

March 30, 2023



Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, March 31, 2023
9:45 am
Via Videoconference

RE: **HB1248 HD1** Relating to SNAP Incentives (**Support**)

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran & Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce testifies in strong support of HB1248 HD1, which appropriates funds to DOA for the continued administration of the Hawai'i healthy food incentive program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

As business owners who aim for a triple bottom line and know we can strengthen our economy without hurting workers, consumers, or the environment, we urge this committee to pass HD1248 HD1 because it **supports local consumers and farmers and strengthens our economy by keeping more money circulating locally.**

When Hawaii consumers purchase locally grown and produced foods, it reduces carbon emissions tied to the fuel that would be used to import foods. And it improves the health of consumers by providing incentives to eat fresher, unprocessed foods.

**Hawaii
Legislative
Council**

Maile Meyer
Na Mea Hawaii
Honolulu

Russel Rudderman
Island Naturals
Hilo / Kona

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Maui

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country Market
Kauai

Kim Coco Iwamoto
AQuA Rentals, LLC
Honolulu
