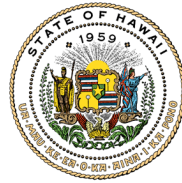


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

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

**MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026
3:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2548, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ricahrds and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2548, House Draft 1 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 face challenges with extreme weather events, persistent drought conditions and rising temperatures affecting growing conditions, pest and disease issues. This bill creates a grant program to assist producers in adapting to changing weather conditions and becoming more resilient to these climate effects.

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-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 climate resilient food systems grant program would allow producers to utilize new, innovative technologies and growing systems to create efficient more resilient agricultural operations. For example, precision agriculture systems utilizing drones, satellite systems and soil moisture monitoring stations make efficient use of irrigation

Testimony of Sharon Hurd

March 23, 2026

Page 2

water and fertilizers delivering it only where it is needed and in the amount that is needed reducing waste of valuable resources.

Farming is a very capital-intensive endeavor and many small farms in Hawaii lack the resources and capital to invest in these types of technology, having access to grants will allow the to adopt technologies that will allow them to be sustainable and provides the groundwork for increased production.

Your support of this bill is greatly appreciated and thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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 23, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 2548, HD1
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 HB 2548, HD1, 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 HB 2548, HD1 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.



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

HB2548 SD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Marhch 23, 2026, 3:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB2548 SD1** 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 ranchers as well as new and small ranchers 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



Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Kauai Climate Action Coalition, a group of more than 150 Kauai residents, supports HB2548 HD1. 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. The current storm serves as a tragic reminder of the fact climate change events can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and put farmers out of business. Climate-resilient food system grants can help farmers be prepared as we will continue to face climate events such as the ones which have cost not only our farmers but communities devastating losses.

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.

Please pass this important bill. Mahalo for your consideration!

Helen Cox, Kalaheo

Chair, Kauai Climate Action Coalition



To: The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Monday, March 23, 2026, 3pm

In strong support of HB2548 HD1

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 HB2548 HD1** 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.

To ensure clarity, accountability, and effective allocation of funds, we encourage the Committees adopt amendments suggested by the Hawaii Farmers Union United in their testimony for the companion measure, SB2097. This includes adding definitions for “climate adaptation” and “resiliency strategies,” and specify qualifying practices.

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 HB2548 HD1**.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB2548 HD1

Monday, March 23rd, 2026 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 224

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

Please support HB2548 HD1, which seeks to establish a Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB).

Climate change is upon us, and our agricultural producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as the recent Kona lows and the heavy rains and accompanying flash floods are actively impacting farmers and agricultural producers' livelihoods. The consequences of these climate events are exacerbated through the inability for our producers to financially afford proactive climate-resilient practices. This leads to catastrophic outcomes for some producers. One extreme weather event such as these current storms or the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018¹ can wipe out entire harvests, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business.

Hawai'i is also experiencing more intense periods of drought, followed by more intense periods of rain. This cycle dries out the soil, which then runs off into coastal waters miles below.² These patterns deplete healthy soil while also damaging nearshore reefs and marine environments. Establishing means to implement proactive management practices improve our farmers and producers with the ability to mitigate the impact of these events, protect local food production, and reduce environmental damage.

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.

Please support HB2548 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned below the text 'Mahalo for your consideration,'.

Anne Frederick,
Executive Director

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

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

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:38:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colehour Bondera	Testifying for Kanalani Ohana Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members:

Please accept this as support for and encouragement to pass this piece of legislation.

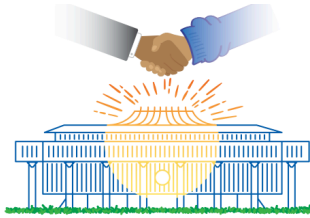
As a long-time fulltime organic farmer, this is something that needs to be in place to support agriculture in Hawaii to be successful.

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

Honaunau, 96726



CLIMATE FUTURE FORUM

To: Senator Gabbard, Chair
Senator Richards, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on AEN

Hearing: 03/23/2026, 3:00pm

From: Climate Future Forum

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT for HB2548 HD1**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Hawai'i Climate Future Forum is a youth-led organization that helps young people engage directly in climate policy. We research legislation, track bills, submit testimony, and organize community spaces where students can learn how to participate in the legislative process. I am Vivienne Hill, a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Climate Future Forum's Regenerative Food Systems working group in **strong support of HB2548**.

