

Honolulu, Hawaii
FEB 11 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2208
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Human Services & Homelessness, to which was referred H.B. No. 2208 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for the Hawaii Farm to Families Program to support food banks statewide in purchasing, storing, and transporting fresh, Hawaii-grown or -produced food to food-insecure communities.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency; County of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Academy of Family Physicians; Ulupono Initiative; Get Fit Kaua'i; Maui Food Bank; Malu 'Aina; Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center; Hawai'i Foodbank; Hawai'i Hunger Action Network; Malama Kaua'i; Hawaii Food+ Policy; Hawaii Food Industry Association; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Kauai Climate Action Coalition; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawai'i Farmer's Union; Local Food Coalition; 350Hawaii.org; Catholic Charities Hawai'i; Aloha United Way; Hawai'i Primary Care Association; Waimānalo Agricultural Association; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative; The Food Basket, Inc.; Kauai Bible Church; Kohala Coast Urgent Care &



Mobile Health/Moloka'i Family & Urgent Care; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services and Department of the Attorney General.

Your Committee finds that food insecurity remains a significant and persistent challenge for households across the State, disproportionately affecting children and other vulnerable populations. Your Committee further finds that supporting partnerships between food banks and local agricultural producers can improve access to fresh, nutritious food for food-insecure communities while strengthening Hawaii's local food system and economy. The Hawaii Farm to Families Program will help address immediate food needs by enabling food banks to purchase, store, and distribute fresh, Hawaii-grown or -produced food to food-insecure communities statewide.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting grant standards as recommended by the Department of the Attorney General;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services & Homelessness that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2208, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2208, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Human Services &
Homelessness,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Marten", written over a horizontal line.

LISA MARTEN, Chair



HSCR 153-26

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 2208		Committee Referral: HSH, AGR, FIN		Date: 2/5/2026	
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
HSH Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. MARTEN, Lisa (C)		X			
2. OLDS, Ikaika (VC)		X			
3. AMATO, Terez		X			
4. HARTSFIELD, Daisy		X			
5. KEOHOKAPU-LEE LOY, Sue L.		X			
6. TAKAYAMA, Gregg		X			
7. TAKENOUCHI, Jenna		X			
8. ALCOS III, David		X			
9. GARCIA, Diamond		X			
TOTAL (9)		9			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					