



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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www.hfbf.org

February 22, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 486
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 308
11:00 AM

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

I am Dean Okimoto, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,950 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF strongly supports HB 486 which appropriates funds to the FFA and 4-H.

Hawaii's 4H and FFA programs are vitally important to the future of agriculture in Hawaii. We can no longer rely upon our public education system for education and training of the next generation of sustainable farmers and ranchers. FFA and 4-H have a long history of fulfilling this goal. The passion and direct interaction of volunteer farmers and ranchers with young people will help grow and perpetuate the ranks of the next generation of farmers and ranchers. These organizations address sustainability on social, economic and environmental levels. The 4-H program has a proven track record of not only exposing and educating young people to positive, hands on experience in agricultural production, but is also a program that instills leadership and life skills in a wide variety of projects.

It is clear that we must strongly support agricultural education for our young people if we are to increase Hawai'i's long-term resilience and sustainability.

Please support HB 486 as a first step towards rebuilding the vitality of the 4-H and FFA programs.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 3:37 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB486 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM*

HB486

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Local Food Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Local Food Coalition

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Friday, February 22, 2013 11:00 a.m. Room 308

HB 486 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Appropriates funds to operate and implement the FFA and 4-H programs.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dean Okimoto, and I represent the Local Food Coalition on this matter.

The Local Food Coalition (LFC) brings together farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other leading organizations, who collectively manage more than 1 million acres of land, and produce the majority of food in our state. Solving our challenge of increasing the local food supply — putting more local food on local plates — can best be accomplished by bringing people and organizations together who can work on the entire food value chain in a systematic way.

The Local Food Coalition strongly supports HB 486.

Hawaii's 4H and FFA programs are vitally important to the future of agriculture in Hawaii. We can no longer rely upon our public education system for education and training of the next generation of sustainable farmers and ranchers. FFA and 4-H have a long history of fulfilling this goal. The passion and direct interaction of volunteer farmers and ranchers with young people will help grow and perpetuate the ranks of the next generation of farmers and ranchers. These organizations address sustainability on social, economic and environmental levels. The 4-H program has a proven track record of not only exposing and educating young people to positive, hands on experience in agricultural production, but is also a program that instills leadership and life skills in a wide variety of projects.

It is clear that we must strongly support agricultural education for our young people if we are to increase Hawai'i's long-term resilience and sustainability.

Please support HB 486 as a first step towards rebuilding the vitality of the 4-H and FFA programs.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 3:27 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB486 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM*

HB486

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

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MONSANTO CO.
94-520 KUNIA ROAD
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Agenda #1

February 22, 2013

TESTIMONY ON HB 486
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Luke and members of the committee:

My name is Alan Takemoto, Community Affairs Manager for Monsanto Hawaii.

We **support** HB 486 which appropriates funds to operate and implement the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and 4-H programs.

The FFA and 4-H Programs provide an excellent educational leadership program that encourages our youth to prepare for a career in agriculture. Both programs educate our youth on the business and technical aspects of the agricultural industry. These programs incorporate the importance of science, technology, engineering and math concepts that all farmers and ranchers have to utilize in the application of a successful business operation.

Monsanto has strongly supported the FFA program on a national level for many years. We have sponsored the FFA national meetings as a demonstration and recognition of the importance of encouraging the development of our youth in the agricultural field. The future growth of the agricultural industry starts with these kinds of youth programs.

Monsanto have also been very active in supporting our local FFA programs in Hawaii as well. For the past 3 years, we have hosted the Oahu FFA district competition at our Kunia farm. Our employees also volunteered to be judges at the state FFA Conference. We also donated thousands of dollars to support the high school based programs that use these funds to construct and improve hydroponic systems, repair farm equipment, and purchase supplies and materials.

We have also supported the 4-H Livestock Program thru sponsorship and volunteerism. Our employees have volunteered to help set up the 4-H Livestock Show to showcase the animals raised by our youth to the general public. We have actively participated at the 4-H Livestock Auction to support those youth who gained the experience of both the business and practical experience of husbandry.

