

March 29, 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: **HB308 SD1** Relating to Sustainable Food Systems (**Support**)

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

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC) testifies in strong support of HB308 SD1, which establishes the sustainable food systems working group within the Department of Agriculture, requires the working group to submit an interagency food systems plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the Legislature, and appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan and for an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions within the Department of Agriculture.

As business owners who strive 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 HB308 SD1 because it will move us toward greater food security and strengthen our circular economy. It will increase "green" job opportunities and allow us to focus on land stewardship and environmental protection, and better prepare us for climate change resiliency.

With more and more families facing food insecurity, and farmers struggling to access affordable water and land, the time is now to do a better job planning for a stronger local food system.