

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson  
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026  
3:00 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2097  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2097 that establishes the Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity and appropriates funds. The Department supports this bill.

A sustainable food system begins with supporting the farmers and ranchers that produce the food. Food producers have challenges at the production and regulatory levels that they know how to overcome but lack the resources to do so. This bill provides access to solutions to scale up or obtain a certification to expand, such as special-purpose equipment, new technology, personnel, training expenses or goods and services that add value to the food they produce in the food system through a grant program. This bill mitigates risk to the farmer, rancher or producer to overcome the specific challenges impacting their operations.

Department support of this measure considers feedback from producers about the high cost of equipment as a major barrier to expanding operations. The Department administered the USDA Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure program (RFSI) that provided \$2.6 million in funding for middle-of-the-supply-chain infrastructure. The Department received 104 applications, 17 of which were funded, leaving 87 proposals unfunded. The USDA will not be offering the RFSI for a second round and these unfunded projects could be considered along with new applications.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) 2022 Census of Agriculture reported that Hawaii has 780+ farms reporting value of sales between \$50,000 - \$499,000 that this bill identifies as the middle-of-the-supply chain with the potential to

Testimony of Sharon Hurd

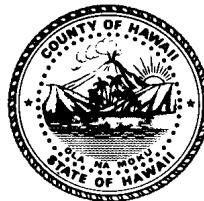
January 28, 2026

Page 2

double food production if provided with the equipment, technology, personnel, training or tool to move to the next level of value of annual sales which is \$500,000+.

Greatly appreciate your support of this bill and thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

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  
(808) 961-8366 • Fax (808) 935-1205  
E-mail: chresdev@co.hawaii.hi.us

January 27, 2025

### HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

WEDNESDAY, January 28, 2025  
3:30 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

### TESTIMONY ON SB 2097 Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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 research, development, control, and education that improves agricultural production, quality, resilience, and producer viability." The County of Hawai'i provides written testimony in **SUPPORT of SB2097**, to establish the Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Producers are motivated to overcome challenges to meet statewide goals to at least double local food production yet require assistance in the form of grants and infrastructure. In fact, 2 out of 3 (66.9%) of producers in Hawai'i with at least \$50,000 in estimated gross production expressed interest in expanding operations within 6-9 months, and more advanced farm equipment was the most needed technology cited by these farms to increase productivity (NASS, 2021). Additionally, in 2024, the County of Hawai'i supported Hawai'i Department of Agriculture in launching a statewide survey on economic viability, in which equipment costs were identified as the third highest-ranking issue impacting producer economic viability statewide. The proposed Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program supports producers in expanding operations and building climate resiliency to increase food production.

Thank you for championing agriculture in Hawai'i and for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT of SB2097**.

Respectfully,

The signature of Benson Medina, written in cursive black ink.  
Benson Medina  
Director



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

January 28, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2097**  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference  
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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 2097**, which establishes the Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. This program will provide essential resources to help Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers adapt to the increasing challenges posed by climate change while strengthening local food production and food security.

Hawai'i's agricultural sector faces growing threats from climate-related factors, including extreme weather events, prolonged droughts, rising temperatures, and shifting pest and disease patterns. These challenges threaten both short-term crop yields and long-term farm viability. A climate-resilient food systems grant program will allow farmers and ranchers to implement innovative practices and infrastructure improvements that mitigate these risks and ensure the stability of Hawai'i's local food supply.

The intent of the program is to provide grants to agricultural producers for the acquisition of special-purpose equipment and technology, as well as ancillary costs. These funds will help farmers invest in tools and infrastructure that directly improve their ability to respond to climate-related challenges. Special-purpose equipment, such as advanced irrigation systems, soil-monitoring technology, pest- and disease-management tools, and renewable energy systems, can enhance farm efficiency and sustainability.

