DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAI'I EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2218

March 2, 2022
10:15 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2218 establishes a five-year food hub pilot program within the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to award grant funding to qualified applicants for the construction of critical infrastructure to establish and expand food hubs in each of the counties; requires the DOA to adopt rules pursuant to Chapter 91, HRS, to administer and operate the pilot program; requires the DOA to submit interim reports to the Legislature on the pilot program; appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to effectuate the pilot program; and authorizes the Director of Finance to issue an unspecified amount of general obligation bond funds in FY 23 to finance infrastructure upgrades at the Honalo Marshalling Yard.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai‘i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

LAND USE RESEARCH
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII
1100 Alakea Street, Suite 408
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 521-4717
www.lurf.org

February 25, 2022

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Support of SB 2218 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program (Requires the Department of Agriculture [DOA] to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food; provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub; authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the Honalo Marshalling Yard; requires reports to the Legislature; appropriates funds.)

Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at 10:15 a.m.; Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of SB 2218** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands in Hawaii. The bill demonstrates the need for, and benefit of collaboration amongst different sectors of the community - business, government, and agricultural stakeholders - and the importance of them working together cooperatively to improve the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry.

SB 2218. This purpose of this measure is to establish a five-year food hub pilot program under the DOA to increase access to local food, and to appropriate funds for the program.

LURF's Position. Food hubs are facilities that assist with the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of locally grown produce. LURF understands that food hubs currently represent hundreds of small/medium farms and generate over $2.5 million in income annually in local food sales. These food hubs help small local farmers who do not have the resources and are therefore unable, on their own, to effectively distribute, store, process, and promote their locally grown foods. Management, technology, and marketing assistance provided by food hubs is necessary and in turn, food hubs require funding assistance from the State in order to support establishment and growth on a scale that can meet the demand of state institutions such as schools, hospitals, and correctional facilities.

LURF members include farmers, ranchers, and landowners who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider programs such as that proposed by this bill significant to the conduct of their operations and to help sustain their businesses, as well as to increase local food self-sufficiency and significantly heighten local food production in this State.

Agricultural stakeholders believe SB 2218 will greatly assist in the effort to achieve long-term sustainability of Hawaii's food supply and economic growth.

The purpose of this bill is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes, Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution, "to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands."

By recognizing the significance of, and need to assist the local agriculture industry, and implement measures which help to support the growth and maintenance of agriculture in the State, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

For the reasons stated above, LURF is in **support of SB 2218**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.

HPCA
HAWAI'I PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, March 2, 2022; 10:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Via Videoconference

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2218, RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 2218, RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would establish a five-year food hub pilot program (Program), to be administered by the Department of Agriculture to award grant funding to qualified applicants for the construction of critical infrastructure to establish and expand food hubs in each county. In addition, this bill would appropriate:

(1) An unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2022-2023 to establish the Program and award grant moneys to qualifying food hubs; and

(2) An unspecified amount of general obligation bonds for fiscal year 2022-2023 to complete critical infrastructure upgrades to enable the Honalo Marshalling Yard to be developed as a food hub.

Lastly, the bill clarifies that the appropriation not lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is made, but that all moneys unencumbered lapse on June 30, 2025.

ADD 1003 BISHOP STREET PAUAHI TOWER SUITE 1810 HONOLULU, HI 96813 TEL 808.536.8442 WEB HAWAIIPCA.NET

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely threatened the health and welfare of our citizens, especially Hawaii's underprivileged and rural communities. With so many people unemployed, entire families are struggling to put food on the table on a consistent basis. All one needs to do is visit one of our member FQHC's food distribution events and see the line of cars stretch for miles and people wait for hours to receive some surplus food.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated the need for a program like this. Our over-reliance on tourism has weakened our ability to bounce back from COVID's dire economic realities.

The only way for us to protect ourselves from this and future global pandemics is for Hawaii to diversify its economic base and become more self-sufficient. And for us to do that, we need to grow more food.

We urge your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiipca.net.

HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiifood.com

Executive Officers
Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Chair*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Vice Chair*
Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
John Schliff, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor*
Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 2, 2022
TIME: 10:15am
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: SB2218 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program

Position: Support

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

HFIA is in support of this measure for the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. Increasing local food production is a goal we all share. Existing food hubs in the state have enabled our local farmers to successfully bring a variety of products to market. The vast majority of the farms in our state are small farms, and face a range of challenges brining their products to market and remaining financially viable. Investing in food hubs is an important way for the state to support local farms and local agriculture. We encourage you to vote yes on this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Officers
Vincent Mina
State President
HFUU

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President
HFUU

Maureen Datta
Secretary
HFUU

Reba Lopez
HFUU Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Dash Kuhr
Kohala, Hawai'i

Drake Weinert
East Hawai'i

Steve Lund
Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
K'au, Hawaii

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawai'i

Robert Boudreaux
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Bobby Pahia
Mauna Kahalawai, Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Mau

Brynn Foster
North Shore, Oahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, Oahu

Vincent Kimura
Waimanalo, Oahu

Anabella Bruch
Kauai

Aloha Chair DelaCruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. This bill will provide support for the network of food hubs across the state to expand their work, and in doing so increase farmer incomes and consumer food access. For these reasons **we strongly support SB2218**.

