

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025
3:30 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

SENATE BILL NO. 693, S.D. 1, H.D. 1
RELATING TO THE FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 693, S.D. 1, H.D. 1. This bill aims to appropriate funds for the continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program. The Department of Agriculture (Department) fully supports this initiative.

The Department recognizes that food hubs are a vital link in the supply chain, facilitating the distribution of locally grown food to consumers and institutions of the State. Food hubs allow farmers to scale up and consider new crops that the hubs find are in demand and in short supply. Food hubs also serve as "back-up" infrastructure for the food system with middle-of-the-supply chain equipment at their facilities. Equipment for washing, refrigeration, packaging, and delivery are services the food hubs provide that is basic to the farm to consumer supply chain. This bill provides funding that will address the challenges the food hubs have to implement plans to expand their operations. The bill is a vehicle for food hubs to be able to connect with larger buyers of safe, minimally processed, and locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

Under Act 313, the Department received 27 submissions and following a competitive Request for Proposal process that concluded in May 2023, awarded funding for six projects, totaling \$1.35 million, of which \$672,000 has been invoiced and paid. The food hubs supported by Act 313 funding:

- Adaptations, Inc., Hawai'i Island - \$242,515.20;
- Alternative Structures International, Oahu - \$201,104.00;
- Elepaio Social Services, Oahu - \$250,000.00;
- Hawaii Institute of Pacific Agriculture, Hawai'i Island (Kohala Food Hub) - \$203,213.46;
- Papa'aloa Country Store and Café Food Hub, Hawai'i Island - \$203,213.46; and
- Sustainable Molokai, Molokai - \$249,953.88.

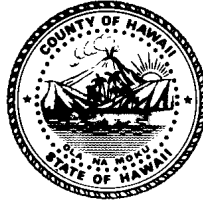


A project to purchase two delivery vehicles and add a delivery driver for cold-storage transportation realized net results of adding 15 new farmers to the hub, increasing sales to a local hospital by over 50%, and reports total annual sales from the food hub operations as \$2.5 million.

Another takeaway from Act 313 is that there are 21 proposals from food hubs across the state that are seeking resources for their operations to support farmers across the state. This bill would provide the needed resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor



Benson Medina
Director

Dennis Lin
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

25 Aupuni Street, Room 1301 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4252
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March 25, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FRIDAY, March 28, 2025
3:30 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

TESTIMONY ON SB 693 SD1 HD1
Relating to the Food Hub Pilot Program

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

I am Benson Medina, Director of the Department of Research and Development, County of Hawai'i. One of the agricultural objectives of this department is to "support collaboration, innovation, resource development, and programmatic sustainability throughout the food system to reduce food waste, improve producer viability and resilience, develop workforce development pathways, or increase access to locally produced food among low-income residents."

The County of Hawai'i provides written testimony in **SUPPORT of SB693 SD1 HD1**, to appropriate funds for the continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program.

The State of Hawai'i aims to at least double local food production, with a goal of 20-30% of food consumed is grown locally ([Aloha+ Challenge](#)). However, gaps in production, aggregation, and processing of agricultural products limit the productivity and growth of Hawai'i agriculture ([Office of Planning](#), 2012; [Hāmākua Institute](#), 2021).

Data from the previous Food Hub Pilot Program shows the ability of community organizations to utilize funding to meet middle of the supply chain agricultural needs. 27 proposals were received in 2023, requesting a total of \$6,218,019. Six proposals were accepted and funded with a total of \$1,350,000 dispersed, leaving a remaining need of approximately \$4.9M ([HDOA 2023 Annual Report](#)).

A survey of 14 food hubs across Hawai'i in 2024 found that fundraising was the top challenge ([Hawai'i Food Hub Hui](#), 2024). The highest construction priorities for food hubs across Hawai'i are expanded cold chain abilities, updated facilities, new commercial kitchen capacity and renewable energy systems ([Hawai'i Food Hub Hui](#), 2024). The continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program provides strategic capital access throughout the agricultural value chain, enabling agricultural businesses to leverage private and federal funding avenues to amplify impact and address agriculture and food systems bottlenecks.