Agriculture, like all businesses, requires capital investment. The cost of operating a farm or ranch in Hawai'i can be significant. Many of Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are struggling to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity and invest in

climate-resilient infrastructure. A climate-resilient food systems grant program can provide critical support, helping agricultural operations remain viable amid increasing environmental pressures. By ensuring that farmers and ranchers have access to grants for climate-smart investments, the state can support local agriculture while also addressing the broader goal of increasing food security and self-sufficiency.

To maximize the success of this program, we encourage the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to work closely with local farmers, ranchers, agricultural researchers, and industry stakeholders to develop the grant criteria and funding ranges. This collaboration will ensure that funding is accessible and targeted toward practical solutions that address the real challenges faced by food producers in Hawai‘i.

We urge the committee to pass SB 2097 to establish this climate-resilient food systems grant program, which will help protect and strengthen Hawai‘i’s agricultural industry in the face of climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**Officers**

Kaipo Kekona  
State President

Christian Zuckerman  
Vice-President

Maureen Datta  
Secretary

Reba Lopez  
Treasurer

**Chapter Presidents**

Kelii Gannet  
Kohala, Hawai'i

East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Ka'ū, Hawai'i

Maureen Datta  
Kona, Hawai'i

Gina Lind  
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

Rachel LaDrig  
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura  
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska  
Kaua'i



Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment 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 SB2097.**

By prioritizing investment in adaptation strategies and local food infrastructure, SB2097 has the potential to advance both food security and environmental stewardship in our state.

The bill's focus on "climate adaptation" and "resiliency" aligns with critical needs facing Hawaii's agricultural communities. However, to ensure clarity, accountability, and effective allocation of funds, we recommend including definitions for these terms and a more specific list of eligible practices and technologies. Without such clarity, the implementation may risk funding measures not aligned with regenerative or sustainable outcomes.

We offer the following amendments:

**Definitions and Eligible Practices:** Amend to include definitions for "climate adaptation" and "resiliency strategies," and specify qualifying practices.

Proposed amendment to §141-1 \ \ (d):

"(1) A detailed description of eligible climate adaptation technologies or practices, such as precision agriculture systems, renewable energy sources, and water conservation equipment, for which grant moneys will be expended;

**Support for Technical Assistance and Planning:** Expand eligible uses of funds to include essential support services that build project capacity and improve implementation.

Suggested addition to §141-1 \ \ (b):

(4) Costs associated with planning, technical assistance, or consulting services that support project development, implementation, and evaluation.

By adopting these amendments, SB2097 can be more effectively aligned with the strategic goals of enhancing Hawaii's agricultural sustainability and resilience in the face of climate change challenges.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heaivilin  
Advocacy Director  
Hawai'i Farmers Union



## COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

### **SB2097**

### RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 3:00 PM  
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB2097** which establishes the Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

We support this measure to support climate adaptation, resiliency, and food system infrastructure through funding to agricultural producers. This concept is similar to the Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities, a USDA grant that was cancelled in 2025 - the second year of a 5 year contract. While we were not able to finish the program to fully realize the potential of this funding, what we learned is that there is a demonstrated need for this funding to assist producers in purchasing equipment, obtaining technical assistance, and funding practices that help food production and land stewardship.

In our experience, both established ranches as well as new and small ranches could benefit from this support. A program like this is strategically proactive, providing the tools needed for our agricultural producers to continue their work for the community and future generations, improving with better practices.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Ranchers produce a high-quality protein and are the stewards of almost 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or nearly 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director



**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 11:11:30 AM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin Martin	Testifying for Libertarian Party of Hawaii	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

**Comments:**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and committee members. I am Austin Martin, Chair of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii, testifying in strong opposition to SB 2097 (Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program).

SB 2097 establishes a grant program distributing taxpayer funds to selected agricultural operations designated as "climate-resilient," allowing government officials to pick winners based on compliance with favored practices rather than market viability.

