

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 20 2024

RE: H.B. No. 2771
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Health and Human Services, to which was referred H.B. No. 2771, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate an unspecified amount of funds to the Department of Agriculture:

- (1) For the continued administration of the Hawaii Healthy Food Incentive Program; and
- (2) To provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Department of Health; Department of Human Services; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Office of the Mayor of the County of Maui; one member of the Hawai'i County Council; City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency; Local Food Coalition; Hawai'i Hunger Action Network; Hawai'i Good Food Alliance; Ulupono Initiative; Hawai'i Public Health Institute; The Food Basket Inc.; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawaii Food Industry Association; Hawai'i



Farmers Union United; Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice; Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Green Party of Hawai'i; Chamber of Commerce Hawaii; Hawaii Primary Care Association; Hawaii Chapter of 350.org; Zonta Club of Hilo; Hawaii Food Bank, Inc.; Hawaii State AFL-CIO; American Heart Association; Aloha United Way; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; Pukalani Superette; Beyond Organic Consulting Inc.; Kauai Climate Action Coalition; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; Ho'ōla Farms; KYD, Inc.; ABC Stores; Hawaii Pacific Health; Hawaii Medical Service Association; AlohaCare; Save Medicare Hawaii; Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i; and sixty-two individuals.

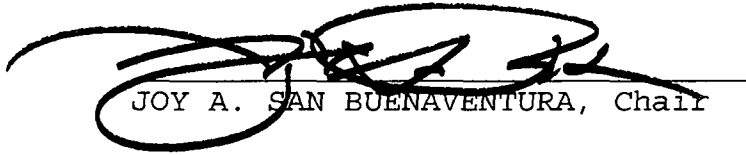
Your Committees find that every community should have access to fresh and healthy dietary options, but the high cost of fresh produce and healthy alternatives often makes that difficult. Your Committees further find that the Hawaii Healthy Food Incentive Program, now commonly known as the DA BUX Double Up Program, provides a dollar-for-dollar match to federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program beneficiaries who purchase locally grown fruits, vegetables, and proteins at participating farmers' markets, grocery stores, and community-supported agriculture projects. Your Committees note that a \$3,000,000 investment by the State in DA BUX Double Up Program would allow the statewide program coordinator, led by The Food Basket Inc., to apply for an additional \$3,000,000 in matching federal funds, totaling \$6,000,000. This measure not only supports the health of local families and farmers, but also the local economy.

Your Committees have amended this measure by making it effective upon its approval.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Health and Human Services that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2771, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2771, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Agriculture and
Environment and Health and
Human Services,



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