Thank you for championing agriculture in Hawai'i and for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT of SB693 SD1 HD1**.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benson Medina", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Benson Medina
Director, Research and Development
County of Hawai'i



3/25/2025

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB693 SD1 HD1

Food Hub Pilot Program

Aloha Chair Yamashita and Members of the Finance Committee:

The Hawai'i Food Hub Hui (HFHH) strongly supports SB693 SD1 HD1 which appropriates funds for the continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program, with two proposed amendments:

- 1. Increase funding from \$1.5 million to \$3 million** to adequately address the current federal funding uncertainty and expand the program's impact across all islands.
- 2. Recognize intermediaries such as the Hawai'i Food Hub Hui** as done in the bill language to facilitate grant program delivery, similar to the success by a recent RFP by Hawaii Department of Education in the recent local food purchasing agreement, which is a statewide food box delivery program taken on by the Food Hub Hui and managed by the Good Food Alliance.

About the Hawai'i Food Hub Hui

The Hawai'i Food Hub Hui is a collaboration dedicated to supporting local food hubs and promoting the consumption of locally grown, culturally preferred foods. Established in 2017, our network now encompasses 15 food hubs across the state, supporting over 1,700 producers that serve approximately 17,354 customers annually, generating an economic impact exceeding \$20 million in 2024.

The HFHH's efforts ensure that small- and medium-sized farms have access to the resources they need to thrive, as well as providing access to fresh, healthy, and culturally appropriate foods to local residents.

Need for Increased Funding

The proposed increase from \$1.5 million to \$3 million is critical due to:

1. Federal Funding Uncertainty: Current federal programs that have historically supported food hub infrastructure and operations face significant uncertainty, creating potential gaps in the food system including the USDA Regional Food Division programs such as RFBC, RFSP, LFPA, LFPP, and FMPP which when combined amount to more than \$20 million for Hawaii agriculture in 2025.

2. Demonstrated ROI: Our network has effectively managed over \$4 million in grants during 2023, delivering transformative impacts including:

- Expanded cold storage and distribution infrastructure
- New commercial kitchen facilities enabling value-added production
- Mobile markets reaching underserved communities
- Enhanced capacity to support local farmers
- Increased food access programs for vulnerable populations

Our data demonstrates sustained growth and impact:

- Local Food Sales: 21% annual growth, reaching \$18.7 million in 2023
- Producers Supported: 16% growth, now serving 1,663 farmers and value-added producers
- SNAP & Da BUX Programs: 23% annual growth, with \$1.6 million in sales in 2023
- Minority Producers: 49% growth in support for Native Hawaiian and BIPOC producers

3. Rising Costs: Construction, equipment, and operational expenses have increased significantly, requiring greater investment to achieve meaningful infrastructure improvements.

The Food Hub Pilot Program represents a crucial investment in Hawai'i's food security and agricultural future. By increasing funding to \$3 million and recognizing the Hawai'i Food Hub Hui as an intermediary, this legislation will maximize impact, ensure equitable distribution, and strengthen our local food systems when federal support is uncertain.

We respectfully request your support for SB693 SD1 HD1 with these two amendments.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Saleh Azizi Fardkhales, Ph.D.

Director

Hawai'i Food Hub Hui

(808) 383-5224 | info@foodhubhui.com

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 4:42:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Fox	Malama Kaua‘i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for your consideration of this important bill to invest in needed food systems distribution infrastructure. Food hubs have been proven to be impactful engines in our food system, making important linkages between producers and consumers of various sizes and types. With uncertainty around Federal funding sources, it's critical that the State continue to see investments in these models grow to increase our food systems strength and security into the future. Mahalo for your consideration - we humbly ask you to support 693 SB.

Friday, March 28, 2025; 3:30 pm
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

House Committee on Finance

To: Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

**Re: SB 693, SD1, HD1 – Testimony In Support
Relating to the Food Hub Program**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I am writing in SUPPORT of SB 693, SD1, HD1 which appropriates funds for the continued implementation of the Food Hub pilot program, including grant moneys to qualifying food hubs.

