



HB308 HD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
House Committee on Finance

February 23, 2023

11:30 AM

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers its **STRONG SUPPORT** for HB308 HD1, which would establish the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to develop a plan for a more sustainable and resilient local food economy. **OHA appreciates the Legislature’s amendment to this measure, which would ensure that Native Hawaiian interests will be represented in Hawai‘i’s sustainable food systems.**

He ali‘i ka ‘āina; he kauwā ke kanaka. OHA wishes to express its strong support for this measure to establish a robust network of partners “to create a vibrant and resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community.” As the principal public agency in the State responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians,¹ OHA represents a vast community of hānai ‘ai (food producer-practitioners), a great many of whom are kahu holoholona (ranchers), mahi‘ai (farmers), lawai‘a (fishers), kanaka hahai holoholona (hunters), and hānai ‘ai (food producer-practitioners). Our traditional Native Hawaiian cultural practices are deeply rooted in familial bonds with the natural world and the cultivation of these connections over the span of millennia now serve as exemplary models for any sustainable Hawai‘i-based food system.

Unfortunately, the fetid flow of historical injustice over the past 130 years has systemically severed Native Hawaiians from their ‘āina (the natural world), their traditions, and their cultures. Accordingly, Native Hawaiians now endure some of the worst socio-economic conditions among all peoples in this State, with ongoing inequities and disparities that continue to undermine Native Hawaiian existence. One of the most challenging social determinants of health for Native Hawaiians is economic well-being,² where Native Hawaiians have the highest rate of poverty and unemployment among Hawai‘i’s major ethnic groups, and “lower average annual earnings than statewide averages for both men and women.”³ Once again, at the highest rate among the State’s major ethnic groups, 63% of Native Hawaiians are finding it difficult to survive,⁴ with a 60% majority of Native Hawaiians unable to make ends meet.⁵

¹ Id.

² Dept. of Native Hawaiian Health, John A, Burns School of Medicine, *Assessment and Priorities for the Health and Well-Being in Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders*, 2020, p. 12

³ Id.

⁴ Aloha United Way, *Alice in Hawai ‘i: 2022 Facts and Figures*, Nov. 2022, p.9.

⁵ Id. at 6.



HB308 HD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
House Committee on Finance

The late Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli once observed, “the health of the land is the health of the people.” Native Hawaiians, i ka wā kahiko (in the time long before), intimately understood the need to develop systems and practices – like mālama ‘āina – that would ensure the survival of the people into perpetuity. It has become preeminently clear, over the long struggle to address the inequities and disparities associated with the disturbing status of Native Hawaiian health, that the greatest hope for recovery is through the dismantling of these tangled systems that have kept Native Hawaiians landless and impoverished.

Widespread Native Hawaiian participation in a far-reaching Hawai‘i-based sustainable food system economy would be integral to achieving vast improvements in Native Hawaiian health and well-being by reconnecting Native Hawaiians with ‘āina and their traditional cultures, while simultaneously elevating Native Hawaiian socio-economic conditions through potentially limitless economic development opportunities. Na ke kanaka mahi‘ai ka imu ō nui (the well-filled imu belongs to the person who tills the soil).

Since its establishment in 1978, OHA has made substantial contributions toward the preservation and protection of agricultural lands and the perpetuation of hānai ‘ai cultures and practices. Through meaningful participation in this Working Group, OHA will continue to meet its strategic goals to address health outcomes and economic stability for the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians.

Finally, OHA appreciates and supports this provision for its insight into the value of Native Hawaiian representation and the potential contribution of Native Hawaiian knowledge to advance the purpose and function of this working group. **OHA is certain that its contribution to this Working Group would be unique, as OHA is best-positioned to represent the interests and aspirations of the Native Hawaiian people as the only entity with the constitutional and statutory mandate to serve the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians.**

OHA appreciates the opportunity to support this measure and asks the Legislature to **PASS HB308 HD1**. Mahalo nui loa.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.

By

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

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 308 HD1 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

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

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023
ROOM 308
11:30 A.M.**

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

Chairperson Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 308, HD1. There is a companion measure, Senate Bill 420. HB308 requires the Department of Agriculture (Department) to establish a 32-member "Sustainable Food Systems Working Group" (Working Group) that is responsible for creating an "Interagency Food Systems Plan" (Plan) linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for a more sustainable, resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community. The Plan is to focus on the following issues:

- (1) Food as a human right and healthy food for all;
- (2) Social equity and food justice;
- (3) Food system resilience;
- (4) Agriculture and food system sustainability;
- (5) Food at the center of a circular economy;
- (6) Sustainable education, workforce development, and fair labor; and
- (7) Good food governance.

