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TO: Committee on Economic Development and Technology

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: April 8, 2026

TIME: 9:30am

RE: HCR 144 HD1 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY TO COLLABORATE WITH STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure. The most recent data from the Hawaii Foodbank shows that our state has 30% food insecurity on average, with some parts of the state experiencing food insecurity rates of close to 40%. Assessing food insecurity conditions in the State to get data-driven, actionable information is an important step in fighting food insecurity. HFIA would be happy to lend any expertise and information we have that might assist in these efforts.

HR-136-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:45:59 AM

Testimony for ECD on 4/8/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine L. Andrews, J.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Christine Andrews, and I write to you today to respectfully request your support of this measure. Especially after the recent kona low storms it is necessary for us to support our farmers and work together on a statewide food security strategy that will bolster local economies while making our communities more resilient.

Mahalo nui for your support,

Christine Andrews, JD

Wailuku, Maui

HR-136-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 3:43:06 PM

Testimony for ECD on 4/8/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

HR-136-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 5:02:43 PM

Testimony for ECD on 4/8/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Safia Gravel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

please support

HR-136-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:33:22 AM

Testimony for ECD on 4/8/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am testifying in support of HC144/HR136 because I believe the departments coordinating together statewide will help strategize our food security here in Hawai'i. Mahalo for your consideration.

HR-136-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:41:30 AM

Testimony for ECD on 4/8/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Waters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Writing in strong support of HCR144 and HR136 HD1. Hawaii needs to address food security in a collaborative way. Mahalo.