The State's food security may be strengthened by growing more food locally and increasing access to local food. Establishing food hubs, which are centrally located facilities having a business management structure that facilitates aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of locally produced food products may be a means by which to foster interest in locally grown foods and make them more available to consumers. The majority of the farms in Hawai'i are small operations that struggle to bring their products to market. Food hubs provide wider access to institutional and retail markets for small to mid-sized producers, and increase consumers' access to fresh healthy food, including those consumers in underserved areas.

HPH has a goal of sourcing 50% of its food purchases of protein and agriculture at each of its facilities from local suppliers in an effort to support local food systems. Food Hubs are a vital component of the success of an initiative of this scale. Food hubs have the potential provide an alternative method to assure quality and assist purchasing with local agricultural producers. Providing greater access to local foods improves food security and strengthens our agricultural industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Friday, March 28, 2025; 3:30 p.m.
State Capital, Conference Room 308
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 0693, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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. 693, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1, RELATING TO THE FOOD HUB PILOT 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.

The measure, as received by your Committee, would appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2025-2026, and the same amount for fiscal year 2026-2027, for the continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program established pursuant to Act 313, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022. In addition, this measure would allow the awarding of grant moneys to qualifying food hubs.

The bill would take effect on July 1, 3000.

Because of the rising cost of food, inflation, and stagnant wages, citizens continue to wait in line for surplus food and look for ways of stretching limited resources to put food on the table. This bill would provide the Food Hub Pilot Program with the necessary resources to continue to feed our citizens. It would also provide the Program with the necessary flexibility to utilize resources in the most efficient and effective ways possible.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 0693, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1
Friday, March 28, 2025; 3:30 p.m.
Page 2

For these reasons, the HPCA respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this measure.

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.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 12:09:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Master Jedi Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Ohana Unity Party & Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Subject: Urgent Support for S.B. No. 693 – Fortify Food Hubs for Resilience and Security

Aloha Esteemed Lawmakers of the Thirty-Third Legislature,

I write with unwavering support for Senate Bill No. 693, a vital measure to appropriate funds for the continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program under Act 313, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022. This bill is a beacon of hope for strengthening Hawaii’s food security by empowering food hubs—centralized engines of local production, aggregation, and distribution. As we face escalating natural threats, I urge you to pass S.B. No. 693 with robust funding and ensure that food hubs in Waianae, Nanakuli, and across our islands are strategically sited above flood zones to withstand tsunamis that could sever road access and imperil our food supply.

The Stakes: A Fragile Food Chain

Hawaii’s reliance on imports—80% of our food (Hawaii Department of Agriculture, 2023)—leaves us teetering on the edge of vulnerability. The 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture reveals we’ve lost 82,000 acres of farmland since 2017, a 12% plunge, while local production meets just 11.3% of demand (UH College of Tropical Agriculture, 2024). Food hubs are our lifeline, bridging small- to mid-sized producers—6,569 farms strong (USDA 2022)—to markets, delivering \$670 million in annual value. Yet, the Honolulu Civil Beat (Mar 3, 2024) warns that financial hurdles choke their growth, with 60% of pilot hubs struggling to scale without aid. S.B. No. 693’s funding is the oxygen they need to thrive.

Tsunami Risk: A Call for Elevated Hubs

Our islands’ geography amplifies the urgency. The National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (2023) flags Hawaii as high-risk, with 252 tsunami events since 1812—averaging one every 18 months. A 9.0-magnitude Aleutian quake could inundate Oahu’s coastlines up to 20

feet (NOAA Tsunami Program, 2024), blocking key roads like Farrington Highway in Waianae and Nanakuli, where 70% of traffic relies on a single route (Hawaii DOT, 2022). The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA, 2025) estimates a 48-hour road closure post-tsunami, stranding 40,000 West Oahu residents and halting food distribution. Placing food hubs—such as those in Waianae and Nanakuli—above the 20-foot flood zone (e.g., at 30-50 feet elevation) ensures access when disaster strikes, safeguarding 6,000+ farm families (USDA 2022) and underserved communities in food deserts.