This subsidy distorts investment signals, breeds dependency, and disadvantages non-subsidized farmers. I recommend rejecting the measure and eliminating all agricultural grant programs to restore neutral market competition.

The reason our agriculture industry is in the tank is because of government interventions, and major failures of the rule of law due to corruption and favoritism toward abusive Big Ag special interests.

If we stop forcing Hawaiians to ask government permission to use their own private property, the agriculture industry would naturally flourish. The problem is central planning and government intervention — every attempt to preserve the controlling policies that created the problem, the worse that market distortions will become.

Give freedom a chance, and let Hawaiians build their farms on their own property — legalize farming and building and property rights. That will go much further toward improving local agriculture than billions of wasted dollars on nepotism and taxpayer-funded incompetence.

Mahalo for your kokua to this important matter.

Austin Martin

Libertarian Party





**TO:** Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
**Position:** SUPPORT SB 2097: Climate-Resilient Grants for Farmers

Jan 26, 2026

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

My name is Megan Fox, and I am the Executive Director of Mālama Kaua'i. We respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of SB2097, relating to Climate-Resilient Grants for Farmers.

Mālama Kaua'i is a Kaua'i-based nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening local food systems, stewarding 'āina, and supporting farmers, producers, and community members across our island. Our work focuses on increasing local food production, improving access to agricultural land and infrastructure, and building resilient, community-based food economies. We have also acted as the Food Access Coordinator for Kaua'i County since 2018, and worked to create the community-developed 2030 Kaua'i Food Access Plan.

SB2097 directly supports one of the goals of our food access plan, which asks for growing government financial support for farmers and food access programs. SB2097 impacts the ability of organizations like Mālama Kaua'i, and the farmers and communities we serve, to advance local food production and 'āina-based livelihoods. This measure would:

- Support farmers in becoming more resilient in coping with changing weather, invasive species, and other challenges they increasingly face
- Increase the ability of our communities' food producers to invest in strategic efforts that will continue the growth of local food availability
- Start a pathway for the State to help farmers prepare for and respond to natural disasters

From our 20 years of on-the-ground experience on Kaua'i, we have responded to many disasters, hand in hand with our farmers. Disasters exacerbate existing land access challenges, infrastructure gaps, and cost barriers our farmers already experience. These realities make the provisions of this bill especially relevant for neighbor islands, where we see less resources and higher costs.

We respectfully urge the Committee to consider how this measure will be implemented across all islands, particularly in rural and neighbor island communities like Kaua'i, where capacity, infrastructure, and staffing are often more limited. Thoughtful implementation will help ensure this measure delivers meaningful, equitable benefits statewide.

For these reasons, Mālama Kaua'i respectfully urges the Committee to pass SB 2097. We appreciate the Legislature's continued commitment to supporting local agriculture, food security, and the stewardship of Hawai'i's 'āina.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. Please feel free to contact me at [megan@malamakauai.org](mailto:megan@malamakauai.org) should you have any questions.

Mahalo,

Megan Fox

Executive Director, Mālama Kaua'i

808-828-0685 x12 | [megan@malamakauai.org](mailto:megan@malamakauai.org)

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 3:58:02 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

In strong support of SB 2097.

No farms No food. We must support our HI farmers for the security of the islands. And how we farm has a significant impact on climate resilience. This needs to be a legislative priority

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 7:11:32 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

Climate Protectors Hawaii **SUPPORTS** this bill and appreciates its recognition of the impact of climate heating on farming. Funding study of climate resilient crops is urgently needed.

Testimony on  
2097 SB RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

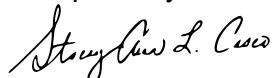
My name is Stacey Ann L. Casco. I am a Native Hawaiian, regenerative and legacy farmer from Kaupō, Maui, where my family has stewarded ‘āina for generations. I write in strong support of S.B. 2097, which establishes the Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program.

