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Deputy Director of Council Services  
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**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

March 28, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 29, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 430,  
SD2, HD1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO FOOD BANK  
PROGRAM**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The measure's purpose is to establish the Hawai'i Farm to Food Bank Program and the Hawai'i Food Assistance Program Special Fund to alleviate food shortages.

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 measure provides a much-needed source of funding for food banks to purchase, store, and transport food grown or produced in Hawai'i, while providing a market for local food producers and keeping money circulating in the local economy.
2. The measure advances the Maui County General Plan policy to "Work with other levels of government and the nonprofit sector to expand services to address hunger. . . ."
3. This measure advances the goal of ending hunger and increasing food security in Hawai'i, as outlined in Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge and the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations.

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