

LATE

SB 592

Testimony



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

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LATE

February 6, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SB 592
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 414
1:30 PM

Chair Nishihara, Chair Tokuda, Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committees:

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.

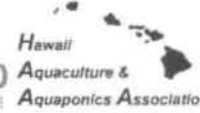
HFBF strongly supports SB 592 which appropriates funds to the FFA and 4-H.

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 SB 592 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.



Local Food Coalition

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Thursday January 31, 2013 9:00 a.m. Room 312

SB 592 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

Chair Nishihara, Chair Tokuda, Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committees:

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 SB 592.

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We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



Email: communications@uluponoinitiative.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE/EDUCATION/HIGHER EDUCATION
Wednesday, February 6, 2013 — 1:30 p.m. — Room 414

Ulupono Initiative Supports SB 592, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chairs Nishihara, Tokuda and Taniguchi, Vice Chairs 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 is testifying in favor of SB 592, which requests a state budget appropriation of \$150,000 to help build the next generation of Hawai'i agriculture 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 experienced-based learning and complements the 4-H and FFA agricultural education.

Ulupono recognizes the vital importance of these programs with their long history of educating and training the sustainable 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.

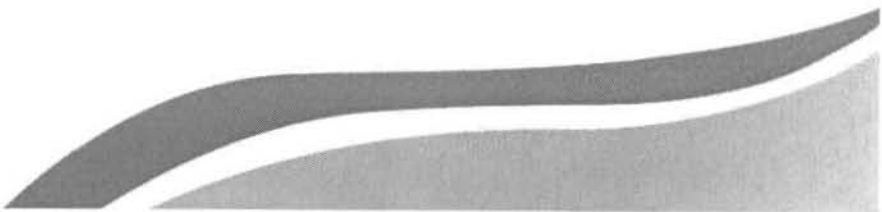
We believe that by working together, we can help produce more local food, and support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry that strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner

Pacific Guardian Center, Mauike Tower
737 Bishop Street, Suite 2350, Honolulu, HI 96813

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Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture,

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I am writing this letter in support of Senate Bill 592, which would create funds to support agricultural programs such as 4-H, the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and FFA. My name is Makana Agcaoili, and I am serving as the Hawai'i FFA State President. Being the State President has proliferated into a difficult task to plan activities for the hundreds of members with such little money. Many other states support their state organizations through providing adequate funds because they understand just how important this organization is, and the tremendous impact that the National FFA Organization has on shaping and creating leaders.

The National FFA Organization is the largest and oldest student led organization in the United States. For over eighty years, FFA has created leaders such as President Carter and amazing singers like Taylor Swift. FFA is able to create such strong and diverse leaders through its combination of classroom and "real world" experience, allowing members to practice what they learn in the class in a working environment. This duality builds upon each other and creates students who are able to work better in the classroom and solve technical problems in life. One specific way this is done is through the many competitions available to members.

Members are able to take what they learn in their Natural Resource classes and use those skills and information to compete in Career Development Events (CDEs) that focus on activities that they will need to be able to do in the future. Some of these CDEs are team based such as Parliamentary Procedure, which teaches the importance of learning how to run a meeting using Robert's Rules of Order. There are also individual events like Extemporaneous Public Speaking, where members need to be able to write a short speech within half an hour, and events that focus on agriculture itself: such as Plant Identification, Agricultural Demonstration, and vegetable and animal judging. While these activities vary, they all seek innovative solutions for local and national methods of farming. However, due to the lack in support, it is difficult for our state association to create new events that will challenge and prepare our members to address the issues arising from the new procedures in technology and farming today.

The Hawaii FFA State Association is underfunded. While there are several donors and fundraisers throughout the year, there isn't enough support as there are in other states. There is only enough funds to plan one large state wide event. Programs are unable to expand due to the limited amount of funds, and opportunities such as the National FFA Convention are nearly impossible for everyday members. However, all of that can change with further support from the government.

Our nation was created by farmers. Farmers made up the militias that fought against Britain and gained the United States its independence. When anyone from Hawaii flies over the continental U.S. and looks out the window, the patch work quilt of farmland appears as far as the eye can go. Agriculture began our nation, links our nation, and strengthens it, and FFA strengthens and prepares those individuals who will become the new farmers and leaders.

Sincerely,
Makana Aloha Lariosa Agcaoili
2012-2013 Hawai'i State FFA President

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: crystalkpaul@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB592 on Feb 6, 2013 13:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 8:45:33 PM

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SB592

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for AGL/EDU/HRE on Feb 6, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Kia Paul	Individual	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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB592 on Feb 6, 2013 13:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 5:05:32 PM

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SB592

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for AGL/EDU/HRE on Feb 6, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments:

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