Also, to be incorporated into the Plan are the counties' "food access plans".



The Department is to provide necessary staff support. There are two appropriations to the Department in support of the Working Group and its efforts, and the hiring of an unspecified number of “sustainability specialist” positions. The Plan is to be submitted to the 2025 Legislature. The Department offers comments and recommendations in support of efforts to establish and support all forms of production agriculture on private and public lands.

The Department is concerned about the size of the Working Group that is now 32 members, up 39 percent from the initial 23. The Department appreciates the addition of one farmer from each of the four counties that are to be selected by the Department Chair. The Department suggests that references to “representatives of the agricultural sector” (page 4, paragraphs (13), (14) and (15)) be replaced with “farmers” to ensure the perspective sought is from agricultural producers.

The Department has been directed by the legislative and executive branches to focus on increasing local food self-sufficiency. Perhaps the issues that are the focus of the proposed 32-member 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 Working Group before incorporating it into a plan that will need to be funded and implemented. Additionally, while the measure proposes the creation of “sustainability specialist” positions to the Department, the Department currently lacks adequate staffing to host and support a working group of this size and importance at this time.

Further, SB84 is very similar to HB420, 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.



Ke'ena Kuleana Ho'okipa O Hawai'i
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

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor

John De Fries
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, February 23, 2023
11:30 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

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

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee on Finance,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of HB308 HD1, establishing the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture to complete an interagency food systems plan.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority's Destination Management Action Plans, also known as DMAPs, were developed in collaboration with Hawai'i's communities. Contained within the six plans are hundreds of actions and sub-actions identified by kama'āina, many of which speak to the importance of supporting local agriculture, shopping and dining with local businesses, and building capacity for agritourism.

The further development of sustainable food systems in Hawai'i addresses those DMAP actions, advances the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge, the principles of the 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures Declaration (to which HTA has committed), and moves us closer to a model of regenerative tourism. It also offers more avenues to capture visitor spending – over \$19 billion in 2022 – and keep those dollars circulating in Hawai'i.

HTA stands ready to participate in the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group, defers to our colleagues at the Department of Agriculture on matters of implementation, and appreciates the intent of HB308 HD1 to advance sustainable food systems in Hawai'i. Mahalo.



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www.NSEVP.org

February 21, 2023

House Committee on Finance
Thursday February 23, 2023, 11:30 a.m.

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

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

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

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

From a public policy perspective, the lack of a statewide food chain analysis that identifies the players in agricultural production, related specialized support activities, food and beverage manufacturing, and distribution of food and beverage products has hampered efforts to produce a strategy for growing agriculture. Instead of a comprehensive view of agriculture's contribution to GDP, Hawaii chooses to measure agriculture because of production gate value alone, hence DBEDT's figure of 0.3% of GDP from agriculture. In fact, agriculture contributes to the success and adds value to of many industries in Hawaii including food manufacturing, tourism, and culinary arts to name just a few.

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

Certainly Hawaii does not have the production capacity of California, but without a wide economic perspective across industries that touch agriculture, Hawaii may never realize the opportunities that lie at the intersection of other industry sectors and agriculture.

Therefore, I ask this committee to consider adding representation from the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) to the working group to provide economic and employment data to the food system work.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kevin M Kelly, President



Aloha Committee Members,

My name is Arwen Revere and I am a high school student from Kailua. Today, I am testifying on behalf of the environmental organization Wild Kids. **We are in strong support of HB308 which would improve the health of our communities as well as our natural environment.**

In Hawai'i, nearly one in six residents, many of which are children, lack access to nutritious food. The pandemic has only heightened this, making food insecurity one of our state's greatest challenges. This bill supports greater food security, environmental and human health, as well as economic diversity and stability.

A sustainable food system is one that provides sufficient food to meet current food needs while maintaining healthy ecosystems that support continuous food production for future generations as well. 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 take bigger steps in making locally produced food widely available to our citizens. Hawai'i is especially vulnerable to natural and human disasters that may have a negative impact on our own food security. Additionally, the current food system we have in place is extremely damaging to our environment and if action is not taken soon, this harm will be irreversible.

