

2026 Hawai'i Food & Farm Policy Roundup

An Overview of Hawai'i Farm and Food System
Stakeholder Priorities



ABOUT THE POLICY ROUNDUP

Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i serves as a coordinating partner for the Hawai'i Statewide Food System Coordination (HSFSC) Initiative, a public-private partnership launched in 2024 by philanthropic funders in collaboration with the State of Hawai'i. HSFSC focuses on stakeholder engagement, addressing infrastructure barriers to agriculture, advancing institutional procurement, federal funding and policy development for the Hawai'i food and agriculture system. Part of this work involves policy development and tracking the legislative priorities of groups working across the Hawai'i food and agricultural system.

Over August - November 2025, the initiative **brought together policymakers, state agencies, advocates, and community stakeholders for in-person and online events to help co-develop and refine policy priorities and deepen relationships ahead of 2026.** Discussions centered on three focus areas: food access and distribution (including support for programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and food banks amid federal funding uncertainty), farmer and supply chain support (including potential revenue-generating strategies), and improvements to data, government capacity, and regulatory reform. This report shares the policy priorities of some of the organizations that have participated in this process. This report shall be updated over the course of the 2026 legislative session.

This report does not represent a formal coalition, joint advocacy effort, or collective endorsement of any specific proposal. It is intended solely as an informational summary of measures and priorities shared to the Hawai'i Statewide Food System Coordination initiative. Bill numbers are provided for convenience and may change; readers are encouraged to verify all information directly through the Hawai'i State Capitol website (<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>) and, where applicable, with the individual stakeholder organizations listed. Inclusion of a bill or proposal in this report does not imply agreement, sponsorship, or mutual support among participating organizations, nor does it indicate that any organization has formally endorsed another stakeholder's priorities.



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Analysis: Emerging Policy Assessment

While not every organization supports every measure, clear patterns of alignment are emerging that reflect two reinforcing priorities: addressing crisis-level food insecurity while strengthening Hawai'i's agricultural foundation for the long term. Please refer to the [Capitol website](#), Purple Mai'a's [Food+ Policy Dashboard](#), [Hawai'i Farmers Union 2026 Legislative Action Center](#) or the [Transforming Hawai'i Food Systems' Policy Hub](#) for comprehensive lists of food and agriculture bills and their live statuses.

1. Food Security and Affordability Bills

There is broad agreement that Hawai'i must confront crisis-level food insecurity while making locally produced food more accessible and affordable. These measures reduce household food costs, stabilize family access to nutritious food, and strengthen farmer viability by increasing consistent demand for Hawai'i-grown products.

- **HB2208** – Relating to Food Security (Farm to Families). Expands markets for local producers while connecting local food to families in need.
- **HB1611 / SB2104** – Reduces and then repeals the GET on groceries.
- **HB2032** – Removes the GET from groceries. Reduces the cost burden on households and improves food affordability statewide.
- **HB1518 / SB2417** – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Modernizes and improves access to federal nutrition benefits for households experiencing food insecurity.
- **HB1561 / SB2677** – Relating to School Meals. Expands free lunch requirements in public charter schools.
- **HB1779 / SB3058** – Relating to School Meals. Expands access to nutritious meals for keiki while increasing local sourcing.

2. Resilient Farms and Agricultural Infrastructure Bills

These bills strengthen climate-ready farms and resilient local food systems while modernizing the state's ability to effectively deliver programs and financing tools. Together, these measures improve land security, build climate resilience, expand access to capital, and support institutional capacity.