In 2017, the Legislature awarded the Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation a Grant in Aid project to Strengthen Regional Food Hubs in Hawai'i. As part of that project, the coordinator, Dr. Saleh Azizi facilitated a focus group, composed of the majority of Hawai'i's food hubs, to understand the resources needed for food hubs to respond to statewide local food purchasing goals. The focus group findings resulted in a 2020 Food Hub Pilot program bill to support existing and new food hubs in all of Hawaii's counties.

Food hubs play a critical role in our food system by connecting small farmers with diverse markets. In decades past, farmer cooperatives were a strong tool for smallholders to get to market. Food hubs are a modern approach to revitalize farmer cooperation and expand market access. Support of this bill will expand the critical work of food hubs and build a stronger local food economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vincent Mina President HFUU/HFUF

67-332 Kaiea Pl.
Waialua, HI 96791-9501
808-383-4481
www.NSEVP.org

February 28, 2022

Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Wednesday March 2, 2022, 10:15 am

SUBJECT: Support for SB 2218 – RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (North Shore EVP), I would like to extend our full support of SB 2218, which will require the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food.

The North Shore EVP was formed in 2015 as a result of a comprehensive, community-based economic analysis that identified the need for a regional food hub to fill serious gaps in the food supply chain of the region. Our community envisions the development of a regional mid-scale aggregation facility ($5-10M/y gross revenue) serving the farms of North Shore and Windward Oahu that could serve as a model for other regions across the state.

Since COVID-19 Hawaiiʻs existing food hubs have done a tremendous job collaborating to meet the needs of small local producers and adjusting the agricultural supply chain to provide new market opportunities for these farmers. Scaling these operations to where they can operate profitably is critical to rebuilding successful farming operations across the state and providing them access to commercial and institutional markets, including those created by the Legislature in 2021 (Acts 175 and 176).

I would ask the committee to consider, as a condition of receiving state grant funds, that the food hubs be required to comply with all state and federal food safety regulations including the FDAʻs Food Safety & Modernization Act (FSMA) and its provisions for supplier verification. In fact, many of the stateʻs largest purchasers of produce require food safety certification and if the stateʻs goal of doubling local food production by 2030 is to be met, the food hubs must meet the requirements of these buyers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kevin M. Kelly

Kevin M Kelly, President

SB-2218
Submitted on: 2/28/2022 2:54:47 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
BELLA HUGHES	Testifying for SHAKA TEA	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Bella Hughes, cofounder and Head of Mission & Innovation at Shaka Tea. I am writing to share my strong support for SB2218, which will create a the much-needed food hub pilot program and also allocate resources to complete capital upgrades at the Honalo facility, one of the state's important food hubs.

I hope you will vote in favor of this bill, which will help strengthen the larger food and ag ecosystem in Hawaii so we can support local farmers and food security.

Mahalo,

Bella Hughes

bella@shakatea.com

Farmer owned, ʻāina grown

Testimony in Support of SB 2218 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
March 2nd, 2022

Testimony of Kyle Datta
President
Board of Directors
Hawaiʻi ʻUlu Producers Cooperative

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee,

I am the President of the Hawai'i Ulu Producers Cooperative, one of the largest food hubs in the state. We supply local starches, Ulu, Kalo, Ulua to the public and private schools, food banks, local restaurants, hotels and supermarkets.

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2218 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program. Currently serving on the President of the Board of Directors of the Hawaiʻi ʻUlu Cooperative's, I write on behalf of our 116 farmer-members on Hawaiʻi Island, Maui and Oʻahu to share the importance of the proposed food hub pilot program and Honalo Marshaling Yard improvements included in SB 2218. The majority of our members and Hawaiʻi farmers at large are small scale and highly diversified. Food hubs allow small farmers the time they need on the ʻāina by providing the infrastructure of aggregation, processing, marketing and distribution so food producers can focus on growing their production. Food hubs also return a greater portion of each dollar of value, about 70%, to the farmer – far more than conventional distributors of imported food do.

The Honalo Marshaling Yard, owned by the State of Hawaiʻi and leased to the Hawaiʻi ʻUlu Cooperative, is an example of vital food infrastructure that requires capital improvements to support local farms and strengthen the islands' food system resilience. The Hawaiʻi ʻUlu Cooperative is an existing food hub for producers of indigenous and local starches including ʻulu, kalo, ʻuala, and palaʻai. To date, we have aggregated, processed and distributed nearly 1 million pounds of locally produced staple crops to Hawaiʻi communities.

Thanks to the legislature's 2019 appropriation of $1.25 million via both CIP and GIA funds for infrastructure improvements at the Honalo facility, our flagship operation located in Kailua

Kona, we are currently working in partnership with the Hawaiʻi Department of Agriculture to upgrade base infrastructure (e.g. wastewater, domestic water, electricity, etc.) in order to bring the facility up to Hawaiʻi County Code. A shortfall of about $900,000 is still needed to complete the project – which will result in a 10x increase in operational capacity from 200,000 pounds to 2 million pounds of local staple crops per year. *Please note that the 2019 appropriation would have been sufficient had the foundational infrastructure of building not required additional upgrades to comply with county planning and federal food safety regulations – which were not known at the time.*

The general obligation bonds now requested through SB 2218 will enable this critical infrasturcture project to be completed and the benefits of the Honalo Marshalling Yard as a food hub to be fully realized among state producers and consumers.

Moreover, SB 2218 will provide other food hubs across the state with additional funding opportunities to help them grow and expand. The proposed five-year pilot program would allow enough time to measure the effectiveness of the pilot program and disseminate lessons learned to help accelerate these critical business endeavors. This bill's impact will resonate across our state and empower a more resilient, regenerative local food system.

We commend the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee for its forward-thinking approach to supporting local food and local farmers, and urge the members of WAM Committee to support this critically important bill. We humbly mahalo the Legislature for its support of local food and local farmers for local people.

Sincerely,

Kyle Datta
President
Board of Directors

Farmer owned, ʻāina grown

Testimony in Support of SB 2218 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
March 2nd, 2022

Testimony of [your name]
Board of Directors
Hawaiʻi ʻUlu Producers Cooperative

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee,

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The Honalo Marshaling Yard, owned by the State of Hawaiʻi and leased to the Hawaiʻi ʻUlu Cooperative, is an example of vital food infrastructure that requires capital improvements to support local farms and strengthen the islands' food system resilience. The Hawaiʻi ʻUlu Cooperative is an existing food hub for producers of indigenous and local starches including ʻulu, kalo, ʻuala, and palaʻai. To date, we have aggregated, processed and distributed nearly 1 million pounds of locally produced staple crops to Hawaiʻi communities.

Thanks to the legislature's 2019 appropriation of $1.25 million via both CIP and GIA funds for infrastructure improvements at the Honalo facility, our flagship operation located in Kailua Kona, we are currently working in partnership with the Hawaiʻi Department of Agriculture to upgrade base infrastructure (e.g. wastewater, domestic water, electricity, etc.) in order to bring the facility up to Hawaiʻi County Code. A shortfall of about $900,000 is still needed to complete the project – which will result in a 10x increase in operational capacity from 200,000 pounds to 2 million pounds of local staple crops per year. *Please note that the 2019 appropriation would have been sufficient had the foundational infrastructure of building not*

required additional upgrades to comply with county planning and federal food safety regulations – which were not known at the time.

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We commend the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee for its forward-thinking approach to supporting local food and local farmers, and urge the members of WAM Committee to support this critically important bill.

Sincerely,
Werner Thie
Board of Directors

Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Wednesday, March 2, 2022 — 10:15 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 2218, Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

Ulupono supports SB 2218, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food and provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub. This bill also authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the Honalo Marshalling Yard.

Ulupono supports the efforts of food hubs statewide as they serve as critical aggregation, food processing, and distribution for small farmers to access local markets. By increasing local market accessibility, small farmers will be able to provide a fresh, healthy product for consumers statewide. According to the 2017 USDA NASS Census of Agriculture, of Hawai'i's 7,328 farms statewide, 66%, or 4,868 farms, are between 1–9 acres and 78%, or 5,701 farms, produce less than $25,000 in sales. Hawai'i's agricultural producer majority is small farmers. State supported food hubs may give Hawai'i's producers the opportunity to compete with local markets while also remaining financially viable. We hope that this support for local agriculture can be considered as we look to continue our State's economic recovery and diversification.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

HAWAI'I ALLIANCE for PROGRESSIVE ACTION

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB2218

Wednesday, March 2nd, 2022 10:10 a.m. Conference Call 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports SB2218 to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. We believe that this measure will help to grow our local food production and economy.

Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce from small local farmers to help bring produce to market while promoting local production of culturally appropriate nutritious food and promoting the local economy. Food hubs can be thought of as helpful middlemen that connect producers (farmers and ranchers) with institutional buyers (restaurants, hospitals, schools, etc) and directly to consumers[1].

Often finding access to distribution into mainstream markets and stores is challenging for local, small-scale producers. Food hubs can also help overcome this challenge by helping producers to market their products[2].

Food hubs do not replace farmers markets, which still provide a direct outlet for farmers and a unique opportunity for producers to have direct contact with their customers. Food hubs are beneficial for producers who do not have the time or personal interest to sell at farmers markets. They also provide continual available access to local food sources for those that can not make it to the farmers market[1].

The functions and structure of a food hub vary, but often include the following:

- Market access for local producers
- Information sharing
- Transportations and distribution
- Brokerage services
- Product bundling and aggregation
- Season extension
- Maintaining producer-consumer connections

[1] Sustainable America: Rogers, Nicole (2013) *What is a Food Hubs* https://sustainableamerica.org/blog/what-is-a-food-hub/

[2] SDSU Extension Community Vitality Field Specialist: Blachford, Sierra under direction of O'Neill, Kari & Zdorovtsov, Chris; *The Benefits of Food Hubs* https://extension.sdstate.edu/benefits-food-hubs

- Producer-oriented technical assistance

Food hubs are also believed to assist with the development of resilient and equitable local food systems which provide greater food system equity, taking better care of those in “food desserts”, where people have limited access to a variety of healthful foods[3].

Research has indicated that consumers are willing to pay a premium if they know the origins of their local and regional foods[2]. Making access easy and convenient in the form of online hubs or physical locations makes access more possible while taking the burden off the farmer allowing them to focus on expanding and growing more food. Food hubs therefore play a critical role in expanding local food production.

SB2218, and the support of food hubs, will actively help to better prepare us for situations of food scarcity. During this past year we have been reminded of the priceless value of food security and self sufficiency as the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to look around and question the long term viability of our current food supply system. We have seen what happens in emergency situations, such as the recent overwhelming conditions in stores and on supply, especially during the initial months of the pandemic.

The more we support local food production, aggregation and consumption the more we decrease our carbon footprint associated with incoming shipping costs while growing our food security.

Please support SB2218 and food hubs throughout the islands as part of the solution to help grow our local food economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

[3] MSU Center for Regional Food Systems: Weiss, Andrea (2020) *Equity and collaboration for resilient local food systems across the U.S.* https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/equity-and-collaboration-for-resilient-local-food-systems-across-the-us

Farmer owned, ʻāina grown

Testimony in Support of SB 2218 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
March 2nd, 2022

Testimony of Andrew Trump
Board of Directors
Hawaiʻi ʻUlu Producers Cooperative

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2218 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program. Currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Hawaiʻi ʻUlu Cooperative's, I write on behalf of our 116 farmer-members on Hawaiʻi Island, Maui and Oʻahu to share the importance of the proposed food hub pilot program and Honalo Marshaling Yard improvements included in SB 2218. The majority of our members and Hawaiʻi farmers at large are small scale and highly diversified. Food hubs allow small farmers the time they need on the ʻāina by providing the infrastructure of aggregation, processing, marketing and distribution so food producers can focus on growing their production. Food hubs also return a greater portion of each dollar of value, about 70%, to the farmer – far more than conventional distributors of imported food do.

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Thanks to the legislature's 2019 appropriation of $1.25 million via both CIP and GIA funds for infrastructure improvements at the Honalo facility, our flagship operation located in Kailua Kona, we are currently working in partnership with the Hawaiʻi Department of Agriculture to upgrade base infrastructure (e.g. wastewater, domestic water, electricity, etc.) in order to bring the facility up to Hawaiʻi County Code. A shortfall of about $900,000 is still needed to complete the project – which will result in a 10x increase in operational capacity from 200,000 pounds to 2 million pounds of local staple crops per year. *Please note that the 2019 appropriation would have been sufficient had the foundational infrastructure of building not*

required additional upgrades to comply with county planning and federal food safety regulations – which were not known at the time.

The general obligation bonds now requested through SB 2218 will enable this critical infrasturcture project to be completed and the benefits of the Honalo Marshalling Yard as a food hub to be fully realized among state producers and consumers.

Moreover, SB 2218 will provide other food hubs across the state with additional funding opportunities to help them grow and expand. The proposed five-year pilot program would allow enough time to measure the effectiveness of the pilot program and disseminate lessons learned to help accelerate these critical business endeavors. This bill's impact will resonate across our state and empower a more resilient, regenerative local food system.

We commend the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee for its forward-thinking approach to supporting local food and local farmers, and urge the members of WAM Committee to support this critically important bill.

Sincerely,

Andrew Trump
Board of Directors Vice President

Farmer owned, ʻāina grown

Testimony in Support of SB 2218 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
March 2nd, 2022

Testimony of Dana Shapiro
General Manager
Hawaiʻi ʻUlu Producers Cooperative

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee,

The Hawaiʻi ʻUlu Producers Cooperative strongly supports SB 2218 Relating to a Food Hub Pilot Program. A food hub is an exclusively regional aggregation and distribution center that efficiently facilitates consumer access to local food. Most of Hawaiʻi's farmers are small scale and highly diversified. Food hubs allow small farmers the time they need on the ʻāina by providing the infrastructure of aggregation, processing, marketing and distribution; ultimately, they get local products to market so food producers can focus on growing their production. Food hubs also return a greater portion of each dollar of value, about 70%, to the farmer – far more than conventional distributors of imported food do.

The Honalo Marshaling Yard, owned by the State of Hawaiʻi and leased to the Hawaiʻi ʻUlu Cooperative, is an example of vital food infrastructure that requires capital improvements to support local farms and strengthen the islands' food system resilience. The Hawaiʻi ʻUlu Cooperative is an existing food hub for producers of indigenous and local starches including ʻulu, kalo, ʻuala, and palaʻai. We represent 116 farmers and counting on Hawaiʻi Island, Maui and Oʻahu. To date, we have aggregated, processed and distributed nearly 1 million pounds of locally produced staple crops to Hawaiʻi communities.

Thanks to the legislature's 2019 appropriation of $1.25 million via both CIP and GIA funds for infrastructure improvements at the Honalo facility, our flagship operation located in Kailua Kona, we are currently working in partnership with the Hawaiʻi Department of Agriculture to upgrade base infrastructure (e.g. wastewater, domestic water, electricity, etc.) in order to bring the facility up to Hawaiʻi County Code. A shortfall of about $900,000 is still needed to complete the project – which will result in a 10x increase in operational capacity from 200,000 pounds to 2 million pounds of local staple crops per year. *Please note that the 2019 appropriation would have been sufficient had the foundational infrastructure of building not*

required additional upgrades to comply with county planning and federal food safety regulations – which were not known at the time.

The general obligation bonds now requested through SB 2218 will enable this critical infrastructure project to be completed and the benefits of the Honalo Marshaling Yard as a food hub to be fully realized among state producers and consumers.

Moreover, SB 2218 will provide other food hubs across the state with additional funding opportunities to help them grow and expand. The proposed five-year pilot program would allow enough time to measure the effectiveness of the pilot program and disseminate lessons learned to help accelerate these critical business endeavors. This bill's impact will resonate across our state and empower a more resilient, regenerative local food system.

We commend the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee for its forward-thinking approach to supporting local food and local farmers, and urge the members of WAM Committee to support this critically important bill.

Sincerely,

General Manager

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 2, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2218
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 2218, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food and provides for the award of grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub. It also authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the Honalo Marshalling yard.

Small farmers typically do not have access to facilities and infrastructure to aggregate, process, and distribute products to local consumers. The challenge to small growers is also complicated by stringent regulations of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), jeopardizing the ongoing viability of many small growers due to the costs of compliance.

In Hawaii, additional challenges to small farmers include high costs in land, labor, and energy, as well as limited access to water supply for irrigation. Food hubs are an important subset of food value chains. Many farmers and ranchers, especially small-sized operations, often lack the capacity to access retail, institutional, and commercial foodservice markets on their own, and consequently miss out on the fastest-growing segment of the local food market. By offering a combination of aggregation, distribution, and marketing services at an affordable price, food hubs make it possible for many producers to gain entry into new larger-volume markets that boost their income and provide them with opportunities for scaling up production.

The Hawaii ‘Ulu Cooperative provides an important service to Hawai‘i farmers by aggregating, processing, and marketing ‘ulu and associated co-crops grown in diversified farming systems. The Honalō Marshaling Yard facility is owned by the State of Hawai‘i and was developed over 25 years ago to support these very activities. The facility is now in gross need of public investment to enable increased production and the scaling of local food industries that have demonstrated the potential for both economic development and long-term food security and sustainability.

By 2025, the Hawaii ‘Ulu Cooperative anticipates handling nearly 2 million pounds per year of ‘ulu and associated co-crops based on existing members’ production figures, for an overall farm gate value of over $6.5 million paid out directly to local farmers. Investing in the Honalō facility today is a worthwhile and vital investment in the capacity of Hawai‘i’s agricultural sector and in the ability of our islands to not only feed ourselves nutritious food but to export high-value dense crops and processed agricultural products for revenue growth and job creation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

SB2218
RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 10:15 AM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB2218** to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. Food hubs are effective tools for allowing smaller agricultural operations to aggregate their products and sell locally. The benefit of a hub is that agricultural operations can gain access to cold storage, equipment, distribution, and marketing that they may not have been able to afford on their own. We appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director

Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

1 March 2022

To: Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agraran, and the senate committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB2218, RELATING TO FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM

I, Kahealani Acosta, testify **IN SUPPORT** of **SB2218**, relating to a food hub pilot program.

The global pandemic made evident the weaknesses of Hawaiʻi's local food system, in which reliance on Hawaiʻi's tourism industry has proven the misplacement of food system and security priorities. The main resiliency factor of our food system is emphasized in the success of our food hubs to provide food for the many hungry families that lost their jobs and could not afford a basic meal during this unprecedented time. The economic impacts of the pandemic continue to burden our working class families, and it is our due diligence to consider shifting to a sustainable and resilient food system model for the future of our island community.

Azizi and Lincoln (2021) [1] conducted a study on the success of food hubs as a pandemic response to food distribution in Hawaiʻi, and highlighted their key performance indicators before and during the global pandemic, in which annual revenue and number of jobs significantly increased by 197% and ~115%, respectively (table 1).

Table 1: Key performance indicators of the 11 food hubs surveyed that represent their operations prior to March 2020 and After June 2020, *adapted with permission from Azizi and Lincoln (2021)*.

	Before March 2020	After June 2020	Change (%)
Annual revenue	USD$3.28M	USD$9.75M	197%
No. part-time jobs	42	93	121%
No. full-time jobs	25	53	112%
No. Suppliers	664	900	36%

Additionally, Azizi and Lincoln showed the significant increase in direct to consumer sales through CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) (figure 1), which exemplifies an opportunity to

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawaiʻi communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

provide organic, locally-sourced, and nutrient-rich foods to our local families; communities. Given the safety concerns of the pandemic, we see a sharp decrease in the institutional purchases of our local foods, however Hawaiʻi's local food hub distribution channels possess the opportunity to increase local food access for these institutions.

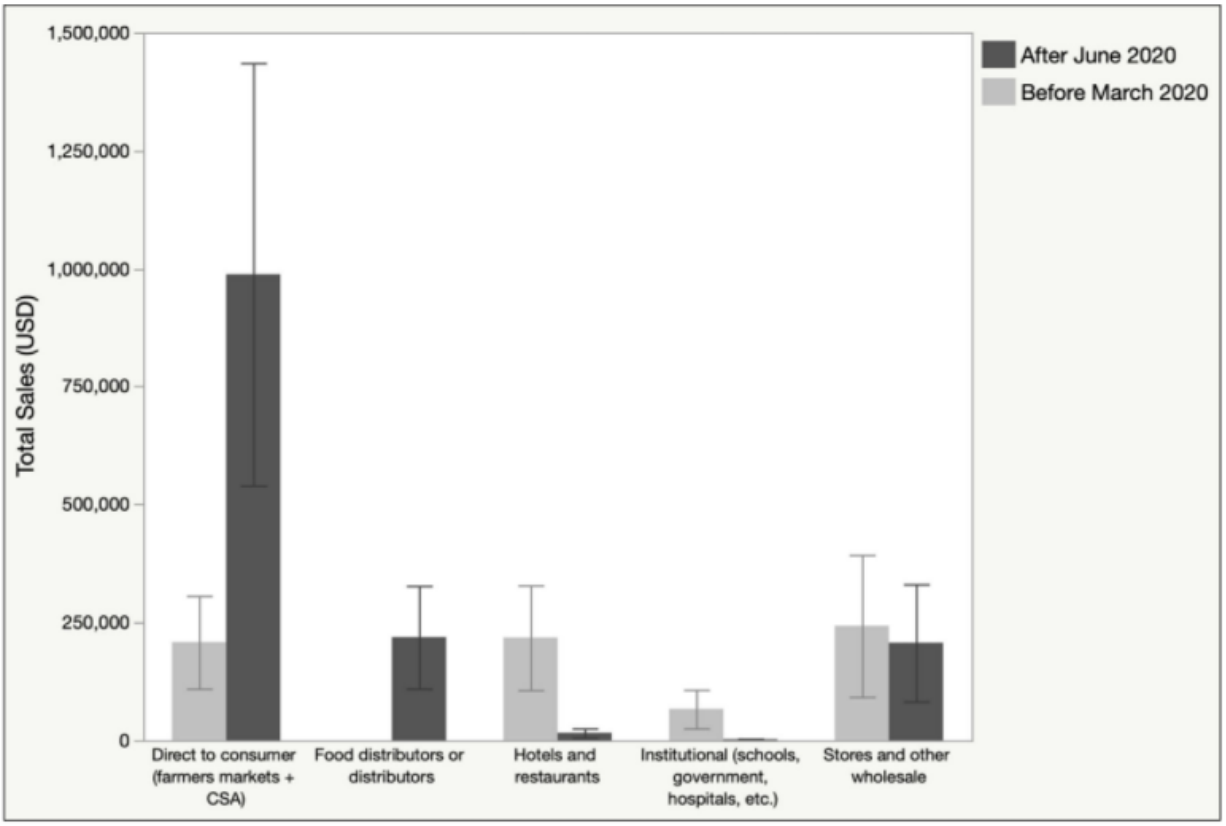

Figure 1: Shifts in total sales outlets (including standard error bars) for 7 food hubs that contributed their sales data, *adapted with permission from Azizi and Lincoln (2021)*.

If the pandemic has proven anything, it has made clear that we are unprepared for major economic disruptions and must seek local solutions to complex issues of food security. Food hubs allow farmers of all scales to engage in Hawaiʻi's economy with equal access and opportunity to the agricultural market, while also producing jobs to further enhance our economy. Food hubs across Hawaiʻi have proven their resiliency in response to an unprecedented time in history, in which the investment into this avenue of food processing and distribution elicit significant gains to Hawaiʻi's agricultural and overall economy. It is our kuleana (*responsibility*) to ensure the prosperity of our predecessors and future generations through access to locally-sourced and nutritionally abundant foods.

As a graduate student of indigenous cropping systems, a budding farmer, and advocate for sustainable and resilient food systems, I urge the committee to pass SB2218. On behalf of the Hawaiʻi Food+ Policy Internship, I would like to thank Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agraran, and the senate committee on Ways and Means, for considering the comments made herein.

Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

Me ka mahalo nui (with deep gratitude),
Kahealani & the Food+ Interns
#fixourfoodsystem

References

[1] Azizi Fardkhales, S., & Lincoln, N. K. (2021). Food hubs play an essential role in the COVID-19 response in Hawaiʻi. Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development.

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawaiʻi communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

SB-2218
Submitted on: 2/27/2022 12:12:22 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support!

#fixourfoodsystem

SB-2218
Submitted on: 2/28/2022 12:33:23 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Katie Zuber	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this

SB-2218
Submitted on: 2/28/2022 1:13:32 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill to increase access to LOCAL food. (which is actually FOOD)

SB-2218
Submitted on: 2/28/2022 1:19:49 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robert Quartero	Testifying for Kulanui.org	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee members,

I am in strong support of SB2218 which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food by providing grant funding to qualified applicants wishing to establish or expand a food hub. SB2218 also authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the Honalo Marshalling Yard and adds provisions which requires reports to be made to the Legislature. I ask for your support and thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2218.

SB-2218
Submitted on: 2/28/2022 1:33:52 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Charmaine Hellmund	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Charmaine Hellmund, I live in Pepe'ekeo in South Hilo. I am in SUPPORT of SB2218 to increase access to local food through food hubs. These hubs play a vital role in our food system by connecting small farmers with many markets. The Honalo Marshaling Yard is leased to the Hawai‘i ‘Ulu Cooperative by the State; it is essential infrastructure which requires capital improvements to support local farms and strengthen the islands' food system resilience and sustainability.

Mahalo for your dedication to local food and the health of our communities and ‘āina.

Signed,

Charmaine Hellmund

SB-2218
Submitted on: 2/28/2022 1:35:24 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Donn DeShayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello I would like to support the food hub bill SB 2218. I live on Maui. I was in Costco the other day and bought bananas from Ecuador. Wouldn't it be great if there was a food hub across the street where I could get local produce before I go into costco. Food hubs also help organize the distribution for family farmers. It would help them to get their produce to the consumer so they could stay busy farming and producing healthy local food. Give this concept a decent chance. Thank you.

SB-2218
Submitted on: 2/28/2022 2:19:55 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-2218
Submitted on: 2/28/2022 3:06:06 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Noa LIncoln	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB 2218. This is critical support for increasing both the social and physical infrastructure that is essential for increasing our capacity for developing local food economies. Please support!

SB-2218
Submitted on: 2/28/2022 3:23:54 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
James Crum	Testifying for Tinyville Farm	Support	No

Comments:

In my experience, and in speaking with other ag producers - especially on the Big Island - a key to long term success is the establishment and support of local food hubs around the island(s). In fact, I‘ve been in discussions about helping create one in a currently unserved area of the island.

I strongly support this as a focus for our Legislature and for the long term health of our islands. Feel free to call me if you would like more information.

Mahalo nui,

-Jim Crum
Owner, Tinyville Farm
808-339-8807

SB-2218
Submitted on: 2/28/2022 4:09:08 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
candis thomas	Testifying for Puamana Gardens	Support	No

Comments:

I own a small family farm in Waimanalo and I strongly support Bill SB2218. The establishment of a 5 year food hub will give the local farmers an opportunity to further grow our island into a self supportive community. With the world in constant flux, the residents of Hawaii need to be able to count on local food production and availability. Thank you.

Candis Thomas

SB-2218
Submitted on: 2/28/2022 6:03:31 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robert Boudreaux	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill addresses an obvious need in Hawaii: sourcing locally grown agriculture to local communities through proven vehicles that are not dependent on outside influences. This bill will help establish and foster a much larger and effective paradigm of feeding our people. It will also have a positive economic effect by providing new jobs and opportunities for the Hawaiian agricultural community. All around, a win-win situaion.

SB-2218
Submitted on: 2/28/2022 6:47:41 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
VINCENT KIMURA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Food hubs play a critical role in our food system by connecting small farmers with diverse markets. In decades past, farmer cooperatives were a strong tool for smallholders to get to market. Food hubs are a modern approach to revitalize farmer cooperation and expand market access.

The Wallace Center's National Good Food Network (https://wallacecenter.org/our-work/past-work/national-good-food-network/) has supported and documented much of the value chain network to which food hubs play a crucial role in trust-building, contract growing, cold storage, logistics, and value production. The success that our Hawaii hubs (e.g. Kahumana, Adapatiations) have provided on average $0.70/ out of the $1.00 sold directly to consumers, which goes back to the farmer, compared to the current $0.7, nationally (USDA statistic - https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-dollar-series/documentation.aspx)

Farmer & community-supported food hubs are the answer... "if farmer's make money, they will farm."

SB-2218
Submitted on: 2/28/2022 6:53:34 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shawna Ganley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is important for food security, which is especially crucial in Hasaii. As a farmer and a resident, I support it.

SB-2218
Submitted on: 2/28/2022 7:09:35 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Lush	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Food hubs play a critical role in our food system by connecting small farmers with diverse markets.

SB-2218
Submitted on: 2/28/2022 8:29:30 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Koon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. This bill will provide support for the network of food hubs across the state to expand their work, and in doing so increase farmer incomes and consumer food access. For these reasons we strongly support SB2218.

In 2017, the Legislature awarded the Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation a Grant in Aid project to Strengthen Regional Food Hubs in Hawai'i. As part of that project, the coordinator, Dr. Saleh Azizi facilitated a focus group, composed of the majority of Hawai'i's food hubs, to understand the resources needed for food hubs to respond to statewide local food purchasing goals. The focus group findings resulted in a 2020 Food Hub Pilot program bill to support existing and new food hubs in all of Hawaii's counties.

Food hubs play a critical role in our food system by connecting small farmers with diverse markets. In decades past, farmer cooperatives were a strong tool for smallholders to get to market. Food hubs are a modern approach to revitalize farmer cooperation and expand market access. Support of this bill will expand the critical work of food hubs and build a stronger local food economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jenn Koon

SB-2218
Submitted on: 2/28/2022 9:28:26 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bret Mossman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill. Local food production is vital to our economy, sustainability, and future.

Mahalo nui,

Bret

SB-2218
Submitted on: 3/1/2022 12:36:03 AM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thomas Craig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Prolification of food hubs would enable the reversal of the 85/15% imported to locally grown food consumption. Thus drastically reducing our carbon foot print for food.

SB-2218
Submitted on: 3/1/2022 6:28:50 AM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Melissa Emond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,
My name is Melissa Emond. I live in Honalo and have a small farm in Kealakekua. I am writing in support of SB2218 for increased access to locally grown and culturally significant food crops in our community. The Hawaii Ulu Cooperative provides a great and growing service that connects fresh nutritious food grown by local farmers to the people of our community. The Honalo Marshaling Yard is a functional and convinient location that has the capacity to serve our community as a food hub for years to come. When the pandemic hit, the Hawaii Ulu Cooperative was there to feed our families and support our local economy. Thank you,

Melissa Emond

SB-2218
Submitted on: 3/1/2022 7:51:16 AM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jessica Sobocinski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

I am writing in strong support of SB2218. I have had over eight years of experience with Farm to School and agriculture on Hawaiʻi island and havr seen that aggregation, storage, and distribution continue to be the greatest barriers to increasing the consumption and sales of locally-produced foods and to the viability of agriculture as a career for people in Hawaiʻi! Food hubs are an evidence-based strategy for aggregating, storing, and distributing foods from rural areas where food is being grown, to the cities and other urban areas where food is being purchased and consumed in large quantities. Food hubs support farmers by alleviating the time and expense of having to deliver their product to market, which allows them more time and money to invest in growing food. Additionally, food hubs centralize the ordering and distribution process easier for the consumer, making the institutional purchasing of locally-grown foods more possible. This is especially important in light of Act 175 that aims to have the Hawaiʻi Department of Education sourcing 30% local by 2030 for school meals.

Mahalo,

Jess

SB-2218
Submitted on: 3/1/2022 7:57:33 AM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gregory R Cromwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support sb2218

SB-2218
Submitted on: 3/1/2022 8:10:19 AM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support for this bill

SB-2218
Submitted on: 3/1/2022 8:14:08 AM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michelle Matson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support local farming and Hawai'i food sustainability.

SB-2218
Submitted on: 3/1/2022 8:49:29 AM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leanne Kami	Testifying for Kohana Family Farms	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Leanne Kami, I am a resident of Hilo in District 2 and I am in SUPPORT of SB2218 to increase access to local food through food hubs. Food hubs play a critical role in our food system by connecting small farmers with diverse markets. The Honalo Marshaling Yard, owned by the State of Hawai‘i and leased to the Hawai‘i ‘Ulu Cooperative, is an example of vital food infrastructure that requires capital improvements to support local farms and strengthen the islands' food system resilience.

Kohana Family Farms is a small, family-owned business that relies on food hubs for access to markets.

Mahalo for your dedication to local food and the health of our communities and ‘āina.

Signed,

Leanne Kami

SB-2218
Submitted on: 3/1/2022 8:55:44 AM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Matt Johnson	Testifying for Oahu Fresh	Support	No

Comments:

Food Hubs are the backbone for local food security by providing direct support to farmers why providing aggregation, cold storage, processing and distribution capacity for locally grown food. Please help support our local food hubs

SB-2218
Submitted on: 3/1/2022 9:21:34 AM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Charles Matthew Shofman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, esteemed Committee,

I am in strong support of SB2218. We are at an important juncture in our islands history to ensure we progress towards reestablishing food sovereignty in our Islands. Food hubs play a critical role in the food system by connecting small farmers with diverse markets. In decades past, farmer cooperatives were a strong tool for smallholders to get to market. Food hubs are a modern approach to revitalize farmer cooperation and expand market access. SB2219 will expand the critical work of food hubs and build a stronger local food economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2218
Submitted on: 3/1/2022 9:46:12 AM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kenta Nemoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kenta Nemoto, I am a resident of Laupahoehoe in North Hilo and I am in SUPPORT of SB2218 to increase access to local food through food hubs. Food hubs play a critical role in our food system by connecting small farmers with diverse markets. The Honalo Marshaling Yard, owned by the State of Hawaiʻi and leased to the Hawaiʻi ʻUlu Cooperative, is an example of vital food infrastructure that requires capital improvements to support local farms and strengthen the islands' food system resilience.

Mahalo for your dedication to local food and the health of our communities and ʻāina.

Signed,

Kenta Nemoto

LATE

SB-2218
Submitted on: 3/1/2022 2:43:10 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ming Wei Koh	Testifying for Mamaki Ola Farm and Education LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Māmaki Ola Farm and Education LLC supports SB2218.

As a small farm, we count on food hubs as a way to diversify the market.

Please support.

Mahalo nui loa

Koh Ming Wei, Farmer and Owner.