Thank you for hearing our testimony,

Arwen Revere on behalf of Wild Kids



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Agriculture & Food Security Committee

Thursday, February 23, 2023, 11:30 am

House Committee on Finance

HOUSE BILL 308 HD1 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Position: Support, with comment

Me ke Aloha, Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

HB308 creates a working group to develop a plan for “sustainable food production”, with recommendations for implementation, and with funds to support needed new positions to undertake the mission.

The Agriculture and Food Security Committee supports this necessary step forward in the seriously overdue effort to address Hawaii’s food insecurity. Our serious policy shortfall is that we now import 85-90% of all our food, with supplies for 2-3 days at most, so frighteningly demonstrated with the pandemic lockdown. Any number of likely disaster scenarios could bring another such event sooner than later, and we are still unprepared. We face immediate starvation in a worst case, and we are not protected. Hawaii’s “competitive advantage” in other sectors of the global economy cannot overcome supply chain disruptions. Food security depends on local food production for all residents, and we have ignored that.

The urgency of pressing forward with this initiative could not be more strongly emphasized. Our fear is that the proposed membership is far from understanding the extent of our fragile situation, and overly confident that policy solutions can fix it. We have to face the fact that we simply do not currently have the capacity to feed ourselves, and that conventional markets have failed. Input costs in Hawaii are famously high compared with our sources of imports. We have focused on providing opportunities for some to make a living from tourism and the successful middle class, even as the health and welfare of working families who are inevitably on the front lines of our emergencies cannot be served thereby.

Our historical emphasis on external markets may have a benefit in helping to support a new effort to provide healthy fresh produce for working families, but that it cannot possibly overcome the high prices local families cannot afford. The infrastructure for island-wide, society-wide adequate food supply has been made imaginable by acquisitions of depleted plantation lands and aging water infrastructure, but it has a very long way to go in restoring those lands to fertility and the water infrastructure to efficiency.

It seems very clear that there are no real profits in affordable healthy food for local working families. We recommend that realistic expectations be sought from farmers without access to high end markets. They may teach what is possible and where major obstacles lie. Farming practices need to adopt the regenerative model, reject the “green revolution” model. Additionally, county waste collection is part of the solution. Clearly, many players need to be involved in mapping out a sustainable future. The difficult truth is that affordable local produce should be conceived as a public good, like bus service or education, and we have barely begun to contemplate such a system. It is possible for successful agriculturalists serving high end markets to help support the infrastructure that will “raise all boats”.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this issue,

/s/ Charley Ice, Acting Chair, Agriculture and Food Security Committee

Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party



HIPHI Board

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

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

Debbie Erskine
Treasurer
ARCH-MEPS Consulting LLC, Owner

Keshia Adolpho, LCSW
Na'au Healing Center

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

Carissa Holley, MEd
Hale Makua Health Services

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

Garret Sugai
HMSA

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

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

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

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: February 21, 2023

To: Representative Kyle T Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

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

Hrg: Thursday, February 23, 2023 Conf Rm 308

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,



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

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

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

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

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



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thursday, February 23, 2023 — 11:30 a.m.

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

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports the intent of HB 308 HD1, which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementation, and any proposed legislation.

Developing a statewide plan around food economics may help to serve the State of Hawai'i and the future of the local agricultural industry. However, while we acknowledge that this working group shows merit with its intentions, the sheer number of participants, along with an inadequate number of actual food producer voices, creates some concern around efficiency and appropriate representation. We believe that more local producers need to be at the table and that the Department of Agriculture, whose responsibility is to serve those agriculturalists, should determine who those local farmers and ranchers should be. We recommend adjusting the working group to double the current producer voices and consider limiting/removing other entities to promote efficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Food+ Policy Internship 2023

food@purplemaia.org

February 8, 2023

To: Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and the House Committee on Finance

Subject: **HB308**, Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Aloha,

Food+ Policy **supports HB308**. As we have seen following the COVID-19 pandemic, the current food system is weak, and without a plan, could put many lives at risk. By creating a sustainable food system working group, the state will be better able to address multiple issues that arise from a complex system.

The food system touches upon many different issues, including environmental, social, and economic issues. Having a plan in place will also impact each of these areas. Funding a sustainable food system working group will allow systematic planning of the food system that can be economically beneficial to a variety of actors within Hawai'i's food system.

The sustainable food systems working group is necessary for the sustainability and resilience of the State of Hawaii. Therefore, I urge you to support bill HB308. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,
Kelsey Amos & 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.