- **HB1603 / SB3224** – Relating to Agricultural Leases. Improves lease renewal equity across islands.
- **HB2377 / SB2019** – Relating to Land Leases. Improves long-term lease security and land access for producers.
- **HB1621 / SB2110** – Healthy Soils Incentive Program. Invests in soil health to improve productivity, water retention, and carbon sequestration.
- **HB1953 / SB3296** – Hawai'i Agriculture and Conservation Stewardship Fund. Provides coordinated technical assistance, cost-share support, and conservation investment for producers.
- **HB1707 / SB3221** – Agricultural Interisland Water Carrier Transportation Subsidy Program. Reduces logistical and transportation barriers between counties.
- **HB1605 / SB2705** – Human and Community Resilience Institute at CTAHR. Strengthens research, technical assistance, and resilience capacity statewide.
- **HB1294 HD2 SD1 / SB498 SD1** – Relating to Agricultural Workforce Housing. Expands agricultural workforce housing options to stabilize the agricultural labor force.
- **HB2459 / SB3320** – Relating to the Food and Product Innovation Network. Supports value-added production, processing, and local food system innovation.
- **HB1602 / SB2319** – Grant Writer Position for DAB. Expands the state's ability to secure and deploy federal funds.
- **HB2216** – Agricultural Loan Program Ceiling Increase. Improves access to capital for producers.
- **HB2404 / SB2922** – General Cooperative Associations Act. Modernizes cooperative law and supports farmer-led business structures.
- **HB2155 / SB2404** DOA; Agricultural Statistics Program; Positions; Appropriation – Statistics Modernization. Advances agricultural data collection, transparency, and informed decision-making.

Detailed List of Stakeholder Priorities

Bill numbers, links and brief descriptions are provided as much as possible. This list is not exhaustive of all food and agriculture bills introduced in 2026 nor of all Hawai'i food and agriculture organizations. Please refer to the [Capitol website](#) or Purple Mai'a's [Food+ Policy Dashboard](#) for comprehensive lists of food and agriculture bills and their live status. The list of stakeholder priorities is in alphabetical order by organization. Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i accepts responsibility for any and all errors contained herein.



Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i

- Tracking all food and farm system priorities
- **HB1953/ SB3296** Relating to the Hawai'i Agriculture and Conservation Stewardship Fund
- **HB1603/ SB3224** Relating to Agricultural Leases
- **GIA** for Farmer Funding Helpdesk
- **HB2208/ SB2427** Relating to Food Security (Farm to Families)
- **HB1602/ SB2319** Grant Writer Position for DAB.
- **HB2216** Agricultural Loan Program Ceiling Increase
- **SB2097** Resilient infrastructure
- **HB1393 HD1** Agricultural Statistics and Data Modernization
- **HB2218/ SB2685** DLNR and Community Co-Management Agreements
- **HB1518** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- **SB2110** Healthy soils
- **HB1611/ SB2104** Reduces and then repeals the GET on groceries
- **HB2032** Removes the GET from groceries
- **SB3221** Ag Inter Island Water Carrier Transportation Subsidy Program
- **SB2922** General Cooperative Associations Act



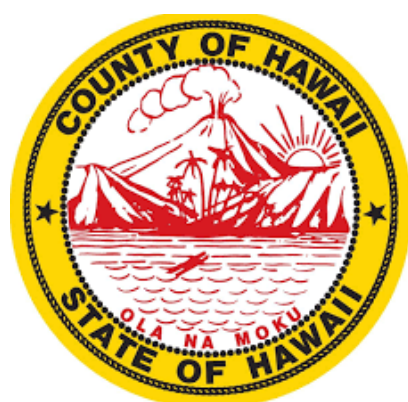
Agribusiness Development Corporation

- **SB2028** Aquaculture Investment Tax Credit
- **SB2015** Ag to Rural Redistricting
- **SB2007** Zoning for Housing & Ag
- **SB2123** Ag Park Farm Dwelling Inspections
- **SB2159** Halaula Ag Parcel Bonds
- **SB2161** Ag Rodeo Authorization
- **SB2162** Ag Land Elderly Housing
- **SB2168** Kuleana AgTech Pilot
- **SB2169** ADC Condemnation Authority
- **SB2170** North Kohala Land Bonds
- **SB2169** Water Fluoridation Standards
- **SB2022** State Water Code Penalties
- **SB2002** CWRM Governance Revisions



College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience

- **HB1952** CIP funding for the CTAHR Agricultural Research and Extension Station (CARES)
- **HB1951** Center on Biosecurity Research, Education, and Extension (CoBREE)
- **HB1605** Human and Community Resilience Institute at CTAHR



