

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 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020
9:45 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 309

SENATE BILL NO. 2722 SD2
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Chairperson McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2722 SD2, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub program to increase access to local food. It provides further for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub, requires reports to the Legislature, and makes an appropriation.

The Department supports this measure provided it does not adversely impact the Department's priorities in the Executive Budget and offers comments and clarifying amendments.

Food hubs are facilities that facilitate the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution and marketing of locally grown produce, and may help to increase local food self-sufficiency and the doubling of local food production in Hawaii.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation's Whitmore Community Food Hub Master Plan illustrates the complexity of the food hub concept as evidenced by the scale of the central Oahu agricultural community that it will serve. The participation of farmers and their involvement in managing the food hub are fundamental to ensure that production, processing, packaging, marketing, shipment, value-adding and other functions will be effectively and beneficially utilized.

Additionally, this measure clarifies that an applicant seeking to launch a new food hub in an area where none exists shall have secured a physical location for the hub and



have drafted a detailed plan for the operation of a food hub. We believe that project planning and farmer engagement should be conducted before developing new or improving existing qualifying food hubs statewide.

The Department is aware of four food hubs on Oahu, four on Hawaii Island, and one each on Maui and Molokai, identified as follows:

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

These food hubs are providing jobs, representing hundreds of small to medium sized farms, serving thousands of customers, and producing over \$2.5 million in annual gross income.

The Department agrees that food hubs may become a more important link in the supply chain to channel more local food to the consumers and institutions of the State. This measure addresses the challenge of local small farmers to scale-up production by providing a pathway to the larger purchasers of safe and marginally processed, locally grown, fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Department offers the following amendments:

Page 2, lines 6-19

"SECTION 2. (a) There is established a five-year food hub pilot program, which shall be administered by the department of agriculture.

(b) The pilot program shall:

(1) Adopt the United States Department of Agriculture's working definition of "food hub," which means "a centrally located facility with a business management structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and/or marketing of locally/regionally produced food products;" and

(2) Award grant funding to qualified applicants for the **planning, feasibility studies, and** construction of critical

infrastructure to establish new food hubs and expand existing food hubs in each of the counties of Maui, Kauai, Hawaii, and Honolulu, including:"

Page 3, line 6 to page 4, line 9

"(c) The department of agriculture shall establish criteria for the award of initial start-up grant funding or subsequent expansion funding under the pilot program, including the following provisions:

(1) Priority shall be given to organizations with demonstrated experience in aggregation, washing, minimal processing, packaging, cold storage, and other value-additions for delivering local produce to local markets;

(2) Qualifying applicants shall include corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, sole proprietorships, non-profit organizations, and agricultural cooperatives with requisite insurance requirements and a certificate of vendor compliance with Hawaii compliance express;

(3) Applicants seeking to launch new establishment of food hubs in areas where none currently exist shall have first secured a physical location for the food hub; ~~and~~ drafted a detailed plan for the food hub's operation and management; provide evidence of interest to engage with the food hub by agricultural operations in the area, ~~including; identify~~ activities in which the applicant intends to engage, such as serving as a marketplace for buying and selling, or providing certified kitchen space in which multiple farmers may share use of facilities for value-added product development; and"

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Vincent Mina
President HFUU-HFUF

Anny Bruch
Vice President &
Kaua'i Chapter Pres.

