



January 25, 2018

Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair
Rep. Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

Hearing Date: Friday, January 26, 2018
Hearing Time: 10:00AM
Regarding: HB 1969 RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 1969 Relating to Food Sustainability

HFACT is a not-for-profit, IRS 501c(5) organization, that advocates for small boat commercial, non-commercial, and recreational fishermen throughout Hawaii. HFACT board members sit on a number of international, regional and federal fisheries management and endangered species advisory committees as well as state marine and coastal zone advisory committees; and, HFACT is thoroughly familiar with and participates in ocean and marine resource management in Hawaii and the western and central Pacific.

HFACT **SUPPORTS** HB 1969 Relating to Food Sustainability. In 2012, the state published a report entitled "INCREASED FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY, A STATE STRATEGIC/FUNCTIONAL PLAN". While HFACT applauds the intent of the plan, the 2012 plan did not address fish and seafood. Nowhere in the plan was there recognition that fish and seafood are a critical and integral part of food security or food self-sufficiency, especially for an island State.

HFACT asks that the committee support HB 1969 so that a plan could be developed to set forth objectives, policies and actions to increase the amount of locally caught fish that is high quality food consumed by Hawaii's residents.

It is already recognized by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture that the economic impact of food import replacement is significant. The 2012 report cites that "replacing just 10% of the food Hawaii currently imports would amount to approximately \$313 million dollars which would remain in the State". The 2012 report further recommends actions to market "Buy Local/It Matters" and to brand and label local food products. HFACT agrees on all counts.

Also identified in the 2012 report is that "a critical factor towards successful implementation will be building partnerships with the increasing number of organizations involved in food self sufficiency/food security." HFACT stands ready to assist the state in this regard.

Hawai'i Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, Inc.
75-796 Hiona Street, Holualoa HI 96725

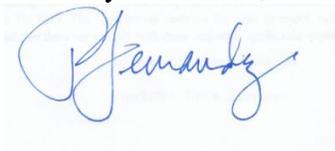
In 2017, sustainability and self-sufficiency discussions focused on agriculture and omitted the **state's largest food producing entity**, ... *which is fishing*. Hawaii's commercial fishing vessels land about \$110 million of seafood. Eighty to 90 percent of the locally caught fish stay in our islands as food for our people and visitors. By comparison, according to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, cattle production is valued at about \$65 million with only 24 percent kept in the state. Sugarcane is valued at about \$54 million with less than 5 percent kept for local consumption. Algae production is worth \$33 million with 0 percent retained locally. Papayas are worth \$11 million with half of the production staying in the state. All of the banana, milk, lettuce and taro produced in Hawaii are consumed locally, but together these local products are valued at about \$31 million, which is less than a third of the value of local commercial seafood landings.

The alternative to a viable local fishery is increased dependence on much less regulated foreign imports with negative impacts on ocean ecosystem health. Up to a third of these imports are considered to be from illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries and less than 2 percent of the imports are inspected.

HFACT believes that the argument to create and publish a functional plan for seafood sustainability is very compelling, therefore, we ask the committee for your support.

HFACT thanks the chair, vice-chair, and committee members for this opportunity to provide comment and to assist in providing food to the people of Hawaii and to assist in the conservation of Hawaii's natural resources.

Sincerely and Aloha,



Phil Fernandez
President