We respectfully ask for your support and passage of this measure.

Thank you.



Email: communications@uluponoinitiative.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Friday, February 22, 2013 — 11 a.m. — Room 308

Ulupono Initiative Supports HB 486, Relating to Agriculture

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto & Johanson and Members of the Committees:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally grown food, increase renewable energy, and reduce/recycle waste.

Ulupono is testifying in favor of HB 486, which requests a State budget appropriation to help build the next generation of Hawai'i agricultural leaders by helping to fund 4-H and Future Farmers of America and their support for careers in agriculture. We ask that the legislature consider similar support for school garden programs that nurture our youngest students with experiential-based learning, and complete the 4-H and FFA agricultural education.

Ulupono recognizes the vital importance of these programs with their long history of educating and training the farmers and ranchers of our community. These organizations help address sustainability on social, economic and environmental levels as they provide hands-on help in providing the next generation with the practical tools they need to succeed. Supporting these organizations will help revitalize local agriculture by providing the experience and skills needed to take on the rigorous but rewarding work faced by farmers and ranchers in this century.

Ulupono has joined with a diverse group of organizations who have come together for the first time as the Local Food Coalition to support proposals designed to help grow more local food. The coalition brings together farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations. The idea is that putting more local food on local plates can best be accomplished by bringing people and organizations together who can work on the entire food value chain in a systematic way.

We believe that by working together, we can help produce more local food, and support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry that strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner



FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 9:39 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: truly.joannies@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB486 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM*

HB486

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joannie Pan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: namaka@interpac.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB486 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM*

HB486

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Lander	Individual	Support	No

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Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 9:22 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: nomie_34@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB486 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM*

HB486

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Naomi Egami	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 6:40 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kula96712@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB486 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM*

HB486

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kirsten garrabrant	Individual	Support	No

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: kmt.amos@gmail.com
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HB486

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Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: cravegreens@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB486 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM*

HB486

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Thornburg-Homcy	Individual	Support	No

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Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 9:09 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jcbanna@hawaii.edu
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HB486

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jinan Banna	Individual	Support	No

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: brimohi@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB486 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM*

HB486

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Emmons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: dc25@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB486 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM*

HB486

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Vassalotti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: nsgurl@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB486 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM

HB486

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melani Spielman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The children of hawaii need to be supported in their interest in growing food because the path to sustainability is part of our drive towards the future.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 11:08 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: leealdridge@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB486 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM

HB486

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rosemary Aldridge	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In support of anything that promotes more farmers and more food production on the islands.

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Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 6:15 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB486 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM

HB486

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Decoupling the FFA Legislative Funding from HDOE Weighted Student Formula is critical for needed funding to flow to active FFA Groups in the State. These dedicated teachers and their student groups are our best potential future farmers. 4-H is one of the largest national leadership programs for youth. connecting youth with nature and responsibility is a sure winner!

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Committee on Finance
Fri. 2/22/2013 11:00am
Room 308
RE: Support of HB486 Future Farmers & 4-H

Aloha Representatives,

I am writing to testify in strong support of HB486 which funds Agricultural Education programs for our youth.

According to U.S. Census data, the average age of a farmer in the U.S.A. is 60 years old. Hawaii imports about 90% of our food . . . there is a connection here. We need to do everything we can to encourage our youth to see Agriculture as a viable and fulfilling career.

HB486 provides funding for the Future Farmers of America program and 4-H. I've had the pleasure of enjoying fresh produce grown by Leilehua High School's Future Farmers in the Agriculture program led by teacher Jackie Akuna. These kids are going to help feed this island and need our support! Please pass HB486 to support our future farmers.

Mahalo,
Angela Breene

angelavideotron@gmail.com

Halewila, HI 96712

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 5:29 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mgalimba@kuahiwiranch.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB486 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM

HB486

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Galimba	Individual	Support	No

Comments: 4-H and FFA are programs that deserve our STRONG support if we are going to re-build resilience in the long term.

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