For communities like Kaupō—rural, dryland, and highly exposed to climate impacts—resilience is not a theory, it is a daily practice. Drought, extreme weather, supply chain disruptions, and rising costs threaten both our ability to farm and our capacity to feed our communities. This bill recognizes that farmers are on the front lines of climate adaptation and must be equipped with the tools, training, and infrastructure to respond.

S.B. 2097 supports practical, on-the-ground solutions: regenerative equipment, workforce development, and food system infrastructure that strengthen local production, processing, storage, and distribution. These investments align with traditional Hawaiian land stewardship practices that prioritize balance, abundance, and long-term sustainability—not short-term extraction.

By directing resources to agricultural producers and food resilience hubs, this measure helps ensure that climate solutions are locally led, culturally grounded, and economically viable. It is an important step toward food sovereignty, community resilience, and a more secure future for Hawai‘i.

Respectfully,



Stacey Ann L. Casco

(808) 281-8047

[www.kaupogrown.com](http://www.kaupogrown.com)

[josephinemaui@gmail.com](mailto:josephinemaui@gmail.com)



## Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment

### Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB 2097

Wednesday, January 28th, 2026 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 224

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

Please support SB 2097, which seeks to establish a Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018<sup>1</sup> can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Hawai'i is also experiencing more intense periods of drought, which dries out the soil, followed by more intense periods of rain, which flushes it off the farm and muddies the coastal waters miles below.<sup>2</sup>

Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawai'i. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Frederick".

Anne Frederick,  
Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hawaiimagazine.com/farmers-on-kauai-recuperate-from-april-2018-flooding/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/12/hawaii-farmers-look-back-to-the-future-to-deal-with-climate-change/>



To: The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)  
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 3pm

**In strong support of SB2097**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the AEN committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of SB2097** that would establish the Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. These funds will help farmers invest in tools and infrastructure that support climate adaptation and resiliency, and that directly improve their ability to respond to climate-related challenges.

By investing in local agriculture, we reduce our dependence on imported goods, creating a more resilient and sustainable food system for Hawaii. In doing so, we also avoid the greenhouse gases that would have been emitted from shipping food in, helping in our fight against climate breakdown. Moreover, investing in local agriculture directly stimulates the economy by creating local jobs. These efforts and more are the type of actions needed to move Hawaii to a decarbonized economy.

Supporting local agriculture is crucial for achieving food sustainability and climate resilience. Please pass this important measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB2097**.

Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



PO Box 4, Kunia, Hawaii, 96759 || 808-622-9026 || [www.agstewardshiphawaii.org](http://www.agstewardshiphawaii.org)

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January, 26 2026

Aloha e Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee,

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB2097, Relating to Sustainable Food Systems, Establishing a Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program**

On behalf of Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i, we write in support of SB2097, which establishes a climate-resilient food systems grant program to support climate adaptation, resiliency, and food system infrastructure across the State.

Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the viability and sustainability of Hawai'i's agricultural producers and food systems through technical assistance, resource coordination, stewardship-based business education, and policy support. A core part of our work is helping farmers and ranchers access capital and navigate funding opportunities. In doing so, we consistently encounter **one of the most significant barriers to producer success: the inability to afford and finance essential, agricultural equipment and technology.**

Producers regularly tell us that access to the right equipment—whether for production, labor efficiency, post-harvest handling, or resilience planning—is critical to maintaining operations in the face of rising costs, labor shortages, and increasing climate impacts. Yet equipment is often the hardest investment to secure funding for, particularly for small and mid-scale producers, beginning farmers, and community-based food and resilience hubs. This program, **modeled after the successful federal [Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure \(RFSI\) program](#)**, would directly address this gap and directly help us expand local food production.

We believe this program reflects a practical, producer-informed approach to climate resilience—one that aligns with the real challenges we see farmers facing every day.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Shaw".

