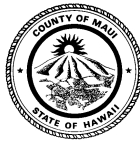


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**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
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March 11, 2023

TO: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 13, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 619, HD2, RELATING TO TAXATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to establish an income tax credit for qualified farms that donate eligible food products or prepared food to food banks or food pantries located in the State.

The Maui County Council adopted Resolution 23-43, "URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT AND ADOPT THE PRIORITY FOOD POLICIES RECOMMENDED BY THE TRANSFORMING HAWAII'S FOOD SYSTEMS TOGETHER INITIATIVE," in support of this measure. Therefore, I offer this testimony on the Council's behalf.

The Maui County Council **supports** this measure for the following reasons:

1. This food producers income tax credit supports food systems by encouraging farmers to donate produce for food access and security for vulnerable groups.
2. This tax credit helps farmers alleviate the high costs of agricultural production to promote the development of agricultural self-sufficiency and food security.
3. Donation of excess produce to food banks and pantries by farms helps to reduce waste of fresh farmed plant products and prepared foods.

For the foregoing reasons, the Maui County Council **supports** this measure.