



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

By

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

And

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

## SB 420 – 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 SB 420 relating to sustainable food systems which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill provided that its passage is in addition to and does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.



STATE OF HAWAII  
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION  
COMMISSION  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Co-Chairs:**  
Chair, DLNR  
Director, OPSD

**Commissioners:**  
Chair, Senate AEN  
Chair, Senate WTL  
Chair, House EEP  
Chair, House WAL  
Chairperson, HTA  
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Chairperson, DHHL  
Director, DBEDT  
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Director, DOH  
Chairperson, DOE  
Director, C+C DPP  
Director, Maui DP  
Director, Hawai'i DP  
Director, Kaua'i DP  
The Adjutant General  
Manager, CZM

**Testimony of  
Leah Laramee  
Coordinator, Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Wednesday, February 1, 2023  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 224**

**In support of  
Senate Bill 420  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

Senate Bill 420 establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the department of agriculture (DOA). Requires the working group to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the legislature. Appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions to be employed by DOA. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) offers the following comments in support of this measure.**

The Commission's working paper *Nature-Based Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change in Hawai'i* recognizes that Climate impacts to agriculture, fisheries, and food system infrastructure have steadily increased over the last 10 years and are projected to increase in severity over this century. Hawai'i, must prepare for more frequent and severe climate-induced shocks, disruption of critical supply chains and fisheries, increased food insecurity, and the catastrophic loss of life, livelihoods, property and infrastructure.

Simultaneously, the post-plantation agricultural economy of Hawai'i remains largely oriented toward external markets, with a diversified agriculture sector and regional food economy limited by a range of social, economic and political obstacles. Sustainably-managed agricultural systems can play a critical role in enhancing local food supplies, increasing resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change, and protecting Hawai'i's coral reefs ecosystems.

There are a number of models of sustainable food systems in Hawai'i, including approaches that incorporate indigenous management strategies, that can help to build resilience, and support biodiversity and ecosystem services. Recent research suggests that indigenous agroecosystems

(including agroforestry, lo'i systems, and dryland agriculture) supported large populations of Native Hawaiians pre-European contact, and that many of the areas that these systems likely occupied are still viable today. By contrast, Hawai'i's legacy of plantation agriculture has left many of the most highly productive soils in the state in a degraded condition. There are, however, many producers interested in reversing this trend. Climate-smart agricultural management choices support soil health over time which provides beneficial outcomes for air and water quality, human health, groundwater recharge, nearshore ecosystem resilience, increased drought tolerance of crops and plants, reduced impacts of flooding, increased crop and livestock productivity, and overall ecosystem resilience.

With 41% of Hawai'i's agricultural lands currently unfarmed, there is a huge opportunity to lower the state's food importation rates while mitigating climate change and protecting native ecosystems and cultural/traditional practices. Locally-produced agriculture is a vital part of our economy. Combining cultural wisdom with new scientific methods, sustainable food systems can reduce carbon emissions and improve crop yields through utilizing cover crops, reducing tillage, agroforestry and other carbon smart practices. Establishing the sustainable food systems working group is a good first step in achieving this.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment in support of this measure.

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

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023**  
**1:00 P.M.**

**SENATE BILL NO. 420**  
**RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 420. There is a companion measure, House Bill 308. SB420 requires the Department of Agriculture (Department) to establish a 23-member "Sustainable Food Systems Working Group" that is responsible for creating 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. 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.

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 a comment and a recommendation.



The Department has been directed by the legislative and executive branches to focus on increasing local food self-sufficiency. Perhaps the issues that are the focus of the proposed 23-member Sustainable Food Systems Working Group could be best approached first by a smaller group who can better define deliverables for this effort and make action item recommendations to the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group before incorporating it into a plan that will need to be funded and implemented. Additionally, while the measure proposes the creation of additional specialist positions to the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, the Department currently lacks adequate staffing to host and support a working group of this size and importance at this time.

Further, SB84 is very similar to SB420, but the former assigns the responsibility of the Working Group to the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 10:45:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Committee,

This sounds like a good basic plan for making attainable progress on a much needed public program. Food insecurity in the State continues to rise, and we know this from the reports given out frequently by the Hawaii Island Food Basket. My food costs have risen by at least \$80-100 a month since the beginning of COVID. Many people cannot afford that kind of rise and so are going without. We need a plan, a strategy, and staff to implement it. We know where the problems lie and now need to implement true change. Mahalo.

Nancy Redfeather

Kawanui Farm, Hawaii Island



**Officers**

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State President

Anabella Bruch  
Vice-President

Maureen Datta  
Secretary

Reba Lopez  
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**Chapter Presidents**

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Kohala, Hawaii

Odysseus Yacalis  
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Fawn Helekahi-Burns  
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Reba Lopez  
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Kaiea Medeiros  
Mauna Kahalawai,  
Maui

Kaipo Kekona  
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai  
Molokai

Negus Manna  
Lana'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 strongly supports SB420** for the sustainable food systems working group as it has the potential to transform the way our state produces and distributes food. With a plan, recommendations and proposed legislation in place, permanent change is achievable.

The creation of this working group is critical for Hawaii's agricultural future and the health of our natural environment. Our small farmers across the state have long struggled with the prohibitive costs of resources needed for production, lack of access to markets, and lack of infrastructure needed for sustainable growth. This working group and the associated financial support will be essential for providing Hawaii's farmers with the necessary resources to produce healthy food in an economically viable and ecologically sustainable manner.

As the recent pandemic has demonstrated, the vulnerability of our food supply chain presents a significant risk to our public health and safety. Sustainable and resilient food systems are essential to guaranteeing food access and security for both local and statewide communities. Establishing the sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture will help create a comprehensive plan that invests in long-term solutions to support the growth and sustainability of our agricultural industry.

In addition, the sustainability specialist positions will provide much needed technical assistance to farmers and serve as the driving force in transforming our agricultural sector towards sustainable agriculture practices. These positions will be able to help our farmers overcome the many challenges they face in transitioning to more sustainable growing practices and ensure our agricultural systems are more resilient to climate change.

*HFUU also seeks the following edit to clarify our role in the selection of our representative to the working group:*

(16) A representative of the Hawaii Farmers Union United, to be selected by the president of the Hawaii Farmers Union United;

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.  
Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT  
Wednesday, February 1, 2023 — 1:00 p.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of SB 420, 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 SB 420**, 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*





**Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment**

**Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB420**

Wednesday, February 1st, 2023 1 p.m. Conference Room 224

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

Establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the department of agriculture. Requires the working group to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the legislature. Appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions to be employed by the department of agriculture.

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

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

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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

Anne Frederick  
Executive Director



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

February 1, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

**TESTIMONY ON SB 420**  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference  
1:00 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 SB 420**, 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

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

(19) 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.



January 30, 2022

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Sen. Tim Richards, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

**RE: Testimony in support of SB 420, Relating to Sustainable Food Systems**

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawaii Foodbank, **I support SB 420**, which would establish a sustainable food systems working group within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.


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

The Hawai'i Foodbank is the largest hunger relief organization in the state. We gather donated, rescued, and purchased food and distribute it to those in need through our network of more than 200 agency partners. We welcome the opportunity to serve on the working group contemplated in this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

With aloha,

Amy Marvin  
President and CEO, Hawaii Foodbank



January 30, 2022

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Sen. Tim Richards, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

**RE: Testimony in support of SB 420, Relating to Sustainable Food Systems**

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawaii Foodbank, **I support SB 420**, which would establish a sustainable food systems working group within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

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

The Hawai'i Foodbank is the largest hunger relief organization in the state. We gather donated, rescued, and purchased food and distribute it to those in need through our network of more than 200 agency partners. We welcome the opportunity to serve on the working group contemplated in this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

With aloha,



Amy Miller Marvin  
President and CEO, Hawaii Foodbank



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

January 29, 2023

House Committee on Agriculture and the Environment  
*Monday January 30, 2023, 1:00 pm*

SUBJECT: Support for SB 420 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and members of the Committees:

On behalf of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (North Shore EVP), I would like to extend our support for SB 420, which will establish the sustainable food systems working group within the department of agriculture.

North Shore EVP was formed as a regional economic development non-profit. We conducted a community-based analysis of the North Shore region of Oahu with the assistance of California-based Collaborative Economics using New Economy Time Series data that included Dun & Bradstreet establishment data and was sourced for job data and establishment counts.

The best know outcome of this project was identification of food safety certification as a major obstacle for local farmers wishing to enter institutional and commercial markets. This led to the implementation of USDA GroupGAP, the state's only food safety training and certification program. We were successful in this example because our community recognized that the economic impact of agriculture included not just production but the full food chain of production, processing, distribution, and a range of support industries. The NETS data revealed agriculture's inter-dependence on other related sectors.

We believe that the sustainable food systems working group's charge to develop an interagency food system plan is premature without the data and analysis of a comprehensive, state-wide, food chain analysis that would identify companies, organization, and institutions that currently participate in Hawaii's ag economy.

We welcome the formation of a sustainable food systems working group as a positive first step that may help coordinate state-wide efforts in building a successful and prosperous agricultural sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kevin M Kelly, President



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

#### **Executive Officers**

**Eddie Asato**, Pint Size Hawaii, *Chair*

**Gary Okimoto**, Safeway, *Vice Chair*

**Maile Miyashiro**, C&S Wholesale, *Secretary/Treas.*

**Lauren Zirbel**, HFIA, *President and Executive Director*

**John Schilf**, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor*

**Paul Kosasa**, ABC Stores, *Advisor*

**Derek Kurisu**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, Odom, *Advisor*

**Charlie Gustafson**, Tamura Super Market, *Immediate Past Chair*

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TO: Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 1, 2023

TIME: 1pm

PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: SB420 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.



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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND  
ENVIRONMENT

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

**SB420**

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Monday, January 30, 2023, 1:00 PM  
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards III, 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 SB420** 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





Hawai'i Convention Center  
1801 Kalākāua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815  
**kelepona** tel 808 973 2255  
**kelepa'i** fax 808 973 2253  
**kahua pa'a** web [hawaii-tourism-authority.org](http://hawaii-tourism-authority.org)

**David Y. Ige**  
*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**

February 1, 2023  
1:00 p.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SENATE BILL NO. 420**  
**RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

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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 SB420, 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, 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, and appreciates the intent of SB84 to advance sustainable food systems in Hawai'i. We also defer to the Department of Agriculture on the implementation of this measure. Mahalo.





## HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH  
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University of Hawai'i at Hilo

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Secretary  
John A. Burns School of Medicine,  
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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: January 31, 2023

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

Re: Strong Support for SB 420, Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Hrg: Wednesday, February 2, 2023, at 1:00 PM, Conf Rm 224

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The Obesity Prevention Task Force (OPTF), a program of Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>i</sup> (HIPHI), is in **strong support of SB 420**, 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 420**. 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.<sup>ii</sup>

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.<sup>iii</sup> 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.

**SB 420** is necessary because it is the base for building a sustainable food system framework and ensuring our communities are healthy.

For the above reasons, OPTF urges the committees to **PASS SB 420**. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

*Peggy Mierzwa*

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

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<sup>i</sup> 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.

<sup>ii</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs\\_press\\_releases/2022/20220831.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2022/20220831.htm)

<sup>iii</sup> [https://hhsp.hawaii.gov/assets/pdf/Coordinated%20HHSP\\_FINAL\\_WEB.pdf](https://hhsp.hawaii.gov/assets/pdf/Coordinated%20HHSP_FINAL_WEB.pdf)

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 4:17:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
laurel brier	Testifying for Kaua'i Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A sustainable food system means food security, better access to healthy food, diversifying our economy in a positive direction and addressing environmental protection and climate chaos.

Let's do it

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 5:42:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Ing	Testifying for HECA Carbon Sequestration Task Force	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Agriculture and Environment Committee Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of SB420, Sustainable Foods Working Group, Department of Agriculture.

Hawai‘i is the most remote group of islands in the world and is extremely vulnerable to any kind of event or disaster that limits the ability to ship, or fly, foods into our State. Hawai‘i, therefore, needs to create a sustainable food system that includes, and benefits, our entire community. This bill engages a variety of stakeholders in developing a cohesive strategy for the entire State.

Many families in Hawai‘i are facing food insecurity. Most of our farmers work on small family farms and are struggling to access affordable land, water, and resources. Climate change also poses a threat to our local food production. However, by creating a more resilient and sustainable food system, we can address these challenges.

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai‘i.

Mahalo,

Susan Ing

HECA Carbon Sequestration Task Force



**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 10:21:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this measure.

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 10:37:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Henri Etta Schmitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We desperately need a comprehensive plan for sustainable food...for immediate needs and future emergencies. Please support SB 420. Mahalo, Henri Etta Schmitz, Paauilo 96776

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 10:50:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rene Umberger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this measure in support of sustainable food systems in Hawai`i.

Rene Umberger

Kama`ole Ahupua`a, Kihei



**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 10:57:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keoni DeFranco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

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

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

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Keoni DeFranco, Waimanalo, O‘ahu

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 10:59:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Senators of the Agriculture and Environment Committee,

My name is John Fitzpatrick from the island of Maui and I am in strong support of SB 420 which would establish a working group within the department of agriculture and give it the resources to develop a plan, recommend laws to the legislature, and provide funds to hire specialists that would work towards establishing a sustainable food system. We currently import 93% of our food which should be unacceptable considering we have a year round growing season, amazing soil, and water to grow nutritious food for the people of Hawaii. In addition, these critical investments towards developing a sustainable food system here in Hawai'i will make us more resilient.