David Case
Secretary

Annie Alvarado
Treasurer

~~~~~<>~~~~~

**Christian Zuckerman**  
Wai'anae, O'ahu

**Vincent Kimura**  
Waimanalo, O'ahu

**Brynn Foster**  
North Shore, O'ahu

**Kaipo Kekona**  
Lahaina, Maui

**Bobby Pahia**  
Kahalawai, Maui

**John Dobovan**  
Haleakala, Maui

**Matthew Van Paepeghem**  
Hana, Maui

**Dash Kuhr**  
Kohala, Hawai'i  
Legislative Chair

**Maureen Datta**  
Kona, Hawai'i

**Steve Lund**  
Puna, Hawai'i

**Drake Weinert**  
East Hawai'i

**Matt Drayer**  
Ka'u, Hawai'i

**Saleh Azizi**  
Policy Chair



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2272 SD2  
before the Committee on Economic and Business Development  
on Wednesday, 03-13-20 9:45 AM in conference room 309.

Aloha Chair McKelvey and Committee,

HFUU is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy, nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters organized as 13 Chapters in the four Hawai'i Counties. In 2017, the Legislature awarded Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation a Grant in Aid project to Strengthen Regional Food Hubs in Hawai'i. As part of that project, the coordinator, Dr. Saleh Azizi, facilitated a focus group among multiple food hubs to improve our understanding of the resources needed for food hubs to be sustainable and respond to demand for local food, especially by the Farm-to-State initiative. The result of the focus group, which was participated by a majority of Hawaii's existing food hubs, are now in front of you, a Food Hub Pilot program to support existing and new food hubs in all of Hawaii's counties.

Almost all food hub developments in Hawaii were launched by family farmers to help other small-scale family farming. Food hubs are entities in or nearby farm communities that support small farmers with aggregation, processing, marketing and sale of locally grown food. Research by Dr. Noa Lincoln at UH Manoa suggest that much of the local food grown by Hawaii's residents and small farmers is unaccounted for and often overlooked in official reporting about local food production. The dark number of unaccounted local food is now being captured by food hubs all over Hawaii. Less than ten food hubs that are affiliated with HFUU facilitate marketing, sale and delivery of local food on behalf of over 500 family farmers. A recent survey of 8 food hubs by Hawaii Farmers Union United shows that they represent over 650 small and medium farms and generate 2.7 million in income annually in local food sales.

HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED

Vincent Mina, President



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Josh Frost - President • Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Kristin Hamada  
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Friday, March 13, 2020

Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program  
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports SB2722 SD2 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a 5 year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food and provides for grant funding for qualified applicants to establish or expand a food hub.

The creation and encouragement of community food hubs could help Hawai'i meet its food sustainability goals. Food hubs help to expand market access to small and medium sized farmers creating a way for those entities to sell their products on a much larger scale. Food hubs create jobs and strengthen economies all while increasing access to fresh, healthy locally produced food. This can be a win-win scenario for our local communities.

For all these reasons, we urge you to move this bill forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity,  
Gary Hooser  
Executive Director  
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

March 10, 2020

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS



HEARING DATE:

Friday, March 13, 2020, 9:45 AM

PLACE:

Conference Room 309  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

***Testimony in support of SB 2722 SD2***

Farm Link Hawai'i is a food hub that directly supports over 100 farmers, ranchers and producers throughout the state of Hawai'i. Since 2015, Farm Link's online marketplace and delivery service have been making it easy to support local farms. Farm Link currently delivers to commercial buyers, including Foodland and Whole Foods Market in addition to 100+ restaurants, caterers, and schools. We also allow household buyers to order for pickup at designated locations around O'ahu.

I am writing in strong support of SB 2722 SD2 to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. Food hubs operate on extremely thin margins. Establishing and growing a food hub require an extraordinary amount of capital and support to have a chance at survival. The proposed SB 2722 SD2 would provide grant assistance to food hubs to reduce risk and increase their impact.

Farm Link Hawai'i has relied heavily on federal and state grants to launch and continue to scale. We would not exist without such assistance and are continually looking for additional support in order to reach financial viability. Please consider passing SB 2722 SD2 to help us continue to do work to increase local food production and consumption.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Barreca", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert Barreca  
Founder and CEO  
Farm Link Hawai'i  
[rob@farmlinkhawaii.com](mailto:rob@farmlinkhawaii.com)  
(808) 201-5252

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 6:27:42 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nancy Redfeather    | Ka Ohana O Na Pua   | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Although it doesn't mention this in the Bill, the DOE's 'Aina Pono Program hopes to eventually procure more locally grown foods for the children's breakfast and lunch service. Instead of procuring products in one Honolulu location, having Island Food Hubs would allow products to be aggregated locally in smaller lots, which would enable MANY more farmers to participate. The total amount of the Bill at \$1,000,000 is much too small for 5 hubs. Consider increasing the dollar amount. Hopefully this adds to our Island's ability to procure locally produced foods.

Aloha, Nancy Redfeather

Director: Ka Ohana O Na Pua - Serving the agricultural education needs of Hawai'i Island since 1991.

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 7:54:36 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                                   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Harriet Witt        | Hawaii Farmers Union<br>United - Haleakala<br>Chapter | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

We need this bill so that we can move beyond our dangerous dependence on the mainland for our food. Please support it. Mahalo, Harriet Witt