HB 2548 establishes a Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. It provides competitive grants to farmers and food hubs to cover equipment, personnel, and training costs that expand local production, processing, storage, and distribution capacity.

Hawai'i imports most of its food. As young people who will live with the consequences of that dependency, we understand what it means when a storm disrupts shipping or when climate pressures cut into what local farms can produce. This program directly addresses the infrastructure gaps that keep local agriculture from scaling up to meet those challenges.

The simple fact is that farmers and food hubs doing this work need equipment and workforce support to grow. Grants that cover those real costs make the difference between a farm that can expand and

one that stays stuck at the margins. This matters to us because a local, resilient food system is the one we want to inherit.

For these reasons, we urge you to pass HB 2548 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Vivienne Hill
Student | Youth Policy Leader, Regenerative Food Systems
Hawai'i Climate Future Forum

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 1:34:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Our food system in Hawaii is vulnerable as sharply seen with recent flooding. Extreme weather will continue to be an issue impacting our food security. Support our local farmers and our local food systems by investing in greater resilience and climate smart farming.

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 12:17:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2548 HB RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 12:50:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

support

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 6:52:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in **strong support** of HB2548, which establishes the Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program. This bill is a vital investment in the very foundation of our local food security: the farmers and food producers who are on the front lines of a changing climate.

Climate change is not a distant threat; it is here, and it is already devastating our local agriculture. Our farmers are struggling to adapt, but the costs are often insurmountable. We have all witnessed the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events—the "rain bombs" that dump months of rain in hours, followed by prolonged drought. These events don't just damage crops; they destroy livelihoods.

We need only look to the historic flooding on Kaua‘i in 2018 to understand the stakes. In a single event, entire harvests were wiped out, essential equipment was destroyed, and critical infrastructure was washed away. Many food producers were pushed to the brink of going out of business.

Just recently, we have faced another series of heavy rainfalls and flash floods across the state. For farmers operating on already thin margins, losing a generator, a small machine, or having tools and infrastructure swept away by floodwaters is not a setback—it can be a death sentence for their operation.

These farmers are not just growing food; they are the backbone of our goal to increase local food security. When they struggle, we all struggle. We become more reliant on imported food, which is vulnerable to its own global supply chain disruptions. If we are serious about prioritizing local food security, we must be serious about supporting the people who make it possible.

HB2548 offers a tangible solution. By establishing a grant program specifically for climate resilience, it provides farmers with the critical resources they need to prepare for, withstand, and recover from these climate shocks. This could mean investing in stronger irrigation systems to combat drought, reinforcing infrastructure to withstand flooding, or adopting new practices that protect their soil and crops from extreme weather. It is a proactive investment that will save far more in the long run—both in dollars and in the preservation of our local farming community.

We cannot expect our farmers to bear the full burden of climate adaptation alone. HB2548 says that Hawai'i will stand with them. It recognizes that bolstering our food producers is the most direct path to bolstering our local food security. For the future of our farmers and the resilience of our food system, I urge you to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 11:36:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
fred hofer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB2548 HD1. 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 current storm causing flooding across Hawaii can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Climate-resilient food system grants can help farmers be prepared as we will continue to face climate events such as the ones which have cost not only our farmers but communities at-least resources as flash floods occurred and ruined generators, small machines, and swept away tools and infrastructure.

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!

Fred Hofer

Hilo

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 10:56:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!!! MAHALO!

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 1:03:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support HB2548 HD1. 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 current storm causing flooding across Hawaii can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Climate-resilient food system grants can help farmers be prepared as we will continue to face climate events such as the ones which have cost not only our farmers but communities at-least resources as flash floods occurred and ruined generators, small machines, and swept away tools and infrastructure.