Mahalo,  
Fitz

John Fitzpatrick

7th Grade Educator

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 10:59:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pam Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

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

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

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Pam Murphy, Kilauea, HI

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 11:08:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is too slow to act. We need a comprehensive, coordinated plan to address food insecurity, the struggle farmers face to access affordable land and water, and climate change which threatens local food production.

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:57:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
JarraeTehani Manasas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Many families in Hawaii are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

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

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

Mahalo,

JarraeTehani Manasas, Kailua Kona

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 1:47:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Malia Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

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

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

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time,

Malia Chun, Kekaha, Kaua'i

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 1:58:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joan Heartfield PhD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

There are many families in Hawaii facing food insecurity and our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. In addition, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. We need a more resilient food system that can address these various challenges with a coordinated approach.

We need a plan to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts.

Mahalo,

Joan Heartfield, PhD

232 Door of Faith Rd

Haiku, Hi 96708

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:21:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Troy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Improving sustainability is important in every area.



**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:29:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I have spent over 35 years in social and community services work and I know the food security and farmers woes very well.

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

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

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Mary Lu Kelley

Lawai, Kauai, Hawaii

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:49:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

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

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

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 3:00:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sam Peralta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

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

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

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Sam Peralta, Wailuku, Maui

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 5:14:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Reagan Cline	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in strong **support** of SB420 that establishes a sustainable food systems working group. Please pass this measure! We currently import ~90% of our food and farmers have to make significant sacrifices to grow food for us. A well-functioning food system offers so many benefits including increased access to fresh foods and business opportunities for food producers. I support this measure as a step towards building a thriving local food economy for us and seven generations from now.

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 6:38:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bean Yogi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Bean Yogi, and I am a descendant of three generations of Okinawan and Japanese settlers on native Hawai'ian land. The colonial government has, at the very least, the responsibility to support SB420 -- because too many families in Hawaii are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

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

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working pla

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 7:55:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support SB40, Sustainable Food Systems Planning Bill.

So many Hawaii families face food insecurity, and our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Additionally, climate change poses threats to our local food production. A more resilient food system can address these challenges, but only if we take a coordinated approach.

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

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

Thank you,

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 3:16:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rev. Samuel L Domingo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill that moves the needle in the state's efforts toward greater food sustainability.

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 3:57:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Helen Cox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill.

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

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.



**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 4:21:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Teresa Landreau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A coordinated food systems plan envisioned by SB420 is a start towards identifying and bringing key stakeholders together. I support including in their scope of work the development of safe pesticides such as those based upon fungi, as alternatives to highly toxic chemicals now in use by non-organic farms in Hawaii.

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 5:17:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Irena Bliss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

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

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

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Irena Bliss, Ha'ikū Maui 96708

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 6:05:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Committee,

If we fail to plan then we are planning to fail. Let's put a focus on planning for our future of sustainability and supporting local farmers.

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

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

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Shannon Matson

Hawai'i Island Resident

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 6:22:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support **SB420**

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 8:06:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

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

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

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Shay Chan Hodges, Haiku, Maui

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 8:30:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Bernstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senator Gabbard and Members of the AEN Committee:

I'm writing to you in support of SB420 because it will help both with carbon sequestration and our food systems. Food systems are a priority concern because food production is the largest cause of global environmental change (Lancet 2019). Food systems are resource intensive -- energy, water, and land use -- and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, impaired water quality, depleted soil health and alterations of ecosystem functions, wildlife habitats, and the health of communities. Farming methods and land-use change contributes around one-fifth to one-quarter of total greenhouse gas emissions generated by all human activities (IPCC 2019). Therefore improving existing agricultural systems will lead to lower greenhouse gas emissions, better water quality, healthier soils, and ultimately a better food supply.

Respectfully,

Paul Bernstein

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 9:09:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Debbie Millikan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Support of SB420**

**Date: Jan. 29, 2023**

**To: EDN**

**From: Debbie Millikan**

**Re: STRONG SUPPORT for SB420 RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

**Hearing: Feb 1, 2023, 1pm**

**Dear Chair Gabbard and Vice Chair Richards**

**I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB420 to establish the sustainable food systems working group within the department of agriculture and appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan.**

**We have goals to increase local food production and procurement, but no real plan to get there. At the same time, we are in crisis with rising food insecurity, and climate change. What a great opportunity to get some real work done by bringing together the food systems experts to design and implement a plan for a sustainable and resilient food system for Hawai'i.**

**Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.**

**Mahalo,**

**Debbie Millikan, Ph.D**

**Honolulu, Hawaii**





**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 9:41:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael I Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in full support of this bill, as it is a good start to helping expand our food security in the islands. One change I would add is to include a Representative from DLNR as well as a rep from each county to reach out to hunters.