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 11:13:49 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Helmut Klauer       | A'a Li'i Farm       | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:



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

March 11, 2020

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

**SUBJECT:** Support for SB2722SD2 – Food Hub Pilot Program

(Date/Time of Hearing: 2/5/2020 at 1:15 p.m.)

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kitagawa 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 SB2722, which will establish a five-year food hub pilot program within the Department of Agriculture.

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

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

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

With the GroupGAP program now operating statewide we have recently turned our attention back to the North Shore regional food hub. Our research indicates that in Hawaii a viable food hub will require approximately 4-6,000ft<sup>2</sup> of floor space (~2,000ft<sup>2</sup> refrigerated), 7-10 employees, 1-2 trucks and gross revenue of ~\$1.5 million or more. Contrary to the legislature's findings, there are in fact several avenues of federal funding available for construction of such facilities including USDA Rural Business Development grants, USDA Community Facilities grant/loan packages, and USDA Rural Energy grants to name but a few. In addition, the state has several programs that would directly benefit a food hub project including Enterprise Zones and DBEDT's Manufacturing Assistance Program (MAP).

We applaud the legislature for its recognition of the role food hubs can play in meeting state goals of doubling the food supply and promoting food resiliency in Hawaii and we recognize that there is not a silver bullet that will address the needs of every community.

We therefore ask that this bill be amended to include funding for food hub planning as one of the initial start-up grant priority areas. As alluded to above funding and construction of a food hub at the scale needed to insure profitability requires significant coordination of stakeholders and resources. It requires feasibility studies and master planning. And, because of the competitive nature of some awards and grant funding cycles, the entire process can be expected to take from 2-3 years before construction begins.

SB2722 is a positive step in the right direction for establishing a network of food hubs across the state that can open new markets for small farms, increase the availability of fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables and expand the tax base through new job creation and import substitution. North Shore EVP strongly supports this bill.

Sincerely,

*Kevin M Kelly*

Kevin Kelly  
President & CEO  
North Shore EVP

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 3:25:25 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>        | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| scott lacasse       | Hawai'i Farm to School Hui | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:



Date: March 11, 2020

To: Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Business

From: Lydi Bernal, Coordinator, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Re: SUPPORT for SB2722 SD2, Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program

Hrg: March 13, 2020 at 9:45am at Conference Room 309

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Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB2722 SD2**, which requires the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to establish a five-year food hub pilot program and provides for the awarding of grant funding to establish and expand food hubs.

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) works to advance policy and systems change to reduce disparities and improve the health of Hawai'i residents. HIPHI is home to and testifies here on behalf of the Obesity Prevention Task Force<sup>1</sup> and the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui<sup>2</sup>, which **collectively represent over 60 organizations from across the islands**.

Through our extensive experience with strengthening Hawaii's farm to school movement over the past decade, it has become abundantly clear that **food hubs are an absolutely essential and key component to regenerating Hawaii's community food systems**, and thus to achieving food security and food self sufficiency in Hawai'i. This bill is critically important for supporting the sustainability and growth of small family farms (which constitute 95% of all farms in Hawai'i<sup>3</sup>) by significantly expanding their access to large institutional markets such as the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE).

On January 30, 2020 the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, HIDOE School Food Services Branch (SFSB), and partners hosted a **webinar for farmers and distributors** on supplying fresh and local produce to HIDOE. The turnout was impressive with over 120 registered participants. Importantly the three panelists representing those with experience sourcing local produce to HIDOE were from **community-based food hubs**, including the Kohala Food Hub, Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative, and Sustainable Molokai. Each entity serves as a regional aggregation center, sourcing from dozens of small family farms and supplying thousands of pounds of locally grown foods annually to HIDOE SFSB.

Thanks to the **strategic investments** made during the last several years by the Hawai'i State Legislature (including funding for the HDOA Hawai'i Farm to School Program, HIDOE SFSB Farm

to School Coordinator, and HDOA Farm to State positions), and the focused efforts of a multitude of community partners, we are beginning to see the first fruits of Hawaii's farm to school movement. We respectfully request that you to **please pass this bill as an essential next step** toward achieving our shared vision for food security and food self sufficiency in Hawai'i!

Me Ke Aloha,

Lydi Bernal  
Coordinator, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui  
Member, Obesity Prevention Task Force  
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

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<sup>1</sup> Created by the legislature in 2012, the **Obesity Prevention Task Force** is comprised of over 40 statewide organizations, and works to make recommendations to reshape Hawaii's school, work, community, and health care environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents.

