

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SIERRA WHITESIDE
CHAIRPERSON

DAINTRY BARTOLDUS
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

April 8, 2026

The Honorable Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Ilagan and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HCR144 HD1 / HR136 HD1 Requesting the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to collaborate with state and county agencies and community-based organizations to develop a comprehensive statewide food security strategy.

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities offers its **SUPPORT WITH COMMENTS** for HCR144 HD1/HR136 HD1, which requests the development of a comprehensive, statewide food security strategy.

Food security is foundational to health, independence, and community living. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), aging caregivers, and households with access and functional needs (AFN) often face compounded barriers to consistent, nutritious food, including transportation limitations, physical access challenges, communication barriers, and increased reliance on caregivers or support systems.

The Council appreciates that this measure takes a data-driven, equity-focused, and cross-agency approach, recognizing the importance of culturally relevant, community-based solutions and coordination across state and county systems. This framework is critical to addressing the complex and interconnected nature of food insecurity in Hawai'i.

To strengthen this measure, the Council respectfully recommends:

- Explicitly including individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs (AFN) in the strategy, as these populations experience unique and often overlooked barriers to food access;
- Ensuring alignment with existing programs that serve these populations, including SNAP, Medicaid home and community-based services, and aging network supports, to reduce fragmentation and improve access;

- Supporting community-driven solutions that promote independence, dignity, and long-term stability for individuals and families.

This measure aligns with Hawai'i's broader efforts to strengthen nutrition security, reduce administrative barriers, and bridge aging and disability systems. With the inclusion of disability and access needs, this strategy can serve as a strong foundation for equitable, resilient, and sustainable food systems across our state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support offering comments** for **HCR144 HD1/HR136 HD1**.

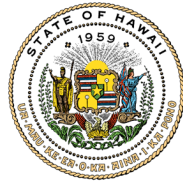
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



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

SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026
9:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 423 AND VIDEOCONFERENCE**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 144 / HR 136, HD1

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

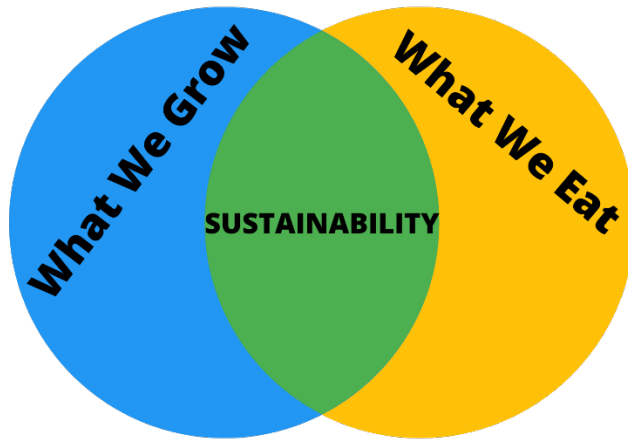
Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 144 / HR 136, HD1 that requests the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to collaborate with state and county agencies and community-based organizations to develop a comprehensive statewide food security strategy.

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) supports this resolution with comments to address the amendment to the measure requesting the Department serve as lead to develop the comprehensive statewide food security strategy.

Carefully considering this leadership role and its significance, the Department will begin with the science-based process of proposing a hypothesis for the collaborators – Will focusing attention on Hawaii's commercial farmers as the primary agents to achieve the State's numeric goals for food self-sufficiency, while acknowledging the role of informal and subsistence farmers in producing food for the families and communities so engaged achieve food security for Hawaii?

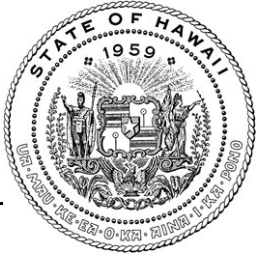
Asking the question and adding the Venn diagram identifying sustainability as eating what we grow, and growing what we eat will be considered as potential starting points for the collaborators.



The resulting comprehensive food security strategy should include milestones and a timeline to meet the four data-driven, equity-focused items listed in HCR 144 HR 136 HD1 to be the work of the agencies, organizations, leaders, coalitions, and stakeholders as they develop a comprehensive statewide food security strategy.

This resolution represents another step to move Hawaii towards food security.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
James Kunane Tokioka
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In consideration of
HCR144, HD1 / HR136, HD1

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

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) offers **comments** on HCR144, HD1 / HR136, HD1 to strengthen the statewide food security strategy.

Hawai'i's food security challenge is not only a social issue, but fundamentally an economic development issue. As noted in HCR144, HD1 / HR136, HD1, approximately thirty-two percent of households experience food insecurity, with disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities. Addressing this challenge requires a shift from isolated programmatic responses to a systems-based economic strategy.

DBEDT's strategic framework, Redesigning Hawai'i's Economy for Resilience, recognizes food security as a core pillar of economic diversification. The State's ability to increase local food production, stabilize costs, and build resilience is directly tied to its ability to develop, acquire, and invest in enabling infrastructure, facilities, and land. A comprehensive statewide food security strategy should explicitly recognize that:

1. Infrastructure, facilities, and land are foundational economic inputs

- a. Food production cannot scale without irrigation systems, aggregation hubs, processing facilities, cold storage, and access to agricultural lands. These are public goods that require coordinated state investment and, where appropriate, acquisition to ensure long-term control and resilience.

