



## The Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

December 11, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

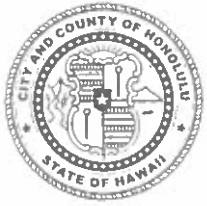
I am writing in support of Sustain Hawaii and their promising, healthy food incentives initiative. Waimanalo is home to a high percentage of Native Hawaiians, who disproportionately fall into a lower socioeconomic status. The majority of Sustain Hawaii's board members are Native Hawaiian and/or have roots in Waimanalo. Their mission is to improve the health of the natural resources, community and economy through science-based, data-driven decision-making in concert with cultural values and principles.

Sustain Hawaii's healthy food incentives initiative considers the entire food system from land and farmer to retailer and consumer. This approach addresses the basic needs of the place and people, including the root causes of chronic ailments, over 80% of which are preventable through diet alone. Sustain Hawaii has a 20-acre farm, is closely affiliated with a plant-based restaurant in Waimanalo, and has recently developed a statewide food metrics, web platform for the Department of Agriculture. They have also participated extensively in Waimanalo's community planning and betterment efforts, which makes them well suited to help effectively lead these efforts to improve Waimanalo's food system and access to fruits and vegetables for social welfare beneficiaries.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration of Sustain Hawaii's initiative. Our community would be grateful for your support.

Kind regards,

Senator Laura H. Thielen  
District 25 – Kailua, Waimanalo, Hawaii Kai



**CITY COUNCIL**  
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**IKAIKA ANDERSON**  
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December 11, 2017

Re: **Sustain Hawaii Application for USDA Grant**

Aloha,

I am writing to provide my support of an application for a grant submitted by Sustain Hawaii.

Sustain Hawaii will conduct a pilot program in Waimanalo, Hawaii for its "healthies" initiative, to potentially improve and increase nutritious and sustainable food choices by participants of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Food Program.

As the elected Councilmember of windward Oahu, which includes Waimanalo, and also as a resident of this community, I support the work and accomplishments of Sustain Hawaii in its ongoing efforts to educate our communities and to prioritize how we meet personal, ecological and socio-cultural and economic needs in our small island's progress towards sustainability.

Please consider Sustain Hawaii for this USDA grant.

Mālama Pono,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I. Anderson", is located below the "Mālama Pono," text.

Ikaika Anderson  
Vice Chair  
Honolulu City Council  
Councilmember, District 3



December 11, 2017

Kevin Vaccarello  
Founder, Ai Love Nalo  
Founder and Executive Director, Sustain Hawai'i  
Principal Investigator, Hawai'i  
Department of Agriculture, Food System Metrics  
Waimanalo, Hawaii

Dear Kevin,

The Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) is a federally qualified health center committed to providing the highest level of primary and preventive health services, with special attention to the needs of Native Hawaiians and the medically underserved, and improving the health and wellness of individuals and their `ohana regardless of their ability to pay. After 25 years of serving the Waimānalo community, the WHC served 4,565 patients through 26,481 visits in 2016, 52% were Native Hawaiian, 13.5% were uninsured, and 45% were at 100% and below the federal poverty level. Services include primary medical care, behavioral health, optometry, dental, nutrition, outreach and eligibility, youth mentoring services, WIC, and Native Hawaiian cultural healing.

WHC is committed to supporting and creating environments for healthy eating. Aligned with the purpose of "Healthies," WHC looks forward to continuing to support an increase in the purchase of fruits and vegetables through efficient benefit redemption technology. WHC strongly supports Sustain Hawai'i's application for their "healthies" initiative

Sincerely,

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Mary Frances Oneha, APRN, PhD  
Chief Executive Officer



# Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association

P.O. Box 353, Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795-0353 • (808) 426-1223

December 11, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

The Waimanalo Hawaiian Homes Association is a non-profit 501c3 organization and is in support of Sustain Hawai'i and their healthy food incentives to benefit our Native Hawaiians on the homestead. The purpose of our Association is to promote the welfare of our members in home, school, church and community and strive to help raise the standards of home life for our members.

Our Association has partnered and supported Waimanalo Health Center and Ke Ola Mamo on several initiatives and health related fairs. Our Homesteaders also receive subsidized services provided by these entities. We look forward to collaborating and partnering with Sustain Hawaii to improve the health of our community.

Mahalo,

Kamakana Aquino, President

Moana Akana, Secretary

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# MĀLAMA HONUA CHARTER SCHOOL

December 11, 2017

Aloha:

Mālama Honua Public Charter School is a K-5 Native Hawaiian Focus public school of choice located in Waimānalo, on the island of Oahu. Our student population is over 70% Native Hawaiian and more than 50% of our students qualify for free and reduced lunch. Our mission is to prepare young students with the values, knowledge, and skills to be leaders in our islands and the world. MHPCS distinguishes itself with its commitment to excellence through Hawaiian place-based education. "Mālama honua" is a Hawaiian concept that means to care for our Island Earth. MHPCS is dedicated to indigenous cultural values that nourish goodness; in addition to helping students develop into wise, compassionate navigators of their learning, lives and 21st century global world.

We are excited and in full support of Sustain Hawai'i's new project 'Healthies'. Sustain Hawaii has been a partner in providing curriculum and expertise in health and well-being of our land and community since we opened our doors in 2014. In the current capacity, Sustain Hawaii has provided hands on learning opportunities at Palaka Moon Farm, their affiliated restaurant 'Ai Love Nalo, and has come into the classroom to provide lessons and experiences for our children to better understand and create more sustainable and healthy food systems. As a small school with limited staff and resources Sustain has allowed us to provide high quality science education to our children.

We are thrilled to explore options allowing us to better support our children, families, and Waimānalo community in living healthier and looking forward to our future with Sustain Hawai'i and the 'Healthies' program!

Mahalo nui,

Denise Y Espania  
School Director  
Mālama Honua Public Charter School



Friends with Farms Agricultural Cooperative

December 12, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Sustain Hawai'i and their Healthy Food Incentives Initiative. Our organization is based in Waimanalo and we are very conscious that much of Waimanalo's suburban neighborhoods are in Low Income and Low Access zones to fresh food. While we grow much of our food and product in Waimanalo there are only a handful of places available in the neighborhood for market access to that local produce, and much of the current members of the community have limited knowledge of where to get it.

Sustain Hawai'i is a seasoned supporter of community building efforts in Waimanalo and food resiliency in Hawai'i as a whole. We believe this proposed program can bring great benefits to the local Low income community by increasing access to the healthy, fresh, local produce that they need and helping them to make better dietary decisions for their health while also helping to increase market demand for produce from local farmers.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration of Sustain Hawai'i's initiative. Our community would be grateful for your support.

Mahalo,

Kelvin La'amea Lunn

Director & CFO, Friends with Farms Agricultural Cooperative

laamea.lunn@friendswithfarm.com