Dr. Amanda Shaw, PhD, Statewide Food Systems Coordinator  
Email: [amanda@agstewardshiphawaii.org](mailto:amanda@agstewardshiphawaii.org), Tel: 808 429 5310

*Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i is a DBA of:  
O'ahu Resource Conservation and Development Council, a 501c3 Nonprofit Corporation*



**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 7:15:43 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Bence	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha

Please Support this bill for farmers to help us fund benefits that help everyone.

Mahalo

Rob

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 10:32:59 AM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Andrew Isoda, Lahaina

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 10:49:40 AM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 10:51:51 AM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo,

Judith White

Kapaa

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 11:04:26 AM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 11:26:21 AM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Auriemma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Maya Kennedy Auriemma

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 11:43:54 AM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annalise Hart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Annalise Hart

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 10:55:20 AM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

I respectfully urge you to support SB 2097, which would establish the Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Our farmers and food producers are already experiencing the real costs of climate change. Increasingly frequent and severe weather—heavy downpours, flooding, prolonged drought, and other extreme conditions—can wipe out harvests, damage irrigation systems, destroy equipment, and disrupt operations overnight. A single major event can set a farm back for years or force it to close entirely.

Because farm margins in Hawai‘i are already slim, many producers cannot absorb these losses or afford the upfront investments needed to adapt. SB 2097 would provide practical support for resilience measures—helping local producers stay in business, stabilize production, and strengthen Hawai‘i’s local food security at a time when we cannot afford to lose more farms.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Ezgi Green  
Waialua

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 12:18:50 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kodie Solis-Kalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kodie Solis-Kalani and I am a mahi‘ai in Hāmākua, Hawai‘i. I support SB2907 because with the reality of climate change and even societal change, our farmers and food producers struggle with costs of adaptaiton and day-to-day maintenance, many of these farmers livelihoods are heavily impacted by extreme weather events. To increase and prioritize food security, we need better support for these farmers, grant programs like these would help us grow more food.

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 12:22:51 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 12:32:40 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gwen Rodrigues	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

I am in support of this bill SB2097 and hope the people of Hawaii will benefit from it.

Thank you

Gwen Rodrigues

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 12:34:09 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealakai Hammond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kealakai Hammond, Honolulu



Wednesday, January 28, 20265, 3:00 pm

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

SENATE BILL 2097 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Position: Support Intent; seek clarification of Senate's understanding.

Me ke Aloha, Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

SB2097 establishes a Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program, but does not define or distinguish what is "climate resilient". The Department has an existing micro-grant program for small scale operations. How is this different? Can the programs be appropriately defined to incorporate both needs?

Separately, the Green Infrastructure Authority has possibly similar purposes. How do these relate?

Will the program be housed with DAB specifically, or within the Agribusiness Development Corporation?

Will the grant operations have adequate staffing support, or are there additional positions needed?

In any case, the applicability of the program is weakly defined; far more guidance may be needed for those interested in applying for assistance. And because agriculturalists are burdened with so many challenges, it would stand to reason that applications assistance would be required. What guidance would be provided for such assistance?

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this issue,

/s/ Charley Ice, Hoa'āina, Waimalu, O'ahu;

retired Hydrologist, Commission on Water Resource Management (25 years) and Planner at DHHL (10 years);

former Chair of O'ahu Democratic Party Region 5 ('Aiea-Pearl City);

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 1:23:38 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**Please SUPPORT SB2097!!!**

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 1:28:00 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Safia, Hilo HI

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 1:28:04 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,  
Michael Menchetti, Kapaau, HI

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 2:38:31 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dita Škalic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 2:46:27 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Diana Bethel, Honolulu

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 2:53:49 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Bishop	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Daniel Bishop and I am in support

I am a small Kalo farmer in Punaluu Valley, Oahu. I have been very active over the past 30 years in trying to bring to light the very fragile food system in Hawaii. My latest effort has been to promote a "Subsistence Plus Gardening Program".

