. It's time to support and grow sustainability.

I urge you to pass HB308 HD1 SD1.

Mahalo,

Virginia Tincher, Oahu

LATE

HB-308-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 3:16:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ming Wei Koh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB308.

Establishing the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the HDOA fosters inclusive stakeholder participation in the development of a plan for a sustainable local food system. It is critical for Hawai'i to build food system resiliency as it is an isolated island food system that is inherently vulnerable to disruptions in the supply chain. The working group will better equip Hawai'i to effectively address many diverse issues within a complex system.

Furthermore Food Systems is now a Program of Study of CTE in HDOE High Schools. Students are learning how to fix our food system.

Please pass this.

Mahalo nui loa

Koh Ming Wei, PhD

12-7106 Puna Kai St.

Pahoa HI 96778

mingwei@c4gts.org