



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 Agriculture and Environment
Monday, March 20, 2023 at 1:01 p.m.

By

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

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

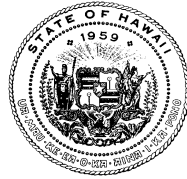
HB 308 HD1 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 308 HD1 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, 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.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 308, H.D. 1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: March 20, 2023

Room Number: Conference Room 224

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 (H.B.
5 308, H.D. 1) which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the DOA to
6 develop and submit an interagency food systems plan. The DOH offers an amendment to add a
7 representative from the DOH to the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group.

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

19 **Offered Amendments:** The DOH respectfully requests the following amendment:

20 Page 3, Section 2(b). Insert a new number with the following
21 language:

22 (X) A representative of the department of health, to
23 be selected by the director of health;

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.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023
ROOM 224
1:01 P.M.**

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

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 308, HD1. There is a companion measure, Senate Bill 420. HB308 requires the Department of Agriculture (Department) to establish a 32-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 that reflect our long-standing position of supporting efforts to establish and encourage all forms of production agriculture on private and public lands.

The Department is concerned about the size of the Working Group that is now 32 members, up 39 percent 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 (13) and (15)) 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. Perhaps the 7 issues that are the focus of the proposed 32-member Working Group could be best approached first by a smaller group who can bring unambiguous definition to the issues, outline Plan deliverables, and make coherent and tangible recommendations to the Working Group. Additionally, 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.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

March 20, 2023

1:01 PM

Conference Room 224

In SUPPORT of HB308 HD1

Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS HB308 HD1**, which encourages a more resilient and equitable food system in Hawai'i by establishing and appropriating funds for a sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture.

Access to nutritional food is a human right, and the Sierra Club of Hawai'i supports efforts to keep food sustainability strong and thriving while increasing equitable access to food. As over 80% of Hawai'i's food is imported, Hawai'i's food security and resilience are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change along with major global events that may disrupt the supply chain.

Climate change will affect both food security and the livelihoods of those engaged in production systems and their value chains. This working group is an opportunity for agencies to consider the needs and future of Hawai'i's local communities, by engaging in solutions that address not only food injustices and insecurity, but also create opportunities for green jobs, agriculture that reduces environmental degradation, and the integration of food into a circular and self-sufficient economic system.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i does note that our fisheries, both pelagic and nearshore, can and should constitute a critical part of our islands' future food security, and that the careful management and perpetuation of our particularly sensitive nearshore fisheries can and should be informed by subsistence communities with intimate, place-based knowledge and a daily connection with these limited but highly valuable resources. Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i does respectfully recommend the addition of two additional representatives on the sustainable food systems working group, by inserting the following language after page 5, line 18, in this measure:

- "(22) A representative with demonstrated experience or expertise in traditional Native Hawaiian fisheries management, to be selected by the administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and
- (23) A representative of the E Alu Pū network, to be selected by the President of Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo."

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS WITH AMENDMENTS** HB308 HD1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important measure.



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March 16, 2023

Senate Committee on Agriculture & the Environment
Monday, March 20, 2023 1:01 p.m.

SUBJECT: Comments on HB 308– RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Dear Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (North Shore EVP), I would like to extend support for HB 1350, which Establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture.

Since 2016, North Shore EVP has been working to prepare farmers to fully and equitably participate in Hawaii's commercial and institutional markets by providing food safety training and certification through our USDA GroupGAP program. Our staff has spent countless hours working up and down Hawaii's food chain connecting farmers with buyers and piecing together new value chains for our certified farmers and partners.

From a public policy perspective, the lack of a statewide food chain analysis that identifies the players in agricultural production, related specialized support activities, food and beverage manufacturing, and distribution of food and beverage products has hampered efforts to produce a strategy for establishing a statewide sustainable food system.

In the late 1990s California undertook a statewide food chain analysis and instead of just looking at production, they looked at the interactions between production, support services, processing, and distribution. In the November 2006 California's Food Chain at Work report, the data showed that three quarters of the Food Chain Employment – and virtually all job growth – were generated outside of production. Nobody knew that before...