The idea is to connect people to small parcels of land in order, not only to grow food to feed themselves, but also to help feed community by selling/distributing the excess to the community around them.

Any agricultural startup project takes capital. Grants are an essential way to kickstart a program into success.

Mahalo

Daniel Bishop

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 3:17:59 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seb Choe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Seb Choe, Kona, Hawai'i Island

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 3:52:07 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

My name is Molly Mamaril and I am writing in strongly support SB 2097.

Climate change is already impacting farmers across Hawai‘i through flooding, drought, and other extreme weather events. These events can destroy entire harvests, damage equipment, and put farmers out of business. With farmers operating on thin margins, support is urgently needed.

I encourage you to support SB 2097 as the Climate Resilient Food Systems Grant Program will help local food producers adapt and strengthen Hawai‘i’s food security.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Molly Mamaril  
Kaimukī, O‘ahu

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 6:31:44 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

**Comments:**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Thank you

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 7:23:03 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leo Nahe Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Leo Nahe, Liliha

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 7:24:06 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
randy wolfshagen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

To Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please listen to your constituents and support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Randy Mirka and Pueo Wolfshagen, Kekaha

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 4:46:50 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Danielle, Waimea

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 7:55:22 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keli'i Ioane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Keli'i Ioane, Hilo, HI, 96720

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 7:59:14 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Gabbard, Vice Chair Senator Richards and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

Please support SB 2097 which I understand would help Hawaii's food producers and Hawaii's local food security.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 10:16:38 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laila Moire-Selvage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Laila Moire-Selvage, Mountain View, HI

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 10:27:41 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kathy Shimata, Honolulu. 96822

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 7:26:31 AM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louisa Wooton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

Aloha mai kakou Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Our family has been farming on Kaua'i since 1979. There are many challenges to maintaining a successful farm in Hawai'i. Most small farms, such as ours, do not achieve the longevity that we have experienced. It has been, figuratively speaking, "**a long row to hoe.**"

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. We are constantly faced with invasive pests and devastating diseases that have been introduced due to lack of oversight by the government. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Louisa Wooton

Kaua'i Kunana Dairy

Kilauea, HI 96754

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 7:49:39 AM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jen Lum, 'Ewa Beach

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 8:22:55 AM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lory Ono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Lory Ono, Kaneohe

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 9:01:19 AM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Christy Shaver  
Lahaina

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 7:46:31 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 10:00:45 AM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Kealiinohomoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of establishing the Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Climate change is already impacting Hawai‘i’s farmers and food producers through rising costs, and unpredictable market conditions. Many local producers are being asked to adapt quickly without adequate resources, putting their livelihoods and our food system at risk.

This proposed grant program is an important step toward supporting climate-resilient practices that help producers remain viable while strengthening local food security. Investing in adaptation today reduces future disruptions and lessens our reliance on imported food.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to support this measure.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Jesse Mikasobe-Kealiinohomoku

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 11:16:45 AM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kencho Gurung, Hilo

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 11:32:12 AM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Bolger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support SB2097.

I am a small-scale farmer and beekeeper in Hawai‘i, and I see firsthand how climate impacts, rising costs, and fragile infrastructure affect local food producers. Programs that support climate-resilient food systems directly affect whether we can keep producing food here at all.

Grant funding that helps farmers and producers adapt to changing conditions, improve on-farm infrastructure, and strengthen local food systems is one of the most effective ways the state can invest in food security. These kinds of targeted supports help small and mid-scale producers stay viable, reduce reliance on imports, and keep food dollars circulating locally.