S.B. No. 693: A \$10 Million Investment in Resilience

Act 313's pilot has proven its mettle—hubs like Kahumana Food Hub in Waianae boosted local sales by 25% in 2023 (HDOA Report)—but funding dries up without S.B. No. 693. I propose \$5 million annually for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027, totaling \$10 million, to:

- Expand Reach: Support 10-15 hubs statewide, doubling the 5 currently funded (HDOA, 2024), reaching 50% more producers.
- Elevate Infrastructure: Grant \$500,000 per hub for flood-safe sites, like Waianae's uplands, cutting tsunami risk by 80% (HI-EMA Model).
- Feed the Vulnerable: Serve 30,000+ residents in food deserts (UH Study, 2023), slashing the 23% food insecurity rate (Feeding America, 2024).

A Legacy of Strength

Picture this: a tsunami hits, roads flood, yet food hubs in Waianae, Nanakuli, and beyond stand tall above the chaos, feeding our people. The Hawaii Farm Bureau (2024) warns we're losing ground on local food goals—S.B. No. 693 reverses that tide. With \$670 million in ag value at stake, this isn't just policy—it's survival.

I implore you to pass S.B. No. 693 with \$10 million to fortify our food future. Let hubs rise above flood zones, ensuring no roadblock starves our ohana. This is our chance to honor Hawaii's producers and secure our islands—act now, and let resilience reign!

Mahalo nui loa for your leadership,

With Profound Aloha and Steadfast Resolve,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM

Ohana Unity Party, Chairman

www.Ohanaunityparty.com

Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I.



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

March 28, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 693, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO THE FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
3:30 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, 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 693, SD1, HD1, which appropriates funds for the continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program.

Small farmers typically lack access to facilities and infrastructure to aggregate, process, and distribute products to local consumers. The challenge for small growers is also complicated by stringent regulations of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), which jeopardize the ongoing viability of many small growers due to the costs of compliance.

In Hawai'i, additional challenges to small farmers include high land, labor, and energy costs and limited water supply for irrigation. Food hubs are an essential subset of food value chains. Many farmers and ranchers, especially small-sized operations, often lack the capacity to access retail, institutional, and commercial food service markets on their own and consequently miss out on the fastest-growing segment of the local food market. By offering a combination of aggregation, distribution, food safety, and marketing services at an affordable price, food hubs make it possible for many producers to gain entry into new larger-volume markets that boost their income and provide them with opportunities for scaling up production.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 7:27:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT continued implementation of the food hub program!

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 11:09:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kasey Crispin	Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance,

The Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative expresses strong support for SB693 SD1 HD1, which provides essential funding for the continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program. We also recommend two critical amendments to strengthen the bill's reach and impact:

1. Increase the program's appropriation from \$1.5 million to \$3 million to address growing demand and mitigate uncertainty around future federal support.
2. Affirm the role of intermediary organizations—such as the Hawai'i Food Hub Hui—in facilitating program implementation, building on recent statewide models like the Hawai'i Department of Education's local food purchasing initiative, which successfully leveraged intermediary coordination to deliver Hawai'i-grown food across islands.

About the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative:

Founded in 2016 by a group of Hawai'i Island farmers, the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative is a farmer-owned enterprise focused on revitalizing traditional staple crops such as breadfruit, taro, sweet potato, and pumpkin. Today, the co-op includes over 180 member farms across the islands, aggregating over 1.5 million pounds of locally-grown food to date. Our mission is to strengthen Hawai'i's food systems by empowering farmers and making nutritious, Hawai'i-grown staples more accessible to families and institutions statewide.

