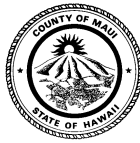


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March 30, 2023

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 31, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1248, HD1, RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCENTIVES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The measure's purpose is to appropriate funds for the Hawai'i Food Incentive Program and provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

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 facilitates the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, which is an integral part of a healthy diet and central to the prevention of obesity and chronic disease.
2. The Hawai'i Healthy Food Incentive Program, also known as DA BUX, incentivizes beneficiaries who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program with a dollar-for-dollar match on locally produced fresh fruits and vegetables. This measure provides the essential funding to continue this valuable program.
3. This measure advances the following Maui County General Plan policy: "Expand public awareness and promote programs to achieve healthy eating habits . . ."

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