



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCE

FEBRUARY 26, 2014, 11:15 A.M.  
ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 502 HD1  
RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 502 HD1. The purpose of this measure is to create positions within the department to monitor local food production and to require the issuance of an RFP for the establishment of a food sufficiency baseline. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure but feels it may be unnecessary as the Department has already been pursuing efforts in this regard.

The Department understands the importance of moving towards greater food self-sufficiency. The recent "Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy" published by the Office of Planning in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture further highlights the State's desire for food self-sufficiency. As such, the Department has secured a grant from Ulupono Initiative to develop food security baseline metrics and is currently in the process of developing these food security baseline metrics in collaboration with Sustain Hawaii.

Furthermore, there are already requests in the proposed supplemental budget for the Department for statisticians who would be in charge of monitoring agricultural production, and we would instead request support for this budgetary ask.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony on this measure.





HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Wednesday, January 26, 2014 – 11:15 a.m. – Room 308

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 502 HD 1, Relating to Agriculture**

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

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 invests in projects that have the potential to create large-scale, innovative change.

**Ulupono strongly supports HB 502 HD 1**, which appropriates funding to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to create positions to monitor local food production. For agricultural investors like Ulupono and the farming and ranching community to dedicate money into a project, we need to have accurate numbers to drive and validate our funding decisions. At Ulupono, we are constantly searching for accurate data around food production. Yet, there are many missing or incomplete data sets that need to be filled. In our private sector experience and even within the Legislature, a general rule is what gets tracked, gets funded. Therefore, it is imperative, if the Legislature feels agriculture is an important long-term industry to the state, to provide funding for greater data collection and analysis within DOA.

Ulupono felt this was such a critical leverage point that we decided to grant \$250,000 to DOA to look into agricultural metrics. However, to continue this work, DOA will need funding for staff to continuously update their data collection and analysis.

We are also hoping the re-launch of DOA's market news service branch is successful. This division within DOA previously released excellent pricing data that farmers and ranchers used to make better strategic decisions. This was one of the clear examples where a publicly supported program helped to stimulate private sector projects. The funding in this bill will help DOA to create more useful information for farmers and ranchers in the future.

In addition, the general public wants to see a successful and responsive Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (DOA). Given their 40% reduction in funding during the recession, the DOA has naturally had to be more reactive to situations while also focusing on rebuilding their efforts. By obtaining more quantitative figures via the funding from this bill, DOA will be in a better position to conduct strategic planning. This will make them more efficient and effective in serving the local agriculture community.

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

Respectfully,

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**finance1**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2014 9:09 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** teresamlee.51@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB502 on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM

**HB502**

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Teresa L. Nakama	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Growing local is great for our economy, how will this program increase growing local?

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