The proposed funding increase is vital for the following reasons:

- Federal Program Instability: Uncertainty around national funding sources—like USDA's climate-smart commodity programs and regional food system grants—threatens the momentum built by local food initiatives. Without reliable state investment, Hawai'i risks losing ground in scaling infrastructure and market access for local agriculture.
- Proven Results from Food Hub Investments: Recent investments in regional food hubs—including ours—have delivered measurable outcomes:
 - Increased cold and dry storage capacity
 - Expanded processing infrastructure
 - Improved distribution logistics for outer-island farmers
 - Greater support for smallholder and Indigenous producers
 - Enhanced access to local food through programs like SNAP and Da BUX

- Rising Costs of Operations and Infrastructure: Inflation in equipment, labor, and construction costs is making it increasingly difficult for co-ops and food hubs to expand capacity without additional support.

The Food Hub Pilot Program is a wise investment in Hawai‘i’s agricultural future. By raising funding to \$3 million and formally recognizing the role of intermediaries, this bill will enable deeper collaboration, support more farmers, and help ensure local food reaches those who need it most—especially in times of federal uncertainty.

We appreciate your consideration and urge your support of SB693 SD1 HD1 with the proposed amendments.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kasey Crispin
On behalf of the Hawai‘i ‘Ulu Cooperative



House Committee on Finance

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB693 SD1 HD1

Friday, March 28, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. Conference Room 308

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

HAPA supports SB693 SD1 HD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Furthermore, food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local "food deserts".

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1 to grow markets for our local food producers.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written below the word 'Respectfully,'.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
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Reba Lopez
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Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hāna, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakalā, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahālāwai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Moloka'i

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

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

The Hawai'i Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU supports SB693.**

The Food Hub Pilot Program strengthens Hawaii's food security by helping local farmers connect their produce to markets through food hubs. Food Hubs provide essential services for small and medium-sized farms, including storage, processing, and distribution of local produce.

Hawaii's hubs have been particularly effective in expanding food access for low-income families. Their SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks sales reached \$1.6 million in 2023, ensuring fresh local foods reach families who need them most. Food hubs also respond quickly to community needs, as demonstrated by their vital role in providing emergency food aid during the Maui fires.

Food hubs often face financial challenges when expanding their operations, making continued funding through SB693 essential. The program does more than just improve market access - it builds a stronger local food system. Supporting food hubs helps reduce Hawaii's dependence on imported food while promoting environmental sustainability and growing the agricultural economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 11:56:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Chair and Committee Members,

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. More food hubs can also provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts.”

Mahalo.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 2:24:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Morgan Tooch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB693 SD1 HD1 with Proposed Amendments

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Morgan Tooch, and I am a Hawaii resident residing in Kona, on the Big Island. I grow food as medicine for myself and to share and work closely in the local food system, helping farmers get their product into the local markets, and I am also an employee at the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative. I moved to Hawaii from California 5 years ago, after the numerous wildfires and droughts wreaked havoc in my community. I deem the Food Hub Pilot Program essential to the well-being of the island's food sovereignty efforts. I strongly support SB693 SD1 HD1, which appropriates funds for the continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program, and respectfully request two amendments:

1. Increase funding from \$1.5 million to \$3 million to adequately address current federal funding uncertainty and expand the program's impact across all islands.
2. Recognize intermediaries such as the Hawai'i Food Hub Hui in the bill language to facilitate grant program delivery, similar to the success of a recent RFP by the Hawaii Department of Education for a statewide food box delivery program managed by the Food Hub Hui and the Good Food Alliance.

The Hawai'i Food Hub Hui, established in 2017, is a collaboration of 15 food hubs across the state, supporting over 1,700 producers and serving approximately 17,354 customers annually. In 2024, our network generated an economic impact exceeding \$20 million.

A key aspect of the Hui's work is providing access to local foods for diverse and rural communities across the islands. By connecting local farmers with consumers, the Hui ensures that fresh, healthy, and culturally preferred foods are available to communities that often face barriers in accessing such products. This includes initiatives like mobile markets and community sources agriculture programs that reach underserved areas, enhancing food security and supporting local economies [12](#). The food hubs within the Hui not only facilitate access to local foods but also create employment opportunities with fair wages for the ethnically diverse populations in rural areas. This, in turn, generates a positive ripple effect throughout these communities, contributing to their economic vitality and social well-being.