<sup>2</sup> The **Hawai'i Farm to School Hui** is a statewide network comprised of five island-level networks, community organizations, schools, state agencies, and other food systems stakeholders with a collective mission to strengthen Hawaii's farm to school movement. The three pillars of successful farm to school programs are 1) school gardens, 2) agriculture, culinary, nutrition, and food systems education, and 3) school food improvements through local food procurement. The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui formed in 2010 and became a program of HIPHI in 2017.

<sup>3</sup> United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) **2017 Census of Agriculture**. Small farms are defined by USDA as earning less than \$250,000 in gross sales per year, which applies to 5,250 of 5,521 (95%) farms in Hawai'i. Importantly, 75% (3998 of 5316) of Hawaii's farms are one to nine acres in size.



3/11/2020

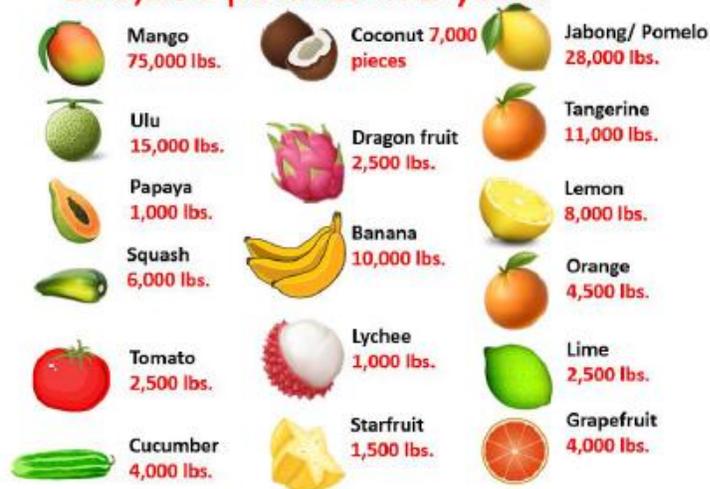
TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2722 SD2 BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS

Aloha Chair McKelvey and members of the Committee,

Alternative Structures International (dba Kahumana Organic Farms), a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization operating on 50 acres in Lualualei Valley in Waianae. Since its establishment in 1974, Kahumana has integrated social services with training venues and social ventures that work toward three goals: 1. Ending Local Family Homelessness, 2. Providing Services for People With Developmental Disabilities, and 3. Lowering Hawaii's Dependence on Imported Food.

In 2017, Kahumana launched Kahumana Farm Hub (KFH) with the mission of connecting local growers with local markets. The hub facilitates sales on behalf of small farmers and backyard growers on the Leeward Coast of Oahu. The hub has been a powerful reminder of how Hawaii residents can contribute to food security. In the first 2 years KFH generated a total of \$280,499 of which \$204,325 was paid directly to over 100 growers (see image 1). KFH shows that multiple small farmers and backyard growers create a resilient network illustrating the strength in numbers of backyard grower and their contribution to Hawaii's local economy.

**KFH local food supply-  
200,000 pounds in 2 years**



Sincerely,

Christian Zuckerman  
Farm Director,  
Kahumana Organic  
Farms  
86-660 Lualualei  
Homestead Road,  
96792, Waianae HI

Image 1- Kahumana Farm Hub. In 2017, The Grants-in-Aid funded Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation grant to strengthen community food hubs among them the Kahumana Farm Hub. Currently, KFH supports over 100 Ohana growers from the Leeward Coast of Oahu by assisting growers with marketing and sale of their locally grown fruits and vegetables.

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 7:47:00 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| BELLA HUGHES        | Shaka Tea           | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support for SB2722 and as a small-business owner in the food and ag space, I cannot emphasize enough how much we need the establishment of a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food in our islands; support small farmers; and create economic growth.

Food hubs are critical for expanding farm to school and farm to state growth by allowing small farmers (95% of Hawaii's farms!) to aggregate, store, wash/process, pack, market, and distribute produce and other foods, in addition to bidding on larger contracts offered by state institutions. Food hubs support both existing and new farmers.

SB2722 is urgently needed to expand current efforts, as well as to increase government investment in farm to school and farm to state. SB2722 will also support the regeneration of Hawaii's community food systems toward achieving food security and self sufficiency in Hawai'i.

Mahalo in advance for your consideration and hopefully your support for SB2722!

Warmly,

Bella Hughes

Shaka Tea President

[www.shakatea.com](http://www.shakatea.com)



**TESTIMONY OF THE KAHANA FOUNDATION IN REGARD TO SB2722 SD2  
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS  
MARCH 13, 2020 9:45AM ROOM 309**

Dear Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tenaiya Brookfield, and I am the Co-Founder & Director of Outreach at the Kahana Foundation. We are a Hawai'i-based environmental awareness organization working to improve our community's understanding and support for sustainable change.

Kahana Foundation **supports** SB2722 SD2, relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program requiring the Department of Agriculture to establish a 5-year food hub pilot program, for the following reasons:

**Help Achieve State Sustainability Goals**

Food security and sustainability is of critical importance for Hawaii. The State Department of Agriculture estimated that 80 - 90% of food in Hawaii is imported<sup>1</sup>. Should an interruption occur due to natural disaster or other external factors beyond the State's control, current food sources would last just 3-10 days<sup>2</sup>.

The Aloha+ challenge aims to improve this by calling for the doubling of local food production by 2030<sup>3</sup>. In order for farmers to produce more food, they need logistical assistance to focus on what they do best; producing more local food. Without this support, it is unlikely Hawaii can achieve its sustainability goals.

**Farmers Can't Do This on Their Own**

Large obstacles currently exist for small farmers to get their food to market. A full time employee would be required to engage in market research, marketing of their farm, pitching or altering crops and services, negotiating contracts, balancing supply and demand, and maintaining relationships<sup>4</sup>. Many farmers don't have the resources to showcase their products at just one farmer's market on one island, let alone connect with larger grocery chains and hundreds of restaurants, schools and businesses.

Additional resources and manpower is required for processing, certification, insurance, accounting, refrigeration, and transportation. Consolidating these efforts not only removes barriers for farmers who wouldn't have been able to scale before, while providing the economic benefit of new jobs.

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<sup>1</sup> "Increased Food Security And Self Sufficiency - Hawaii.gov."  
[http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/spb/INCREASED\\_FOOD\\_SECURITY\\_AND\\_FOOD\\_SELF\\_SUFFICIENCY\\_STRATEGY.pdf](http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/spb/INCREASED_FOOD_SECURITY_AND_FOOD_SELF_SUFFICIENCY_STRATEGY.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> "hawaii emergency management agency - Hawaii DOD." 7 Mar. 2018,  
[https://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/files/2018/04/HI\\_EMA-vulnerability-presentation.pdf](https://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/files/2018/04/HI_EMA-vulnerability-presentation.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> "Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona ...." 30 Jun. 2016,  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=8026>.

