

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
COLONEL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2632,
RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY**

Before the House Committee on
HEALTH

By

Thomas L. Travis
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports the intent** of House Bill 2632.

House Bill 2632 authorizes the Governor to issue a proclamation of pre-disaster necessity for the purpose of assisting foodbanking organizations to maintain food stocks for an emergency.

While HI-EMA appreciates the interest brought up by this measure, it would not be prudent to single out food stocks without also considering other critical issues, keeping a constant strain on all of them. These issues include water, medical support, sheltering, and electrical power to name a few. Administering foodstuffs without balancing the challenges presented by administering other critical issues could result in an improvement in disaster management of food stuffs while harming other critical disaster management areas.

Note: My comments represent HI-EMA concerns at the state emergency management level only. I would defer to the separate comment/testimonies of the county emergency management agencies, as they would be the jurisdictions impacted by this legislation at the local level.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2632.

Thomas L. Travis: Thomas.L.Travis@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300



OFFICERS

Chair
Jeff Moken
Signature Flight Support - Hawaii

Vice Chair
Christina Hause
Kaiser Permanente

Secretary
James Starshak
Carlsmith Ball LLP

Treasurer
Neill Char
First Hawaiian Bank

President & CEO
Ron Mizutani
Hawaii Foodbank, Inc.

MEMBERS

Scott Gamble
LH Gamble Company

Terri Hansen-Shon
Terri Hansen & Associates, Inc.

Denise Hayashi Yamaguchi
Hawaii Wine & Food Festival

Peter Heilmann
Matson, Inc.

David Herndon
HMSA

Charlie King
King Auto Center

Jennifer Lam
Bank of Hawaii

Reggie Maldonado
Pasha Hawaii

Michael Miller
Tiki's Grill & Bar Waikiki

Greg Sato
Kobayashi Sugita & Goda

Darin Shigeta
American Savings Bank

Larry "Keola" Siafuafu
Hawaiian Electric Company

Toby Tamaye
AT Marketing LLC.

Mark Tonini
Hawaii Foodservice Alliance LLC

Jeff Vigilla
Chef Point of View

James Wataru
United Public Workers Union, AFSCME Local 646

Jason Wong
HFM Foodservice

Lauren Zirbel
Hawaii Food Industry Association

EMERITUS ADVISORY BOARD

Cindy Bauer
Surfing the Nations

Jade Moon
Community Volunteer

Ali Nikkhoo
Community Volunteer

Sheri Rolf
Rolf Advertising

Daryl Sato
Community Volunteer

EXECUTIVE PARTNERS BOARD

Rick Blangiardi
Hawaii News Now

Chuck Cotton
iHeartMedia, Inc.

Dennis Francis
Honolulu Star-Advertiser

D.K. Kodama
D.K. Restaurants

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony *in support of* HB 2632, which authorizes the Governor to issue a proclamation of pre-disaster necessity for the purpose of assisting foodbanking organizations to maintain food stocks for an emergency.

Hawaii Foodbank currently provides food to 1 in 8 Hawai'i residents each year, approximately 12.5% of the state population (almost 59,000 households). Majority of the food we distribute is donated (89%). We purchase about 10%, with a shipment period of about 4-6 weeks depending on the food's point of origin. In FY 2019, we designated one percent of the food received for disaster relief.

Food and water are basic human needs. Hawaii Foodbank distributed more than 12 million pounds of food on Oahu and Kauai in 2019. Our network of food banks, including our Kauai Branch, The Food Basket on Hawaii Island and Maui Food Bank, distributed 16.6 million pounds of food in total. Hawaii Foodbank provided approximately 450,353 pounds of food and supplies in the past year just for disaster relief on Kauai, Hawaii Island and Oahu. This includes our response to the epic April 2018 storm, the partial government shutdown and Hurricane Lane.

With help from the State, our food bank network can properly prepare for future disasters. Annual funding of 2.5 million dollars will provide enough food and water for at least 3 days for up to 1,000 households in the event of a disaster. This amount also takes into consideration the population we currently serve.

Many organizations specialize in disaster response, however, only food banks have existing structure, networks, logistical expertise and other resources already in place, that allow them to effectively respond in a way no one else can.

Hawaii Foodbank understands each disaster is unique and the cycle begins well before the disaster strikes, and lasts well after the winds and flood waters subside. To build its capacity to mount an effective response to disaster, the State must invest in solutions that address all three stages of the disaster cycle: preparedness, response, and recovery.

Hawaii Foodbank has been a trusted partner of the State for more than 36 years. We have the experience responding to crisis, and relationships with Feeding American and the local food industry that uniquely position us to respond swiftly and effectively when disaster strikes.

Food and hydration are top priorities and a chronic emergency for many in Hawaii every day. Now is the time for us to take action on a conversation that has been going far too long. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony.

With much respect and aloha,

Ron Mizutani
Hawaii Foodbank
President and Chief Executive Officer

Marielle Terbio
Hawaii Foodbank
Director of Community Engagement & Advocacy





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

Executive Officers

Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Chair*
Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Vice Chair*
Eddie Asato, The Pint Size Corp., *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
John Schlif, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor*
Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Beau Oshiro, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:
Committee on Health
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: January 30, 2020
TIME: 9am
PLACE: Conference Room 329

RE: HB2632 Relating to Food Security

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. Ensuring that Hawaii residents have access to food during a disaster is a top priority in emergency management in our state. The Honolulu Department of Emergency Management recommends that everyone have two a two weeks supply of food on hand to be prepared for a disaster. However, many people don't maintain that food supply and for families that are food insecure on a daily basis creating a two-week stock pile is simply not feasible. The fact is, when disaster strikes many Hawaii residents will rely on food donations and it makes sense to plan ahead for that eventuality. We encourage you to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2632

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 8:55:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: