

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNTSMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

JOVANIE DOMINGO DELA CRUZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 420
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8675 / Fax: (808) 586-8685
Email: dlir.ocs@hawaii.gov

IN REPLY, REFER TO:
OCS 23.1034

January 30, 2023

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

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 224, State Capitol & Videoconference

From: Jovanie Domingo dela Cruz, Executive Director
DLIR – Office of Community Services

Position: Support

Re: S.B. 430 RELATING TO FARM TO FOOD BANK PROGRAM

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

This bill would create a Farm to Food Bank program and a special fund, to be administered by the Office of Community Services (OCS), whereby OCS would distribute funds to food banks so that they could purchase locally produced food and distribute it to qualifying low-income people to supplement their food needs.

The bill would add two new sections to the legislation that created OCS – namely HRS Chapter 371K – to direct OCS to administer a Farm to Food Bank program and to create a special fund for OCS to receive appropriations and other moneys to purchase locally produced food and distribute it, through food banks, to low-income people in the State. Section 2 of the bill would create the program within the OCS administrative structure, and Section 3 of the bill would establish the special fund.

Section 2(b) of the bill directs OCS to make funds available to food banks located in Hawaii. Section 2(c) would require the food banks to use the funds to purchase, store, and transport food grown or produced in Hawaii to recipients at no cost to the recipients. Section 2(d) adopts the federal code's definition of "food bank" in 7 USC §7501(5):

- (f) **Food bank** means a public or charitable institution that maintains an established operation involving the provision of food or edible commodities, or the products of food or edible commodities, to food pantries, soup kitchens, hunger relief centers, or other food or feeding centers that, as an integral part of their normal activities, provide meals or food to feed needy persons on a regular basis.

Section 3 of the bill would add this Farm to Food Bank special fund to the list of 34 other special funds that, under HRS §36-27, are exempted from a five percent administrative fee that is deducted from all other special funds and transferred to the general fund.

Similarly, Section 4 of the bill would amend HRS §36-30 to add this food assistance special fund to the current list of 28 other special funds that are exempt from responsibility to pay a pro-rata share of administrative expenses incurred by the department (here, DLIR) that is responsible for operations supported by the special fund.

Section 5 of the bill would appropriate \$5 million from the general fund, to be deposited into the Hawaii food assistance special fund. Then, under Section 6 of the bill, this \$5 million is appropriated for use in State FY 2023-2024 by OCS to contract with food banks to purchase locally produced food and distribute these commodities “to relieve food shortages experienced by residents of the State, including low-income and unemployed families and individuals.” Section 6 also states that OCS may deduct ten percent of the appropriation for OCS’s administrative expenses in entering into and overseeing the contracts with food banks to administer the Farm-to-Food Bank program.

Pursuant to Section 9 of the bill, it would take effect on July 1, 2023.

II. CURRENT LAW

Currently, Hawaii has no legislation that creates a program at the State level in which a state agency receives appropriations for a special fund to purchase food and distribute it, through food banks, to low-income people in the State. OCS currently administers federal programs that perform similar functions, notably TEFAP – The Emergency Food Assistance Program. Under TEFAP, OCS receives large amounts of surplus food from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that is distributed through Hawaii food banks as the primary agencies, which in turn distribute the food through smaller secondary agencies to recipient low-income people in the State.

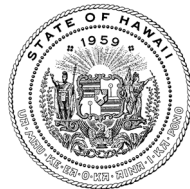
Recently, USDA introduced a very small supplemental program within TEFAP that provides about \$23,000 to the State of Hawaii for a farm-to-food bank program. OCS administers this program through contracts with Hawaii Foodbank, serving Honolulu and Kauai, and with The Food Basket, which is the food bank for the Island of Hawaii. However, this program is very strictly limited because it provides funding only for administration and relies on food donations from farmers. Moreover, the State (through its grantees) must provide one-for-one matching funds, which the food banks provide in donated labor and administrative funding.

III. COMMENTS ON THE BILL

The Office of Community Services **supports** S.B. 430. OCS applauds efforts to support local farming and the provision of **fresh** food commodities to people in Hawaii who are suffering from insufficient food security. This focus on fresh, locally grown foods would improve the quality of food available to people needing this support.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 430

February 1, 2023
1:00 p.m.
Room 224 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO FOOD BANK PROGRAM

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 430.

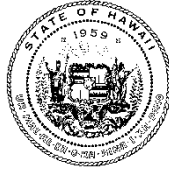
S.B. No. 430 amends Chapter 371K, HRS, to add a new part to:

- Establish the Hawai'i Farm to Food Bank Program (HFFBP) to be administered by the Office of Community Services (OCS) within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to relieve food shortages by distributing fresh locally grown or produced food to residents of the State, including low-income and unemployed families and individuals, at no cost to the recipients.
- Establish the Hawai'i Food Assistance Program Special Fund (HFAPSF) to be administered by OCS to fund programs to provide hunger relief for those in need and for the purposes of the HFFBP.
- Exempt all procurements executed pursuant to this part from the requirements of Chapters 103D and 103F, HRS.
- Exempt the HFAPSF from Sections 36-27, 36-30, and 37-53, HRS.

- Appropriate \$5,000,000 in general funds for FY 24 to be deposited into the HFAPSF.
- Appropriate \$5,000,000 in special funds for FY 24 from the HFAPSF.
- Allow OCS to retain 10% of the appropriation from the HFAPSF for its administrative costs in entering into and overseeing contracts adopted pursuant to Section 371K-A, HRS.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work, and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding S.B. No. 430, it is not clear why the HFFBP cannot be implemented using general funds and it is likely that the HFAPSF would not be self-sustaining as there is no defined revenue source for the special fund.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
Tel: (808) 586-0554
email: state_procurement_office@hawaii.gov
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>

TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
February 1, 2023, 1:00 PM

SENATE BILL 430
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO FOOD BANK PROGRAM

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 430. The State Procurement Office (SPO) provides the following comments to the exemption language on page 3, Section 2, lines 16 to 17, as set forth below.

“(f) All procurements executed pursuant to this part shall be exempt from the requirements of chapters 103D and 103F.”

Clarification is needed regarding the meaning of “All procurements”. The SPO supports the intent of the bill, provided that the exemption is not used for goods, services, or construction that directly benefit the office of community services, such as office computers, supplies, furniture, flooring, construction, consulting services, and any other administrative or operational needs. These types of procurements should be competitively procured, pursuant to the Hawaii Procurement Code (Code).

Chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), was enacted by Legislature by Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 1993, to create a single source of public procurement policy to be applied equally and uniformly, while providing fairness, open competition, a level playing field, government disclosure, and transparency in the procurement and contracting process vital to good government.

In addition, Chapter 103F, HRS, Purchases of Health and Human Services, was enacted by Legislature by Act 190, SLH 1997, with the intent that all state agencies use the same single process to obtain and pay for these health and human services to result in a simpler, standardized process for both state agencies and the providers to use, and to optimize information-sharing, planning, and service delivery efforts. The statutes and rules should apply uniformly for government entities and should not carve out a special process for this program.

Public procurement's primary objective is to provide everyone equal opportunity to compete for government contracts, to prevent favoritism, collusion, or fraud in awarding of contracts. To legislate that any one entity should be exempt from compliance with both Chapter 103D and 103F, HRS, conveys a sense of disproportionate equality in the law's application.

Exemptions to the Code mean that all procurements made with taxpayer monies will not have the same oversight, accountability and transparency requirements mandated by those procurements processes provided in the code. It means that there is no requirement for due diligence, proper planning, or consideration of protections for the state in contract terms and conditions, nor are there any set requirements to conduct cost and price analysis and market research or post-award contract management. As such, Agencies can choose whether to compete any procurement or go directly to one contractor. As a result, leveraging economies of scale and cost savings efficiencies found in the consistent application of the procurement code are lost. It also means Agencies are not required to adhere to the code's procurement integrity laws.

The National Association of State Procurement Officials states that "Businesses suffer when there is inconsistency in procurement laws and regulations. Complex, arcane procurement rules of numerous jurisdictions discourage competition by raising the costs to businesses to understand and comply with these different rules. Higher costs are recovered through the prices offered by a smaller pool of competitors, resulting in unnecessarily inflated costs to state and local governments."

When public bodies are removed from the Hawaii Public Procurement Code, it results in the harm described above. As these entities create their own procurement rules, businesses are forced to track their various practices. Moreover, a public body often can no longer achieve the benefits of aggregation by using another public body's contract because different state laws and regulations may apply to the various public bodies making compliance more difficult.

Each year new procurement laws are applied to state agencies causing state agency contracts to become more complex and costly, while other public bodies, such as agencies are exempted. Relieving some public bodies from some laws by exempting or excluding them from compliance with a common set of legal requirements creates an imbalance wherein the competitive environment becomes different among the various jurisdictions and the entire procurement process becomes less efficient and costlier for the state and vendors.

Thank you.

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.**

CONFERENCE ROOM 224 AND VIDEO CONFERENCING

**SENATE BILL NO. 430
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO FOOD BANK PROGRAM**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill 430. This bill establishes the Hawaii Farm to Food Bank Program and the Hawaii Food Assistance Program Special Fund to alleviate food shortages in the State. As a steadfast advocate for local agriculture, the Department of Agriculture fully supports this bill. This new program will create a new market channel and provide added opportunity for farmers and ranchers across the state to sell their fresh locally grown or produced food.

The additional revenue stream will help to offset rising cost of operations facing so many of our local farmers and producers. This initiative will further provide an incentive for local agriculturalists to produce more food and to relieve the shortages experienced in the state during the recent pandemic.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





LATE

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 AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 430
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chairs 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 430, which establishes the Hawai'i Farm to Food Bank Program and Hawai'i Food Assistance Program Special Fund to alleviate food shortages in the State.

The Coronavirus Pandemic disrupted Hawai'i's local food systems and caused many local producers to lose their local markets. Many catered to tourism, large-scale events, hotels, restaurants, cruise ships, farmers' markets, and school lunch programs, which were non-existent during Hawai'i's shutdown.

Like small businesses around the state, without open and consistent markets, local farmers and ranchers will decrease food production levels and will likely downsize and/or go out of business. To help address the state's food security during the pandemic, Hawai'i's Foodbanks partnered with local food producers to ensure that farmers and ranchers could survive.

At the onset of the pandemic, Hawai'i's Foodbanks partnered with farmers and ranchers to provide local agricultural produce and proteins for their food assistance programs. As organizations that aggregate and distribute food, Foodbank staff brought valuable logistical insight to these programs. The combined efforts of Hawai'i's Foodbanks, the Hawai'i Farm Bureau, and other partner organizations allowed tens of thousands of families to have access to food during unprecedented times. This win-win partnership connected local producers that lost markets and revenue sources due to COVID-19 with the Hawai'i Foodbank to meet the increased demands of feeding Hawai'i's communities.

A Hawai'i Farm to Food Bank Program with dedicated funding will provide funds to Hawai'i's food banks that support non-profit and community feeding programs by providing locally grown or produced foods to communities in need. This will also help Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers while also providing local nutritional food to those who need it most.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

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

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 430, Relating to Hawai'i Farm to Food Bank Program.

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 SB 430, which establishes the Hawai'i Farm to Food Bank Program and Hawai'i Food Assistance Program Special Fund to alleviate food shortages in the state.

Over the last few years, one of the most pressing issues for many local families has been food insecurity. With many out of work and surviving on government unemployment support, communities have relied on the efforts of food banks and local food producers to meet their basic need to eat.

Federal monies injected into Hawai'i through county initiatives helped to support a local farm-to-food bank effort, in which food banks were able to purchase local products for distribution to needy communities. This effort was a win-win-win, in that local food producers had a market to sell their products when hotels and restaurants shuttered their doors, local families received fresh and nutritious food products made locally island-wide, and food banks that were struggling to purchase shelf-stable food due to nationwide shortages were rescued by Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers who provided local food to their communities.

The Farm to Food Bank efforts across the state led to many important foundational relationships between local farmers, ranchers, and community feeding organizations that helped struggling communities cope with the social and economic consequences of the COVID pandemic. Unfortunately, natural disasters, food supply chain disruptions, and state emergencies have become a harsh, consistent reality for our local communities. Food banks across the state will need support to meet these food security challenges.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

LATE

SB-430

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 5:55:57 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Testifying for 350Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

350Hawaii supports SB430 that establishes the Hawaii Farm to Food Bank Program and Hawaii Food Assistance Program Special Fund to alleviate food shortages in the State. This is a wonderful idea that not only supports farmers but could help our local families in need by providing local, fresh, healthy options. In addition, efforts to support local farmers builds our resiliency and avoids the greenhouse gases that would have been emitted from shipping in food.

Please pass this important measure!



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, February 1, 2023; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol; Conference Room 224
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 0430, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO FOOD BANK PROGRAM.

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

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 0430, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO FOOD BANK PROGRAM.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This measure, as received by your Committee, would establish the Hawaii Farm to Food Bank Program (Program) and provide a source of funding for the Program to assist food banks purchase, store, and transport Hawaii-grown or produced food to local communities for distribution. Specifically, this bill would appropriate \$5,000,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2023-2024 for deposit into a newly established Program Special Fund to facilitate the Program.

The HPCA asserts that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely threatened the health and welfare of our citizens, especially Hawaii's underprivileged and rural communities. Entire families are struggling to put food on the table on a consistent basis. The COVID-19 pandemic has also greatly exacerbated the need for a program like this. Our overreliance on tourism has weakened our ability to bounce back from COVID's dire economic realities. The only way for us to protect ourselves from the next global pandemic is for Hawaii to diversify its economic base and become more self-sufficient. And for us to do that, we need to grow more food.

Accordingly, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



67-332 Kaiea Pl.
Waialua, HI 96791-9501
808-383-4481
www.NSEVP.org

January 29, 2023

House Committees on Agriculture and the Environment
Wednesday February 1, 2023, 1:00 pm

SUBJECT: Support for SB 430 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO FOOD BANK PROGRAM

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

On behalf of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (North Shore EVP), I would like to extend our full support of SB 430, which will establish the Hawaii Farm to Food Bank Program and Hawaii Food Assistance Program Special Fund to alleviate food shortages in the State. We fully support the creation of new markets for fresh, locally grown foods especially when they can benefit farmers and our less fortunate residents.

Since 2016, North Shore EVP has been working to prepare farmers to fully and equitably participate in Hawaii's commercial and institutional markets by helping them comply with the Food and Drug Administration's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and providing food safety training and USDA Harmonized GAP certification through our USDA GroupGAP program. Harmonized GAP is one of the most common food safety certifications required by most commercial and institutional buyers.

Food safety is generally taken for granted by the public. We believe that to maintain that public trust, farmers receiving taxpayer dollars as part of the Farm to Food Bank program should comply with federal law with respect to food safety. This is especially important to the beneficiaries of the food bank that often includes keiki, elderly, and socially disadvantaged people that are more dependent on receiving safe food.

We ask that this bill be amended to require food safety certification from non-exempt farms participating in the Farm to Food Bank program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kevin M Kelly, President



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

SB430
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO FOOD BANK PROGRAM

Wednesday, February 1, 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 SB430** which establishes the Hawaii Farm to Food Bank Program and Hawaii Food Assistance Program Special Fund to alleviate food shortages in the State.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports efforts to ensure that infrastructure is in place to alleviate food shortages. With the rising cost of living, hunger will continue to be a problem that we need to solve as a community. In the past, the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council has assisted its members to coordinate meat donations, and individual ranchers coordinated their own meat donations in addition. This program will establish a clear way for cattle producers to participate in food donations.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB430

Wednesday, February 1st, 2023 1:00pm, Conference Room 224

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

HAPA strongly supports SB430, which establishes the Hawai'i Farm to Food Bank Program and Hawai'i Food Assistance Program Special Fund. The goal of this measure is to alleviate food shortages in the State.

This measure would provide a source of funding for the program to fund state food banks to purchase, store, and transport food grown or produced in Hawai'i to local communities for distribution. This program will serve our food needs, provide local food producers with a supporting market and keep money in Hawai'i, benefiting our economy.

HAPA understands that in addition to reducing hunger, food banks help to build communities by providing jobs and purchasing goods and services from local businesses, creating an economic stimulus in the areas they serve. Importantly, food donations also help low-income families free up money to meet other basic needs.

Supporting locally sourced food benefits the local economy, helps us become less dependent on tourism and more resilient and secure as an island chain. Growing, processing, and distributing food locally creates and sustains community-based jobs. Direct marketing channels between farmers and consumers boosts local farmers' incomes.

Closer proximity relationships with our food will in turn also reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the United States.

Please support SB430 to help support our local food markets and help grow our local food economy while supporting local families in reducing hunger and obtaining quality food.

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



February 1, 2023

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

RE: Testimony supporting the intent of SB 430, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to Food Bank Program

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

On behalf of Hawaii Foodbank, I **support the intent of SB 430**, which seeks to establish a Farm to Food Bank program to be administered by the Office of Community Services.

The Hawai'i Foodbank established our Farm to Foodbank program during the pandemic, when we dramatically increased our purchases to support local farmers during the sudden closure of the restaurant market and to meet the significant increase in food insecurity. For nearly three years, we have continued to fund purchases from local producers through philanthropic support and other sources.

During this time, we have been meeting with food bank coalitions from across the country to learn how different farm to food bank programs are structured in different states, in order to develop a long-term, sustainable farm to food bank program for Hawai'i that best supports our farmers and the needs of our community. We are working with the Hawaii Public Health Institute this year on a grant to understand more about the various farm to food bank models, and hold listening sessions with the agricultural community so that we can build a model that works for our State. We respectfully request the opportunity to continue this important work before establishing and funding this program.

We prefer SB 460, which would support food purchases at food banks across the state through funding allocated according to food insecurity needs in each county. SB 460 will help to ensure that our network of food banks has adequate food supply to meet the rising levels of food insecurity in our State, and builds upon the successful State Emergency Food Assistance Program (SEFAP) established last year. At this point, supporting SB 460 for food purchase is the best way to support farm to food bank efforts in our State, as we continue to work with the Hawaii Farm Bureau and m local farmers to purchase local produce and distribute through our network of more than 200 partner agencies. We are proud to share that fresh produce now makes up almost one-third of the food we distribute.



Food security is a critical issue in Hawai'i, where one in six residents lacks consistent access to healthy, nutritious food. 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. Our ability to purchase food that is nutritious, culturally relevant, and desirable is a critical piece of our anti-hunger work.

Mahalo for your consideration.

With aloha,

Amy Miller Marvin
President and CEO, Hawaii Foodbank

SB-430

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 12:46:49 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeri Di Pietro	Testifying for Hawai`i SEED	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Hawai`i SEED strongly SUPPORTS SB430 to establish the Hawaii Farm to Food Bank Program and Hawaii Food Assistance Program Special Fund to alleviate food shortages in the State, including action on making an appropriation.

Mahalo,

Jeri Di Pietro, President

Hawai`i SEED, PO Box 1177, Koloa, HI 96756



Officers

Kaipō 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

Kaipō 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 strongly supports SB430.

Food insecurity is a serious issue in Hawaii and the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated this problem. Our state's farmers are a vital part of the solution, and the Hawaii Farm to Food Bank Program provides a crucial link between our farmers and those in need. Further, this bill a win-win situation - farmers can sell their surplus crops, reducing food waste and increasing their income, while those in need gain access to fresh, locally grown food.

We believe it is essential to strengthen partnerships between the food banks and agricultural producers to bring fresh produce and other foods to households in need. Additionally, we are confident that the monetary appropriations will enable farmer and food banks to provide the much-needed food access for the state's residents.

We also recognize food banks need financial support beyond local purchasing and advocate for a prompt hearing of SB460, which will appropriate funds to the DLIR Office of Community Services to support food banks across the State.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipō Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

SB-430

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 6:12:31 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chairs, and Committee members,

YES! This is great, please support this. Please do more of this. It's a win-win for local farmers, and our residents who rely on foodbanks! I organized food distribution in my community for over 40 'ohana a week for over a year starting during COVID shutdown time. Biggest request/feedback I got from people was MORE LOCAL PRODUCE PLEASE. There was sooo much gratitude for local produce, eggs, honey, fish, goat cheese, etc. This is what people should be eating here, especially those in need, not crummy/low-nutrition canned foods, this is what ALL people should have equal access to, please do everything in your power to support programs like this.

Mahalo,

Shannon Matson

Hawai'i Island Resident

SB-430

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 10:01:26 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael I Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in support of this bill as a means to expand Hawaii's food security. One suggestion I would make is to include game animals as part of what can be acquired by the foodbank.

SB-430

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 8:37:51 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support SB430, which would establish Hawai'i Farm to Food Bank Program and provide a source of funding for the program. We should fund state food banks to purchase, store, and transport food grown or produced in Hawai'i to local communities for distribution. This program will serve the state's food needs, provide local food producers with a market to support their operations, and keep moneys circulating within the state to boost the local economy. Please pass this bill.

SB-430

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 12:37:04 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Cravalho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Mai Kākou,

I am writing this letter in support of SB430, Hawai'i farm to Food Bank program. I believe it is essential that we support both our Food Bank and Hawai'i farmers. Getting fresh produce locally is far more nutritious than imported. We are not only giving our people the most nutrients but we are avoiding harmful additives that make imported produce "fresh" or to keep its color. We are also supporting and encouraging the growth of our local farmers which is crucial, especially in this day and age. We cannot rely on imported goods and should be focusing on expanding what we have agriculturally. This is a win-win situation for all. Not only our we feeding the less fortunate with the best quality foods but we are also helping to sustain our local farmers. Please consider supporting this critical bill as we all will benefit from it.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Charles Cravalho



Food+ Policy Internship 2023

food@purplemaia.org

LATE

January 31, 2023

To: Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment

Subject: SB 430, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to Food bank Program

Aloha Hawaii State Senators,

We are testifying in favor of bill SB430 relating to the Hawaii Farm-To-Food Bank Program.

Providing this funding to Hawaii's food banks can help alleviate the 1 in 10 people in Hawaii who are experiencing hunger, while supporting our state's local farmers. It will help to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2, ending hunger while achieving food security. This bill supports a systematic approach to finding solutions for hunger and food insecurity and financial sustainability for farmers. Supporting the Farm to Food Bank will help solve some of the most pressing issues our food system faces. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on bill SB430.

Mahalo,

Tierra Bartolotti & the Food+ Policy Team

#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the

importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2023, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.