February 13, 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Support for SB390 SD1

Hrg: February 14, 2019

The Hawaii Public Health Association is a group of over 600 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA strongly supports SB 390 SD1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to create a dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program who use their benefits to purchase Hawaii-grown produce.

This collaborative program helps low-income residents afford more fresh, local foods by providing a one-to-one match for every dollar of SNAP benefits spent at participating locations. The goal of the program is to provide local people with limited means, access to healthy fruits and vegetables, while supporting local farmers and Hawaii’s economy. This successful incentive program has been implemented in more than 20 states and will promote healthy eating among Hawaii’s low-income families.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important health issues affecting people in Hawai‘i.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Kessler
Executive Director
Hawaii Public Health Association