<sup>4</sup> "Food Value Chains and Food Hubs | Agricultural Marketing ...."  
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/food-hubs>.

## Small Farms are Instrumental to Hawaii's Soil & Ecosystem Integrity

According to the 2017 USDA NASS Census of Agriculture, 66% of farms in the State of Hawaii are small, ranging between 1–9 acres<sup>5</sup>. Small farms usually have a more diverse cropland, while large producers tend to focus on monoculture (single crop production)<sup>6</sup>. Allowing small farmers to participate in larger markets will ensure their economic survival and subsequently Hawaii's long term ecosystem survival.

The negative effects of monoculture are far reaching, compounding, economically unsustainable in the long term, and in some cases can cause irreversible damage to ecosystems<sup>7</sup>. When a single crop is grown, biodiversity is compromised, crops are more susceptible to harmful organisms, pesticide and synthetic fertilizer use increases, top soil degradation occurs, groundwater pollution of chemicals is prevalent, and surrounding ecosystems are compromised. The EPA reports that although coral reefs face numerous threats, many come directly from agricultural pollution<sup>8</sup>.

## Helps Businesses & Families Choose Local

Families access to local food is limited to what items are stocked in large chain grocery stores, or select few farmers markets on certain days of the week. Virtual food hubs can be set up to allow families to order food online at one place but receive products from a variety of farmers<sup>9</sup>. Barriers for businesses to source from small local farms would also be lowered. Instead of being forced to work with the products of one large supplier of often imported products, food hubs would open the doors to resources and competition from a variety of local farms.

Kahana Foundation **supports** SB2722 SD2 and thanks you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,



Tenaiya Brookfield  
Co-Founder & Director of Outreach  
Kahana Foundation  
Contact@KahanaFoundation.org

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<sup>5</sup> "228 Hawaii 2017 Census of Agriculture - National Agricultural ...."

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_2\\_County\\_Level/Hawaii/st15\\_2\\_0008\\_0008.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_2_County_Level/Hawaii/st15_2_0008_0008.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> "Crop Species Diversity Changes in the United States ... - PLOS." 25 Aug. 2015, <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0136580>.

<sup>7</sup> "The Dangers of Monoculture Farming - Challenge Advisory." 7 Oct. 2018, <https://www.challenge.org/knowledgeitems/the-dangers-of-monoculture-farming/>.

<sup>8</sup> "Threats to Coral Reefs | Coral Reefs | US EPA." 3 May. 2018, <https://www.epa.gov/coral-reefs/threats-coral-reefs>.

<sup>9</sup> "Virtual food hubs tap into local food markets - USDA Rural ...." <https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/CoopMag-may11.pdf>.



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS  
Friday, March 13, 2020 — 9:45 a.m. — Room 309

**Ulupono Initiative supports SB 2722 SD 2, Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program.**

Dear Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Hennessey, and I am the Senior Vice President of Communications & External Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve our community's quality of life by creating more locally produced food; increasing affordable clean renewable energy and transportation options; and better managing waste and fresh water resources.

**Ulupono supports SB 2722 SD 2**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a 5-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food.

Ulupono supports the efforts of food hubs statewide as they serve as critical aggregation, food processing, and distribution for small farmers to access local markets. By increasing local market accessibility, small farmers will be able to provide a fresh, healthy product for consumers statewide. According to the 2017 USDA NASS Census of Agriculture, of Hawai'i's 7,328 farms statewide, 66%, or 4,868 farms, are between 1–9 acres and 78%, or 5,701 farms, produce less than \$25,000 in sales. Hawai'i's agricultural producer majority is small farmers. State supported food hubs allow Hawai'i's producers the opportunity to compete with local markets while also remaining financially viable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Amy Hennessey, APR  
Senior Vice President, Communications & External Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



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March 13, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2722, SD2**  
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Room 309  
9:45 AM

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

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

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 2722, SD2**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food and provides for the award of grant funding by qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub.

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

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

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



**MAUI**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 309  
FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020 AT 9:45 A.M.**

To The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair;  
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair; and  
Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Business,

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2722 RELATING TO  
A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM**

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap and I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, with approximately 650 members. I am writing share our support of SB2722.

The farming community is changing and in the past, we had stronger co-ops who assisted with marketing, production and distribution. We appreciate and support this bill to create a food hub pilot program and that the requirements include food hubs for all counties. Food hubs would help local farmers and ranchers, food manufacturers and the community.

However, the \$1,000,000 appropriation for the whole state equates to \$250,000 per county. We feel it will be difficult to build the type of facility described in the bill for this amount. This is also dependent upon what types of local foods are being processed in this facility as meat, fruits and leafy greens are all handled differently.