County of Hawai'i Department of Research and Development

- **HB2208 HD1 / SB2427** Farm to Families
- **HB1518 HD1 / SB2417** SNAP pre-release waiver
- **HB1621 HD1 / SB2110** Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program
- **HB1953 / SB3296 SD1** Conservation and Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Pilot
- **HB2216 HD1** (SB2309 SD1 is similar but not a companion bill) Agriculture Loans
- **SB2318 SD1** (HB2216 is similar but not a companion bill) Agricultural Statistics
- **HB1604 HD2 / SB2405SD1** Agricultural Workforce Housing Working Group
- **HB2548 HD1 / SB2097 SD1** Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program
- **HB2404 HD1 / SB2922 SD1** Cooperative Associations Statute
- **HB1707 HD1** Local Agriculture Transportation Cost Reimbursement



HAWAII APPLESEED
CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice & Hawai'i Hunger Action Network

- **HB2208** Relating to Food Security (Farm to Families)
- **HB1518** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Nearing Release From Incarceration
- **SB3245** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Kūpuna Extension
- **HB1561** Relating To Free School Meals in Public Charter Schools
- **HB1779** Relating School Meals by 2030





Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

- **SB2742** Penalties for dog attacks on livestock
- **SB3056** Expands DLE ag crime pilot to Maui and Kauai
- **SB2798** Expands DLE ag crime efforts to Maui and Kauai and a permanent program pilot
- **SB2321** Funds for TLSB mitigation
- **HB1953/ SB3296** Green fee funds for Ag Conservation
- **HB2377/ SB1573** Act 90, Requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity transfer of and manage certain qualifying non-agricultural park lands
- **HB 1703/ SB2161** Allows for rodeo on ag lands
- **SB3221** Ag Inter Island Water Carrier Transportation Subsidy Program



Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity

- **SB3066/ HB2246** DAB; Agricultural Grant Program; Revolving Fund; Annual Report
- **SB2098/ HB2549** DAB; Clean Plant Program; Establishment; Report; Appropriation
- **SB2709/ HB2550** DAB; Akamai Arrival Program; State of Hawaii Biosecurity Declaration; Enforcement
- **SB2717/ HB2497** DAB; Biosecurity Government-Industry Agreements; Liability; Costs; Working Group
- **HB1831** DAB; Non-Agricultural Park Lands; Compliance; Survey; Appropriation
- **HB1832/ SB3321** DAB; Animal Industry Division; Aquaculture; Biosecurity; Biocontainment Standards; Biological Aquatic Risk-Based Framework; Interagency Coordination; Permitting; Appropriation
- **SB2703/ HB2551** Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Area-Wide Fruit Fly Suppression Program, Appropriation
- **SB2704/ HB2572** DAB; Subsistence-Plus Gardening Pilot Program; Reports; Appropriation
- **SB2706/ HB2573** DAB; LCC; DHRD; Agriculture and Biosecurity Workforce Development Pilot Program; Report
- **SB2317/ HB2594** DAB; Insurance; Small Agricultural Producers; Study; Report; Appropriation
- **HB2155/ SB2404** DOA; Agricultural Statistics Program; Positions; Appropriation
- **HB2216** DOAB; Agricultural Loans; Sale; Agricultural Loan Revolving Fund Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation
- **HB2246/ SB3066** DAB; Agricultural Grant Program; Revolving Fund; Annual Report
- **SB2317/ HB2594** DAB; Insurance; Small Agricultural Producers; Study; Report; Appropriation
- **SB2319/ HB1602** DAB; Grant Writer; Position; Permanent; Appropriation



Hawai'i Farm Bureau

- **HB1603/ SB3224** Agricultural Park Lease Extension
- **HB781/ SB1541** Waiahole Irrigation System
- **HB1951/ SB2707** Center on Biosecurity Research, Education, and Extension (CoBREE)
- **HB2377/ SB2019** Relating to the Land Leases
- **HB2208/ SB2427** Relating to Farm to Families Program
- **HB1602/ SB2319** Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity Grant Writer Position
- **HB1952/ SB2708** CIP funding for the CTAHR Agricultural Research and Extension Station (CARES)
- **HB1707/ SB3221** Agricultural Interisland Water Carrier Transportation Subsidy Program
- **HB1605/ SB2705** Human and Community Resilience Institute at CTAHR



