

March 16, 2023



Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Friday, March 17, 2023
9:30 am
Via Videoconference

RE: **SB420 SD2** Relating to Sustainable Food Systems (**Support**)

Dear Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa & Members of the Committee,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC) testifies in strong support of SB420 SD2, 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 believe we can strengthen our economy without hurting workers, consumers, or the environment, we urge this committee to pass SB420 SD2 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.