Further, since this is a 5-year pilot program, we believe it would be valuable to include a deadline to have a facility up and running earlier in the pilot. For example, if it takes 4 years to build a facility, that would only give 1 year to assess the operation and effectiveness of the program.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this matter and ask that this bill be passed.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

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

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 9:38:54 AM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                                             | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ming Wei Koh        | Center for Getting Things Started and Hawaii Farm to School Hui | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Center for Getting Things Started focuses on climate change mitigation and adaptation through education and climate-cooling cultural practices. Through our extensive experience with strengthening Hawaii's food security it has become abundantly clear that food hubs are an absolutely essential and a key component to regenerating Hawaii's community food systems, and thus to achieving food security and food self sufficiency in Hawai'i. This bill is critically important for supporting the sustainability and growth of small family farms (which constitute 95% of all farms in Hawai'i) by significantly expanding their access to large institutional markets such as theHawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE), hospitals and other large institutions.

This bill will complement HB 2215 HD1 Workforce Development Coordinator & P-20 Agriculture Education as Food Hubs will create local green jobs and be an excellent place for youth to gain experiences in the food system through field trips, and job-shadowing opportunities.

I am also writing as a founding member of Hawaii Farm to School Hui. We have submitted written testimony.

We respectfully request that you to please pass this bill as an essential next step toward achieving our shared vision for food security and food self sufficiency in Hawai'i.

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 10:34:09 AM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Springer Kaye       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As an owner of a farm without access to county water, I strongly support this bill. Food hubs provide a central location with facilities that are often beyond the means of individual small farmers to wash (with clean, safe water), process, and market their produce. Food hubs have long been established as a successful way to stimulate local food production in other farming regions of the U.S. Your support for this bill is greatly appreciated.

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 12:54:01 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Linda Hastings      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 1:24:36 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ken Stover          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 1:44:29 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Vince Kana`i Dodge  | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Legislators!

Writing in strong support of SB2722SD2. As a local food producer and backyard farmer I have participated in the Kahumana food hub. The food hub is an excellent way for people to make use of their extra fruits and vegetables. What do u do w ur surplus mangos? Mostly they fall on the ground and rot yeah. You don't need a large quantity to make a sale at the food hub and when u buy from the hub the price is good. Food hub is a great example of Malama Aina and Malama ke kahi i kekahi- making responsible use of the Aina and sharing w people. It's a grassroots economic Engine. Plz support SB2722SD2

aloha nui!

vince Kanai dodge

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 1:45:32 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| devin               | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am a local farmer and I support this bill. I think it will be beneficial to the economy and to developing products that will bring money into the state.

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 2:35:48 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Suzanne Fields      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Supporting and funding the establishment of Food Hubs is a MUST for Hawaii Nei if we are ever to move toward food sustainability.

There are MANY factors necessary to move in that direction to reduce the 85% of food importation. Having geographically available and accessible is critical for farmers and for the public.

Food Hubs are a critical component to establish food sustainability targets and successively reduce food importation rates year over year with an end goal of being food independent - much like the energy independence targets that have been established for Hawaii.

Access to healthy, locally grown, and accessible food is CRITICAL!!!

YOU MUST SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION for the current and future health of our communities, our keiki, and our collective abilities to be self sustaining depends on ensuring that Food Hubs are established.

Suzanne Fields

Haiku, Maui

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 4:35:27 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jennifer Rodwell    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear Comittee, thank you for your tiem and energy once again this legislative season. As a resident of Hawaii for almost 30 yrs, working in our public school system and an academic background in conservation and sustainability I can't think of a better time, in the midst of unusual epidemics happennign all around the world, we as an island are particularly fragile and I couldn't think of a better time for food self sufficiency for Hawaii to be at the forefront of agricultural endeavours island wide. The Food Hub program will pave way for this future. Please consider the immensely positive ramifications of this bill and help your island and constituents. Thank you!

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 4:36:01 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>     | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Catherine Kwan Yuk Chan | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

For new farmers, young farmers this is an important bill to make the final stage of the supply chain easier as a lot of work and energy is being taken up by producing, managing the weed and pathogens and left no time for selling. Of course farmers cannot afford their own cool storage.the hubs will encourage buying authentic local produce and they will be the outlets for local farmers. Please support this for the future of ag in Hawaii.

Thanks for listening.