Increasing funding to \$3 million is critical due to:

1. Federal Funding Uncertainty: Current federal programs supporting food hub infrastructure and operations face significant uncertainty, potentially creating gaps in the food system.
2. Demonstrated Return on Investment: The Hui network has effectively managed over \$4 million in grants during 2023, delivering transformative impacts including expanded cold storage and distribution infrastructure, new commercial kitchen facilities, mobile markets reaching underserved communities, enhanced capacity to support local farmers, and increased food access programs for vulnerable populations.

The Hui plays a crucial role in sustaining growth and impact by committing to increasing:

- Local Food Sales: 21% annual growth, reaching \$18.7 million in 2023
- Farmer and Producer Support: 16% growth, now serving 1,663 farmers and value-added producers
 - Minority Producers: 49% growth in support for Native Hawaiian and BIPOC producers
- SNAP & Da BUX Programs: 23% annual growth, with \$1.6 million in sales in 2023

The Food Hub Pilot Program represents a crucial investment in Hawai‘i’s food security and agricultural future. By increasing funding to \$3 million and recognizing the Hawai‘i Food Hub Hui as an intermediary, this legislation will maximize impact, ensure equitable distribution, and strengthen our local food systems when federal support is uncertain.

I urge the committee to pass SB693 SD1 HD1 with the proposed amendments. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Citations:

1. <https://holomua.hawaiiourismauthority.org/stories/statewide-hui-helps-island-food-hubs-increase-the-use-of-locally-grown-food-local-farmers-shoppers-chefs-and-grocers-benefit/>
2. https://assets-global.website-files.com/65494a60c3cc16aaf1dc8a8c/660353dd3e89dd2d52b20638_Hawai%CA%BBi%20Food%20Hub%20Hui%202024%20Report-2.pdf
3. <https://www.foodhubhui.com>
4. <https://www.foodhubhui.com/hawaii-island-food-hubs>
5. <https://hawaiigoodfoodalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Food-Hub-Hui-Directory-2022-01.pdf>
6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esbZ2XxJ0lA>
7. <https://www.instagram.com/foodhubhui/reel/C8NJfvzuX-i/>
8. https://www.instagram.com/foodhubhui/p/CvatevpOnT_/

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 4:24:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Mahalo.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 4:24:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimdonghyeon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 4:24:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hayley Peter-Contesse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. I live in Makaha and see firsthand the effects of poor quality food and over-reliance on fast food.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 4:55:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Finance Committee Chair and Members,

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1 which is a vitally important bill for our food security. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1.

Thank you for your consideration,

Susan, Lawai, Kauai

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 4:57:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please fund the continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 5:05:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Shaver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai‘i’s food hubs have become vital lifelines for small farmers, helping them bring their crops to market through shared infrastructure, aggregation, and distribution. State support for the initial pilot program was instrumental in getting these food hubs off the ground—and we must continue to build on that success.

SB693 SD1 HD1 invests in the expansion of food hubs across the islands, supporting small-scale farmers, many of whom are working to grow *culturally appropriate, nutritious foods* using sustainable methods. These hubs are not only key to a thriving local food economy—they’re also critical to equity, bringing healthy food options into underserved communities and local “food deserts.”

With federal support shrinking, especially for small and sustainable farms, it’s time for our state to step up. Investing in food hubs is an investment in food security, community health, and the resilience of our local agricultural system.

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Let’s ensure Hawai‘i’s farmers and families can thrive.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 5:12:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support SB693 SD1 HD1, which will promote the production of culturally appropriate nutritious foods, grow our local food economy and provide greater food system equity by helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 5:21:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emelia Briscoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 5:37:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Holmes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support of SB693 SD1 HD1. It's so important to aid local food production! Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed.

Mahalo for your attention.

Dr. Lorna Holmes

Honolulu 96817

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 5:55:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support. We need food. We need farmers. We are going to need them more and more.