2. Food security depends on viable market pathways for producers

- a. Farmers and ranchers must have multiple, reliable outlets for their products. This includes:
 - i. Value-added manufacturers and processing facilities;
 - ii. Institutional buyers such as the Department of Education, healthcare systems, and correctional facilities; and
 - iii. Private sector markets including retail, hospitality, and export channels.

Without these pathways, increased production will not translate into economic viability or improved food access.

3. The food system must be treated as an integrated ecosystem

- a. Production, processing, distribution, and consumption must be aligned. Investments in one segment without the others will not achieve the desired outcomes of affordability, accessibility, and resilience.

DBEDT further emphasizes that the statewide strategy must be aligned with and advance existing statutory mandates, including:

- Act 151 – Doubling local food production;
- Act 175 – Integration of local foods into school meal systems; and
- Act 176 – Strengthening local procurement and food system resilience.

These mandates collectively establish a clear policy direction, Hawai'i must increase local production while simultaneously building the infrastructure and institutional demand necessary to sustain it. The statewide strategy requested in this resolution should serve as the coordinating framework to operationalize these laws.

Finally, DBEDT recommends that the strategy prioritize:

- Identification of priority infrastructure and facility investments statewide;
- Coordination of land access and irrigation systems to support production;
- Expansion of value-added and processing capacity through networks such as the Food and Product Innovation Network (FPIN);
- Alignment of institutional procurement (e.g., DOE under Act 175) with local supply through commodity mapping; and

- Clear performance metrics tied to production, cost reduction, and food access outcomes.

A successful statewide food security strategy must move beyond planning and into implementation through capital investment, asset acquisition, and coordinated execution across agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

HCR-144-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:26:47 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Miyamoto	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Farm Strong



HAWAII APPLESEED
CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

**Support for HCR 144/HR 136 – Requesting the State and County Agencies to Develop a
Comprehensive Statewide Food Security Strategy**
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
Thursday, April 8, 2026, 9:30AM

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HCR 144/HR 136, which requests the State and County Agencies, in coordination with community-based organizations, to develop a comprehensive Statewide Food Security Strategy.

At a time when nearly one in three households in Hawai‘i is experiencing food insecurity, the need for coordinated, strategic action has never been more urgent. Data from the Hawai‘i Foodbank’s most recent report paints a stark picture: families are skipping meals, keiki are going without adequate nutrition, and entire communities—particularly Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Filipino households—are bearing a disproportionate burden.

Addressing this challenge requires more than isolated programs or short-term fixes. It demands a coordinated, equity-driven, and forward-looking strategy, and involves the work of many stakeholders, including emergency food providers, state and county agencies, farmers, food retailers, consumers, and community groups.

A comprehensive statewide food security strategy can help Hawai‘i better understand and address the root causes of food insecurity, strengthen local food systems, and ensure that all residents—regardless of where they live or who they are—have access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food. It also presents an opportunity to identify “win-win” solutions that both reduce food insecurity and support local agriculture, increasing resilience in the face of economic and climate-related disruptions.

We respectfully urge the Legislature to adopt this resolution, making a bold statement about the importance of ensuring that food security is treated as a fundamental priority for our state.



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Executive Officers

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Jayson Watts, Mahi Pono, *Vice Chair*
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Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *President and Executive Director*
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Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, Odom, *Advisor*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*
Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Advisor*
Maile Miyashiro, C&S Wholesale, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Economic Development and Technology

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: April 8, 2026

TIME: 9:30am

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

Position: Support

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

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



PO Box 4, Kunia, Hawaii, 96759 || 808-622-9026 || www.agstewardshiphawaii.org

April 6, 2026

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology,

Re: Testimony in Support of HCR 144 HD1 Comprehensive Statewide Food Security Strategy

On behalf of Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i, we submit this testimony **in strong support of** HCR 144/HR136/SCR41, which requests state and county agencies, in coordination with community-based organizations, to develop a comprehensive Statewide Food Security Strategy.

Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i is a non-profit organization committed to improving the viability and sustainability of Hawai'i's agricultural producers and food system through technical assistance, resource coordination, stewardship-based business education, and policy work. Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i leads the [Statewide Food Systems Coordination Initiative \(HSFSC\)](#), launched in 2024 with philanthropic and gubernatorial support. HSFSC works to align agricultural stakeholders, address infrastructure barriers, secure federal resources, advance institutional procurement of local food, and support policy priorities that strengthen Hawai'i's food system.

There are **currently no statewide goals on addressing food insecurity or hunger in spite of our food insecurity crisis affecting one in three households**. This measure highlights the need for a comprehensive, data- and equity-informed approach to advancing solutions to eliminating hunger and supporting access to nutritious, culturally relevant food. The statewide food security strategy also aligns state efforts with existing county plans for a more coordinated and effective statewide response.

Mahalo nui 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,

Tel: 808 429 5310

HCR-144-HD-1

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

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

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

Comments:

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

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

Mahalo nui for your support,

Christine Andrews, JD

Wailuku, Maui

HCR-144-HD-1

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

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

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

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

HCR-144-HD-1

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

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

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

Comments:

please support

HCR-144-HD-1

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

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

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

Comments:

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

HCR-144-HD-1

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

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

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

Comments:

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