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 5:17:41 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Keith Ranney        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 6:02:06 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Karen Winslow       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 6:02:22 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Thomas Craig        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 6:07:47 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jacqueline S. Ambrose | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 8:04:04 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ariel Douvris       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 8:21:20 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John Douvris        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 5:20:18 AM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| La'akea Kaufman     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As a citizen and farmer, I am in strong support of this bill to help take us forward in our community goals to become more independent in our food production and consumption. This bill is a vital step toward becoming more self sufficient, bolstering our economy toward land stewardship, and feeding the people here.

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 9:12:46 AM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| valerie Lasciak     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

A farmer needs to distribute their vegetables. Local distribution is cheaper than shipping and the near community benefits from their efforts as well.

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 11:25:51 AM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hunter Heavilin     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 11:41:44 AM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John NAYLOR         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 2:10:24 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dr. Jana Bogs       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 4:36:56 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aisha Heredia       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong support of **SB2722 SD2**, as Food hubs are critical to expanding us into a farm to school state. We are islands supported by imports, to become more a more self-sustainable agricultural industry Food Hubs are necessary to support our economy of small farmers. These hubs will allow small farmers (95% of Hawaii's farms) to aggregate, store, wash/process, pack, market, and distribute produce and other foods and to bid on larger contracts offered by state institutions (schools, hospitals, prisons). Food hubs support existing and new farmers by relieving/sharing the burden of these significant challenges.

**I am proud supporter of SB2722 SD2, and a member of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui.**

Thank you for allowing me to share this testimony, mahalo.

Aisha Heredia

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 5:03:54 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Paul Marshall       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

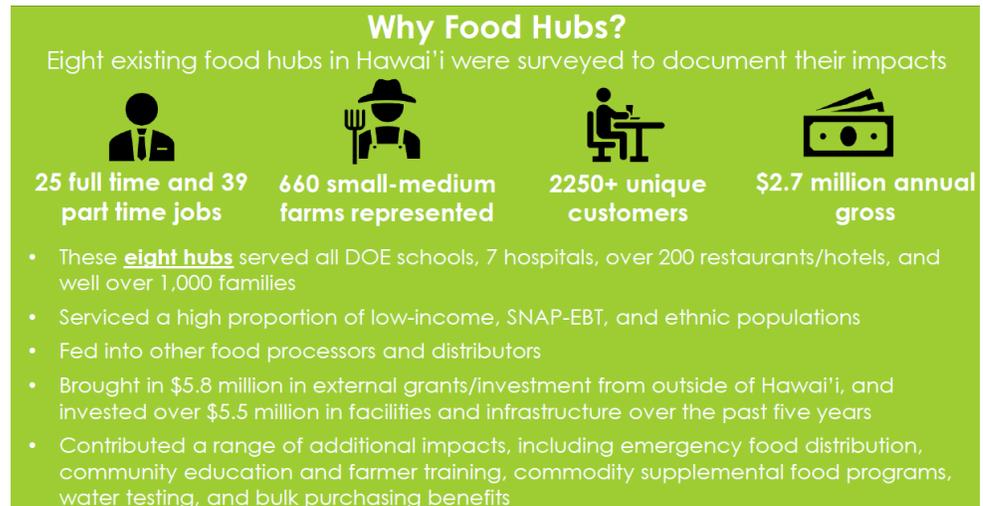
Comments:

3/11/2020

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2722 SD2 BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS

Aloha Chair McKelvey and members of the Committee,

A recent survey of 8 food hubs by the Hawai'i Farmers Union United show that they represent over 650 small and medium farms and generate 2.7 million in income annually in local food sales (see image below).



By way of introduction, I am Saleh Azizi, and I am the Community Economic Development Coordinator at Kahumana Organic Farms, an organization operating for 40 years in Wai'anae. In 2019, I worked with the Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation as a Food Hub Coordinator. I facilitated meetings with ten existing food hubs to document the obstacles they face in their journey to expand operations and services for the benefit of small farmers who grow local food for Hawai'i's consumers. The observations and recommendations compromised a central part of my PhD. Dissertation that was awarded in 2019 by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Food hubs create economic development opportunities at local community and neighborhood level in ways that celebrates Hawai'i's historical and cultural abundance of cultivating and sharing food.

Saleh Azizi Fardkhales, PhD

808-383 5224

[azizi@hawaii.edu](mailto:azizi@hawaii.edu)

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 5:34:12 AM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Yoshito L'Hote      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Food hubs are going to be vital to the success of the local food system.

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 9:20:25 AM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Amy Brinker         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 10:12:20 AM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sam Kakazu          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

In conjunction with the Hawaii Farm to School Hui, HIPHI, P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group and consortium of individuals and NGOs collaborating on the Keiki to Kupuna Agriculture A'na & Food Systems Education 2020 Policy Agenda, I am in strong support of this bill.

Mahalo

Sam Kakazu, BEES>me (Agriculture Advocate)

**LATE**

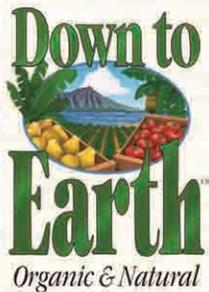
**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 10:26:21 AM  
Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Megan Fox           | Malama Kauaâ€Œi     | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Love Life!



**LATE**

SB 2722, SD2 RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM  
House Committee on Economic Development & Business  
March 13, 2020, 9:00am State Capitol

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kahului@downtoearth.org

Aloha Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, and Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

**Down to Earth Organic and Natural testifies in support of SB 2722, SD2.**

*Down to Earth Organic and Natural has six locations on Oahu and Maui. Since opening in 1977, we have supported healthy lifestyles and preservation of the environment by selling local, fresh, organic and natural products, and by promoting a healthy, plant-based vegetarian lifestyle.*

We are in support of SB 2722, SD2. Food hubs will support our small local growers while increasing the availability of fresher and more environmentally sustainable (as travel time from farm to fork can be reduced) goods. The creation of food hubs will connect our farmers directly with stores and customers who are looking for fresh, locally grown produce. Food hubs will strengthen our local growers and encourage the growth of regional food systems, making healthy and affordable food available to more communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Alison Riggs  