SB2097 recognizes that resilience starts at the farm level. I urge you to pass this measure and support the people doing the daily work of growing food in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo,  
Kelli Bolger

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 11:37:17 AM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L. Osterer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

<p>Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,&nbsp;</p><p>Please support SB 2097. Climate change is evident everywhere.&nbsp;Food producers struggle with the costs of adapting to changing conditions and. extremes heavy rains and droughts.&nbsp;Even one flood, such as in 2018, can ruin a year's harvest, damage equipment, threaten dams, and bankrupt food producers. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. Programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program must be used to bolster our food producers and our local food security.</p> <p>Mahalo for your consideration,</p><p>L. Osterer, registered voter, Koloa, Hi. 96756</p>

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 1:06:15 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elisha Sirena Zeitler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Elisha Zeitler, Honolulu

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 11:26:17 AM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kauailinoe Kama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kauailinoe Kama, Honolulu

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 2:38:38 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

**Comments:**

Aloha, I am testifying in favor of SB 2097.

As you aware, climate change is a real and present danger, and our food producers are now struggling with not only the alteration of methods because of global change, but the costs of adaptation as well.

Extreme weather events are already affecting our farmers and food producers' livelihoods, destroying crops and equipment at great cost to them when they have little leeway financially to begin with. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawai'i. It is absolutely essential to their livelihood and our local food security to support programs such as this proposed climate-resilient grant program. If we are looking to be sustainable and resilient as an island home going into the future, grant programs such as this one need to be funded and done so on the state level.

Mahalo taking my views into consideration.

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 3:03:16 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
De Andre Makakoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

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

My name is De Andre Makakoa, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB2097.

Hawai‘i’s food system is fragile. Our communities depend heavily on long-distance supply chains, imported goods, and infrastructure that exists far beyond our islands. When those systems slow down, break down, or become disrupted, access to basic necessities becomes immediately unstable.

We have seen this repeatedly through real events. Floods have wiped out harvests, destroyed equipment, and shut down farms. Fires have cut off access routes, isolated communities, and disrupted transportation and distribution. In each case, we see how the impacts remove local production capacity and weaken food security across entire regions.

When infrastructure is damaged, communities do not experience isolated disruptions, they experience system failure. Food production, storage, processing, and distribution are all affected at once. One event can ripple across the entire food system and leave people dependent on distant supply chains they do not control.

SB2097 is about strengthening local food security systems and reducing Hawai‘i’s dependence on fragile global supply chains. It invests in the practical foundations of resilience: equipment, workforce, training, infrastructure, operational capacity, and food system continuity. These are the real tools that allow local producers and food hubs to survive disruptions and continue serving their communities.

This bill supports not only farms, but the full structure of a functioning food system. Producers, processors, distributors, storage facilities, and resilience hubs. That matters because food security is built through complete systems.

We have to invest in local capacity. The stronger our local food systems are, the less vulnerable our communities become to external disruptions, shipping interruptions, market shocks, and infrastructure failures.

We never know what is around the corner. A random global epidemic, or a climate related crisis happens when we least expect it. It is the job of government to prepare for this and ensure we as a community have our basic essentials taken care of.

For these reasons, I strongly support SB2097 and urge you to pass this measure and invest in strong, locally rooted food security systems for Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Mahalo nui a ke aloha nō  
De Andre Makakoa

**SB-2097**

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 2:55:49 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

**Comments:**

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Priscilla Stuckey, Kihei

**SB-2097**

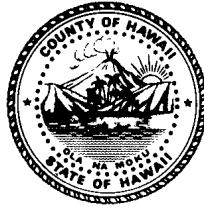
Submitted on: 1/27/2026 6:55:58 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

**Comments:**

One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,  
Pamela Burrell, Kaliihiwai, Kaua'i



## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: January 28, 2026

TO: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member  
Council District 2

SUBJECT: SB2097

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods.

State investment now reduces future county costs later. Counties operate with limited funding and are often left managing the downstream impacts of climate-related disasters, including emergency response, infrastructure repair, and economic disruption. Proactive state investment in farmer resilience can deduce future strain on county resources while strengthening local food systems and minimizing Hawaii's reliance on imported food.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenn Kagiwada".

Jenn Kagiwada

JLK:slm  
Att.