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 10:57:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support.

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 3:08:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jason Mark Alexander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

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

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

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai‘i.

Mahalo,

Jason Mark Alexander, Mānoa

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 7:28:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Naomi Melamed	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

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

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

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

Mahalo, Naomi and Yoav Melamed, Kapaau, HI

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 8:48:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Sarasa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am testifying **in strong support of S.B. 420**, with one suggested amendment.

As a law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law and a young adult living in Hawai‘i, I see this bill as a major step forward in building a resilient future. I had the opportunity to attend COP 27 as part of the University of Hawai‘i Delegation this December. I learned about how communities worldwide are adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change that many regions have already started experiencing to an extreme degree. **About 85-90% of Hawai‘i’s food is imported**, which makes it particularly vulnerable to impending climate disasters that may disrupt shipping and the food supply. This bill is urgently needed to ensure we prepare by investing in a resilient, local food system.

**I suggest amending** Section (2)(b) to add one undergraduate and one high-school youth representative who work with local food sustainability communities to the working group. Youth perspectives need to be incorporated into the decision-making process. Youth representatives will also highlight the importance of this working group to young Hawaiians and, hopefully, inspire their involvement in the legislative process.

I respectfully request that the Committee supports this measure. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Emily Sarasa, esarasa@Hawaii.edu

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 9:57:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Steve Kaiser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB420

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this important bill. As a commercial fisherman representation of commercial fishing in sustanalbe food is long over due. And to be clear commercial fishing is not limited to just the longline fishery. We have hundreds of small boats that deliver thousands of pounds of fish each and everyday. This is the freshest product that is landed the day its caught. Like farmers commercial fisherman come in all sizes. And our insdustry needs better representation. And like framers which have been sup[port]ed by buy local as such I would suggest that this panel consider a bill that lables all seafood for sale with where it was caught. This helps consumers make the right decision and will help support our locals. Now you may hear thd

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 12:23:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

please support this important bill. mahalo

**01/30/23**

Aloha,

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

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

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

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Jason Yaris

Makaweli HI 96769



**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 4:04:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB420 that would establish the sustainable food systems working group within the department of agriculture. This effort is much needed and long over-due. By developing a more sustainable food system for Hawaii, we will be able to integrate the objectives of "green" job creation, sustainable economic development, land stewardship, food security, environmental protection, and climate change resiliency with community health and well-being. In other words, it will be a "win" for everyone.

Please pass this important measure!

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 8:30:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support efforts to develop a sustainable food system in which producers, retailers, members of the community, non-governmental organizations, and government agencies partner to create a vibrant and resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community. Developing a more sustainable food system for Hawai'i represents an opportunity to create a new food economy that integrates the objectives of "green" job creation, sustainable economic development, land stewardship, food security, environmental protection, and climate change resiliency with community health and well-being. Please pass SB420.

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 11:13:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thayne Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Thayne Taylor, Kalaheo, Kaua'i

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 11:40:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carol Philips	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Carol Philips - Haleiwa

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 12:23:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB 420, which seeks to create sustainable food systems groups within the Department of Agriculture.

It is appalling to me that in our state that so many families in Hawaii are face food insecurity. Many of our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water. Climate change and its attendant effects such as seal level, and more extreme flooding and droughts, represent dire threats to our local food production.

I believe that it is possible that we may mitigate the worst of these effects with a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

Ideally, we will meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Our climate, even that under climate change, is amenable enough to provide the means for year-round agriculture based on various climate zones and terrains. It goes without saying, however, that because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

This is where the provisions of SB 420 come in.

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

I believe this system will work well if actionable plans come from coordination between groups, balancing the agricultural seasons, animal husbandry schedules, aquaculture goals, and those who will create equitable food hubs, social services and other public services, so all people in Hawaii, regardless of socioeconomic status, have access to good, sustainable foodstuff all throughout the state. Additionally, those who are working in biodiversity and environmental agencies can assess the ecological footprint of these industries to ensure that they are sustainable to our island habitat long-term.

Please support SB420 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time.

**SB-420**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 2:49:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ming Wei Koh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB420. As a state that importst close to 90% of our food - we need a plan to change that narrative. We seem to be haphardly trying to solve the issue. We need to come together on this. The neighbor islands must also be fully represented in this plan.

Please pass SB 420.

## Angela Crumpton

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**From:** Monica Catalano <monica.catalano@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2023 7:33 AM  
**To:** webmaster  
**Subject:** Support for SB420

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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Mahalo,  
Monica Catalano  
Richmond, CA, USA