Public Policy & Government Relations Manager  
Down to Earth

2525 S. King St., Suite 309  
Honolulu, HI 96826

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E-mail: [alison.riggs@downtoearth.org](mailto:alison.riggs@downtoearth.org)

[www.downtoearth.org](http://www.downtoearth.org)

**LATE**

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 2:49:57 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Edward Aloï         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 2:55:14 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cindy Evans         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 9:07:58 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Naomi Melamed       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for your consideration of this crucially important step toward food security on our islands.

My family personally grows food for our community as well as benefits from the food hub pilot program which is currently functioning in our North Kohala area. It is critical to the health, sustainability and longevity of this island chain.

Mahalo, Naomi Melamed

**LATE**

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 10:03:33 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David S. Case       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

March 13, 2020

SUPPORT for SB2722 SD2, Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program

**LATE**

To Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Business,

Hawaii Institute of Pacific Agriculture (HIP Ag) has been a partner in the development of the state-wide Farm to School initiative, working with and growing food for the DOE since 2017. There were myriad challenges for our area's small to mid-sized farmers trying to sell into state institutions: lack of access to cold storage, large order sizes, slow DOE payments, stringent liability criteria, lack of consistency or contracts to enable long-term crop planning, et cetera. To overcome these stumbling blocks, we created a hui of local farmers to collectively better meet the needs of our district in Kohala.

We launched the Kohala Food Hub (KFH), in August 2019 with the help of investments by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, the State of Hawaii, and the Dorrance Family Foundation (DFF). Our work is also supported by our peer coalitions: The Hawaii Farm to School Hui, Hawaii Farmers Union United's Food Hub Focus Group, and the Hawaii Island Food Alliance. The project has two tandem missions: expand and pilot Farm to School in Kohala, and support local farmers. HIP Ag worked with DFF who provided us with a long-term lease of existing infrastructure and worked together to renovate the space creating a community wash/pack and bringing inexpensive cold storage to the community. At present, the facility offers a wash-pack, two large walk-in refrigerators, free agriculture water testing, community education space, a market platform for direct to consumer sales, and technical and food safety support for local farmers.

The impact has been measurable. In 2018, there was a small group of interested farmers and only two or three contributing produce infrequently to F2S alongside HIP Ag's Farm. In 2020, 15 unique producers have contributed to F2S (80% increase), nine of whom we consider our anchor producers. The ability to aggregate more from the community and utilize cold storage meant an immediate boost in Farm to School sales and community investment. Producers also sell directly to the community through the Local Food Marketplace software platform that functions both as an online midweek farmers market and allows the Kohala cafeteria to shop from weekly offerings by local farms.



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# HAWAII INSTITUTE OF PACIFIC AGRICULTURE

The launch of the Kohala Food Hub created increased opportunities for local farmers to sell into the schools. The weight of produce sourced from other local farms for the schools grew from 17% to 55%, representing \$3,457 in revenue (51.5% of sales) to our local economy in just one semester.

We share the same challenges as our peer food hubs: access to grants and support to expand the scope of our operations and infrastructure, grow our workforce, and ultimately provide larger market access and economic stability to our local ag community and food system. Our goals for the coming year span from infrastructure improvements, a community use commercial kitchen and value-adding facility, expanded educational programming, fundraising, and staff additions to support both F2S and the community farm network. All of these goals are in service of doubling food production in Hawaii, scaling to be able to support Farm to State, and working toward state-wide food security.

We respectfully ask that you pass this bill to enable us to collaboratively meet the growing demands for local food and food security.

Mahalo,



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**LATE**

**SB-2722-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2020 9:50:54 AM

Testimony for EDB on 3/13/2020 9:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| NANCY JONES         | The Jones Family Farm | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Testimony Strongly Supporting SB2722 SD2 re Food Hubs

Aloha Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Committee Members:

As longtime Leeward Coast farmers, we Joneses submit this testimony in strong support of SB2722 SD2 which calls for establishing a Food Hub Pilot Program to be administered through the Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture (HDOA). The 10 food hubs that currently exist statewide serve all public schools, 7 hospitals, more than 200 restaurants/hotels, and more than 1,000 families. However, this concept needs to be expanded to places like Kaua'i, which currently has no Food Hubs servicing the farm community there. Hawaii's current food hubs also contribute to emergency food distribution, community education and farmer training. The 5-year Pilot Program proposed by this bill would allow for expansion of food hubs to include all islands, increase access to local food, and thereby increase Hawaii's food security. Otherwise, reportedly, Hawaii's civilian population faces a mere 8 days' food supply in the event of a major catastrophic event.

For all of the above reasons, we respectfully urge your committee to pass this measure with whatever support (monetary and otherwise) that the HDOA might need to begin implementing this program no later than the end of 2020 or early 2021. Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting SB2722 SD2.

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