Certainly Hawaii does not have the production capacity of California, but without a wide economic perspective across industries that touch agriculture, Hawaii may never realize the opportunities that a statewide sustainable food system plan might reveal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kevin M Kelly, President



HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
Chair
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

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Secretary
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Native Hawaiian Research Office

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Keshia Adolpho, LCSW
Na'au Healing Center

Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD
University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

Carissa Holley, MEd
Hale Makua Health Services

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
HMSA

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

May Okihiro, MD, MS
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public
Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: March 16, 2023

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Environment

Re: Support for HB 308 HD1, Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Hrg: Monday, March 20, 2023

The Obesity Prevention Task Force (OPTF), a program of Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ (HIPHI), is in **support of HB 308 HD1**, which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture.

The lack of a sustainable food system impacts the resiliency of our communities.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) appreciates the opportunity to provide SUPPORT for **HB 308 HD1**. This measure establishes a working group within the Department of Agriculture that will include a diverse group of members who bring a variety of understanding and perspectives to the work of identifying areas to address to strengthen the food system in our state.

Hawai'i is faced with an escalating crisis as a variety of factors such as climate change, workforce challenges, increasing cost of land and water, natural disasters, and a tenuous food supply system. Life expectancy continues to decline in the United States. COVID-19 is a factor, but chronic diseases, such as heart and chronic liver disease, continue to rise.ⁱⁱ

In the 2018 Hawai'i Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 14% of adults in the state reported they were diagnosed with prediabetes; 12% with diabetes; 3% had coronary heart disease; 3% had a stroke; 32% had high cholesterol; and 34% had high blood pressure.ⁱⁱⁱ To address these chronic diseases, and improve overall public health, a strong, sustainable, locally-based healthy food system, from which people can benefit, is necessary.

Beyond public health, taking the steps necessary to achieve a sustainable food system through discussion, planning, reporting, and proposing

meaningful legislation will help to address food insecurity; growth of green jobs; land stewardship; affordable land for farmers; water access; and environmental challenges.

The measure is necessary because it is the base for building a sustainable food system framework and ensuring our communities are healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,



Peggy Mierzwa
Advocacy & Policy Director
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

ⁱ Created by the legislature in 2012, the Obesity Prevention Task Force is comprised of over 60 statewide organizations, and works to make recommendations to reshape Hawai'i's school, work, community, and health care environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents. The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) convenes the Task Force and supports and promotes policy efforts to create a healthy Hawai'i.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

ⁱⁱ https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2022/20220831.htm

ⁱⁱⁱ https://hhsp.hawaii.gov/assets/pdf/Coordinated%20HHSP_FINAL_WEB.pdf



HB308 HD1
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**. Mahalo nui loa.



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 20, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 308, HD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:01 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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, 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.

As such, HFB respectfully requests the following amendments:

(4) Two representatives of the University of Hawai'i system who have experience in food systems, to be selected by the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources ~~chairperson of the board of agriculture~~;

(11) One representative of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau, to be selected by the president ~~executive director~~ of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau;

(22) One representative of the Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council, to be selected by the president of the Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Monday, March 20, 2023 — 1:01 p.m.

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

Dear Chair Gabbard 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, which 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 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.

We recommend adjusting the working group to double the current producer voices 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



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Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Chair*
Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Vice Chair*
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Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *President and Executive Director*
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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*

TO: Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 20, 2023
TIME: 1:01pm

RE: HB308 HD1 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-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 6:56:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/20/2023 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT!



Ke'ena Kuleana Ho'okipa O Hawai'i
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Josh Green, M.D.
Governor

John De Fries
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Monday, March 20, 2023
1:01 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

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

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of HB308 HD1, 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 to advance sustainable food systems in Hawai'i. Mahalo.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

HB308 HD1

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Monday, March 20, 2023, 1:01 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, 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** 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 respectfully ask that a representative from the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council 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 Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment 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.**

We 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.

Finally, HFUU would like to select it's own representative to the working group.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

HB-308-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 9:02:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/20/2023 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Your just wasting Tax payer Moneys!!!!!!

HB-308-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 6:08:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/20/2023 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Members of the Agriculture and Environment 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.

Mahalo,

Virginia Tincher

Honolulu

HB-308-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 8:22:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/20/2023 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HD1. Thank you.

HB-308-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 10:40:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/20/2023 1:01:00 PM

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-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 6:05:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/20/2023 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support HB308 HD1