Thank you,

Richard Bodien

Hawi

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 8:40:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Kamalei Stovall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB693 SD1 HD1 which will support the food hub pilot program. Food hubs are incredibly important for communities in "food desert" areas, families who can't go to farmers markets, who struggle to afford local produce, and for farmers with no access to farmer's markets. It's a very efficient way for farmers to consistently get their produce to the people who need it, cutting costs, time, and fuel. As a subscriber to my community food hub, I love the convenience and knowing I'm supporting local food producers. It's increasingly important in these difficult days with federal funding being cruelly withheld from so many programs that help the most vulnerable people and do the most good in our communities. Please support food hubs!

Mahalo,

Lauren Kamalei Stovall

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 8:56:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support Hawai'i farmers!

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 9:44:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family has participated in the Malama Kauai food hub since its inception, as growers and consumers. Food hubs provide healthy, locally grown foods to our community supporting both the local farmer and economy. Given the direction our federal government is going we need to support local, sustainable farming. Strong support for continuing the Food Hub Pilot Program.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 10:08:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Galloway	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please help us become food secure!

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 11:33:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Gross	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Fresh produce provided by local farms is such a win win for the residents and farmers of the Hawaiian islands . Thank you.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 12:14:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. Eliel,Kapaa

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 1:08:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Yamashita, Vice Chair Representative Takenouchi and Members of the Committee on Finance.

Please support SB 693 SD 1 HD 1 which, to my understanding, would help small farmers bring food to the market and help grow our local food economy.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 7:39:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 9:03:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 10:27:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Aloha, my name is Keala Fung from Honolulu and I'm writing in support SB693 SD1 HD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo for your time,

Keala Fung

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 10:28:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Priscilla Stuckey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Committee Members,

Please support SB693, which secures continued funding for the Food Hub Pilot Program.

Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts.”

Given all the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small-scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1.

Priscilla Stuckey, Kihei HI

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 10:30:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators:

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo,
Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 10:59:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca WEst	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please fund the continued implementation of the Food Hub Pilot Program. Hawaii needs this for food sovereignty and equity!

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 11:07:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
emily gambino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 11:14:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 12:26:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marc-Anthony Gamboa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Food insecurity is an existential threat to Hawaii. If the ports were destroyed or closed, we only have 2 weeks worth of food to survive on. This is why we must support local food hubs and small farmers.

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 2:32:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha House Committee on Finance,

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1.

Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed.

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo,

Pamela Burrell, Ka;ihiwai, Kaua'i 96754

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 2:38:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Marrack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo for your time,

Julie Marrack, Kamuela

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 7:12:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Mahalo.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 8:11:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Skow, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Stephanie Skow, and I am writing to express my strong support of SB693.

As a physician in Hawaii, I believe it would be beneficial to have accessible locally grown fresh vegetables and fruits to support the health and well-being of our residents, and improve food security for the islands. Thank you!

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 8:57:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Food Hubs are essential to our ability to continue to rebuild out our local agriculture system and decrease our dependency on imported food that lose its nutrienence as it travels. They're an important community based arrogator that can adapt to emergencies. In a time of increased climate change impacts, investing in spaces like our food hubs makes us more resilient! Please pass this bill.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 7:08:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danelle Guion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House Committee on Finance Members,

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo!

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 7:50:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 8:55:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann V Saffery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha All,

Support for SB693.

Mahalo for all you do,

Ann V Saffery

Honolulu, HI

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 10:13:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
katherine skow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill as it strengthens the Hawaii's food security and requires increasing local food production and improving consumer access to locally grown food. I support this and any measure that encourages increasing locally grown produce for everyone on Kauai.

Mahalo,

Katherine Skow

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 11:00:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Yaris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB693 SD1 HD1. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”.

Given all of the recent cuts of federal support to our local farmers and producers, especially targeting small scale farmers seeking to engage in sustainable practices, it is critical that we take action locally to ensure that these local producers are able to succeed. Please support SB693 SD1 HD1.

SB-693-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 6:23:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Bernstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita and Members of the FIN Committee:

I'm writing in support of SB693 SD1 HD1. Please pass this bill out of your committee.

Mahalo,

Paul Bernstein