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!
Troy Schacht

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 1:25:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

AlMuch flooding oha,

Please support this bill, as climate change is already upon us and our food producers are struggling with the costs of adaptation. Much flooding occurred on farmlands over this past week.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Nelson

Kaneohe

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 1:49:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We must increase our food security. Please pass.

Judith White, Kapaa

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 4:22:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support HB2548 HD1. 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 current storm causing flooding across Hawaii can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Climate-resilient food system grants can help farmers be prepared as we will continue to face climate events such as the ones which have cost not only our farmers but communities at-least resources as flash floods occurred and ruined generators, small machines, and swept away tools and infrastructure.

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!

kimdonghyeon

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 11:42:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support HB2548 HD1. 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 current storm causing flooding across Hawaii can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Climate-resilient food system grants can help farmers be prepared as we will continue to face climate events such as the ones which have cost not only our farmers but communities at-least resources as flash floods occurred and ruined generators, small machines, and swept away tools and infrastructure.

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!

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:11:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members.

Please support HB2548 HD1. 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 current storm causing flooding across Hawaii can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Climate-resilient food system grants can help farmers be prepared as we will continue to face climate events such as the ones which have cost not only our farmers but communities at-least resources as flash floods occurred and ruined generators, small machines, and swept away tools and infrastructure.

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

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:04:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support HB2548 HD1. 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 current storm causing flooding across Hawaii can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Climate-resilient food system grants can help farmers be prepared as we will continue to face climate events such as the ones which have cost not only our farmers but communities at-least resources as flash floods occurred and ruined generators, small machines, and swept away tools and infrastructure.

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!

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 10:35:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Kauai Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and AEN Committee Memebers-

Kona Low is the flavor of the day for climate change in Hawai'i. Please pass this bill, which will strenthen development of the necessary skills for adapting to what is.

Mahalo,

Kauai

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 7:17:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I urge you to support HB2548 HD1. 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 current storm causing flooding across Hawaii can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Climate-resilient food system grants can help farmers be prepared as we will continue to face climate events such as the ones which have cost not only our farmers but communities at-least resources as flash floods occurred and ruined generators, small machines, and swept away tools and infrastructure.

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

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 10:49:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support HB2548 HD1. 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 current storm causing flooding across Hawaii can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Climate-resilient food system grants can help farmers be prepared as we will continue to face climate events such as the ones which have cost not only our farmers but communities at-least resources as flash floods occurred and ruined generators, small machines, and swept away tools and infrastructure.

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, Mau'i

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 6:55:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 1:01:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Mahalo nui for your support of this measure.

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 2:13:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB2548 because it will help our local farmers and our food security in a time of climate change. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 6:20:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to ask that you support HB2548 HD1 which establishes the Climate Resilient Food Systems Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture & Biodiversity.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:17:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB2548 HD1.

Gregory Misakian

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:23:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Jackie Keefe, and I am **in strong support of HB2548 HD1**, which establishes the 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 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Recently, we have faced another series of heavy rainfalls and flooding events which have cost not only our farmers but neighbours resources as flash floods occurred and ruined generators, small machines, and swept away tools and infrastructure.

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.

Please support HB 2548 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

HB-2548-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:41:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kara Hoving	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing to urge the Committee to please support HB2548 HD1. This bill would invest in a sustainable future for Hawai'i's farmers and our 'āina by establishing a climate-resilient food systems grant program.

As a writer, researcher, and community volunteer, I have worked in various capacities at the intersection of agriculture and climate change for nearly a decade. Climate change is well underway in Hawaii, and is already impacting the livelihoods of farmers and food producers. Just this week, the kona lows wiped out harvests, destroyed equipment and infrastructure, and devastated farmers across the islands.

In an age of rising food prices and record-high costs of living, it is more important than ever to invest in a strong local food system to ensure ongoing access to affordable, healthy produce. Farmers and local food producers are the backbone of a healthy food system, but we need to make sure they have the tools they need to thrive in the face of increasing climate disruptions. The climate-resilient food systems grant program would do just that, helping them to recover from the recent disaster while improving their resilience to future weather extremes.

Please support the future of Hawai'i's farmers and support HB2548 HD1. Thank you very much for your consideration.