Hawai'i Farmer Union

- **HB1604/SB2405** Agricultural Workforce Housing Working Group
- **SB3233** Agricultural Workforce Housing
- **SB2006** Farm Employee Housing
- **HB929/ SB247** Agricultural Land Conveyance Tax
- **SB2110/ HB1621** Healthy Soils Incentive Program
- **HB1953** Conservation and Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Pilot Program
- **SB2334** Ag Land Conversion Fee
- **SB2371** Agrivoltaics Ag Parks
- **SB2323** Farmland Transition Commission
- **HB1334 HD3 SD1/ SB1230 SD2** Game Meat Donation
- **SB1189** Local Ag Procurement
- **HB1707/SB3221** Local Agriculture Transportation Cost Reimbursement Program
- **SB2101** Statewide Organic Waste Diversion Goals
- **HB2404/ SB2922** General Cooperative Associations Act
- **GIA** \$125K Farmer Outreach and Education, Annual Convention
- **SB2716** Cooperative Development Program
- **HB2208/ SB2427** Farm to Families Program

Hawai'i Food Bank



- **HB2208** Farm to Families
- Supporting efforts to improve SNAP accessibility, free school meals, and reduction or removal of the GET on groceries.



Hawai'i Public Health Institute

- **SB2417/ HB1518** The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- **HB1611** General Excise Tax
- **HB1561 / SB2677** Relating To School Meals
- **HB1605/ SB2705** Human and Community Resilience Institute at CTAHR
- **HB1699** Food Security
- **SB3058/ HB1779** School Meals
- **HB2233** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education Program
- **HB2458** Surveillance Pricing
- **SB2211** Emergency Appropriation Department of Human Services
- **SB2345** Relating To Sugar-Sweetened Beverages
- **SB2427** Food Security
- **SB2705** Human And Community Resilience
- **SB2935** General Excise Tax Exemptions
- **HB2296/ SB2615** School Meals
- **SB3245** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- **SB3257** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education Program



Hawai'i State Department of Education Relevant Bills

- **HB2296 / SB3115** Relating to School Meals
- **HB2300 / SB3119** Relating to the Department of Education Procurement, threshold of \$250K



Hawai'i State Department of Health, Food & Drug Branch

- **HB2317 / SB3137** Department of Health's Authority to Regulate Food, Drugs, and Cosmetics
- **HB2459 / SB3320** Relating to the Food and Product Innovation Network



Hawaii Food Industry Association

- **SB1610/ SB2105** Repeals the audit requirement for retailers for the Deposit Beverage Container Program
- **SB2104/ HB1611** Reduces and then repeals the GET on groceries
- **HB2032** Removes the GET from groceries

PURPLE MAI'A



Purple Mai'a Food+ Policy

- **SB2168** Kuleana AgTech Pathways Pilot Program
- **SB2320** Kuleana AgTech Pathways Pilot Program
- **SB2718** Food Hub Pilot Program
- **SB2922/ HB2404** General Cooperative Statute
- **SB2716** Cooperative Development Program
- **HB1621/ HB1621** Healthy Soils Bill



Transforming Hawai'i Food Systems Together

- **SB2109** Disaster management funding for HIEMA



Ulupono Initiative

- **SB2319/ HB1602** Grant Writer Position for DAB
- Farm to school bills



North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership Bill Tracking

- **SB2718** Relating to Food Hub Pilot Program
- **SB3222** Relating to Food Hubs
- **SB2405** Relating to Ag Workforce Housing (creates Working Group)
- **HB2459** FPIN (Food and Agriculture Innovation Network)
- **SB3320** FPIN
- **HB2496** Transportation Assistance Program
- **HB1013** IAL Farmer/Farmworker Housing Development
- **HB1294** Ag Workforce Housing Working Group
- **HB1450** Climate Resilient Food Systems Grant Pilot Program
- **HB1602** Appropriates Funds for 1 FTE DAB Employee
- **HB1604** Ag Workforce Housing Working Group
- **HB1828** Agricultural Housing Farm Dwelling Permissible Uses

Want to include your priorities?

Email us at HSFSC@agstewardship.hawaii.org to include your food and agricultural organization's priorities in the next update of the Policy Roundup.