HB-308-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 7:59:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The State needs a plan and a strategy to develop community food systems within the State of Hawai'i. HDOA is the right State Agency to house a Sustainable Food Systems Working Group. The State seems ready for this step forward, especially in conjunction with Complex Areas implementing Farm to School Programs.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Nancy Redfeather - Director Ka Ohana O Na Pua



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February 23, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 308, HD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
11:30 AM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 308, HD1, which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the department of agriculture, requires the working group to submit a plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the legislature, and appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions to be employed by the department of agriculture.

The impacts of the COVID pandemic have highlighted the need to strengthen Hawai'i's food system to ensure greater resilience, food security, human health, and economic diversity and stability.

As such, HFB respectfully requests the following amendments:

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-308-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 10:05:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hawai`i SEED SUPPORTS HB308, HD1 for Sustainable Food Systems

It would be beneficial and forward thinking to establish a sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture (DOA), requiring the working group to submit a plan, and recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation if necessary.

Mahalo,

Jeri Di Pietro, President



February 22, 2023

Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

RE: Testimony in support of HB 308, Relating to Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Foodbank, **I support HB 308**, 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 dedicated to hunger relief across our islands. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Miller Marvin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Amy Miller Marvin
President and CEO, Hawaii Foodbank



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Madeline Ross
Kohala, Hawai'i

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Chantal Chung
Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

Brynn Foster
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki
Kauai

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB308.**

HFUU seeks an amendment to specify that HFUU's President will select its representative to the sustainable food systems working group.

Local agriculture is a critical component of sustainable food systems. As most farms in the state are smallholder and family operations, which compose the majority HFUU farm members, we believe our participation in this working group will add an important and necessary perspective. Furthermore, HFUU's dedication to sustainable food systems has been a driving force of its membership growth, educational activities, and legislative goals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
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Executive Officers

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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*

TO: Committee on Finance

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2023
TIME: 11:30am
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: HB308 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.



House Committee on Finance

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB308 HD1

Thursday, February 23, 2023 11:30 a.m. Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee,

We support HB308 HD1 which appropriates funds to the department of agriculture to provide grants to Hawai'i farming groups to be disbursed to taro farmers.

A sustainable food system is one 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 Hawaii 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 support HB308 HD1.

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



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

HB308 SD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Thursday, February 23, 2023, 11:30 AM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB308 SD1** 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





SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 23, 2023 11:30 AM Conference Room 308

In **SUPPORT** of **HB308 HD1**

Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee,

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

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

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

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

“(22) A representative with demonstrated experience or expertise in traditional Native Hawaiian

fisheries management, to be selected by the
administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
and

(23) A representative of the E Alu Pū network, to be
selected by the President of Kua'āina Ulu
'Auamo."

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

HB-308-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 4:17:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House Members,

HB 308 We now have an opportunity to use our scientific and traditional knowledge to understand and transform the food system of hawaii toward sustainability, climate change resilience, and human health. We need to invest in prevention, diversity, resilience, health and stability of our island community.

Please support HB 308.

Mahalo for this consideration,

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

HB-308-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 6:17:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	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 identifying and advancing solutions to our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support HB308 HD1 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai‘i.

Mahalo,

Mary Lu Kelley

Lawai, Kauai

HB-308-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 7:21:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	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 identifying and advancing solutions to our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support HB308 HD1 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai‘i.

Mahalo,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-308-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 10:29:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HB308 HD1.

HB-308-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 5:40:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

In support of HD1. Thank you.

HB-308-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 9:19:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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 identifying and advancing solutions to our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support HB308 HD1 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai‘i.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili

HB-308-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 10:13:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ariana Datta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and committee members:

I respectfully ask that you support HB308 which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ariana Datta

HB-308-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 11:37:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in favor of HB308 HD1, which establishes a sustainable food systems working group within the department of agriculture, one which will seek out those qualified to be employed as sustainable specialists with regards to agriculture.

If the COVID-19 pandemic taught us nothing else, it showed how important it was for us as an island home to ensure our own sustainable food supply. I also hope the group will look to not only make our food sustainable from a food security perspective, but also one with an eye on sustainable environmental practices, whether that be pertaining to water, soil and air quality, as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-308-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 8:36:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marsha Hee	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 identifying and advancing solutions to our reliance on imports and creating a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Please support HB308 HD1 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai‘i.

Mahalo,

Marsha Hee, Volcano - Hawaii Island

HB-308-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 9:58:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barryn Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We should be developing and promoting local food production, and using food produced by these programs, so I support this bill as part of that initiative.