



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/03/2013

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0757,SD2,HD2 Proposed RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Purpose of Bill: Proposed HD2: Appropriates funds to the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii to operate and implement the Future Farmers of America and 4-H programs. Amends public lands classifications to add taro lands for wetland cultivation as fourth class of agricultural lands. Defines taro lands. Requires retention of supporting structures for taro fields. Adds growth and perpetuation of all traditional Hawaiian crops to agricultural planning objectives.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) testimony is limited to Section 2 of SB757,SD2,HD2 Proposed, which appropriate funds to the Department to operate and implement the Future Farmers of America and 4-H programs.

The Department appreciates additional funds to supplement the current funding levels for the operation of the Future Farmers of America. However, as the 4-H program does not fall under the Department's oversight, an allocation as such would not seem appropriate. There is also a concern that if the expectation is to implement and operate the 4-H program, the final decision cannot replace or adversely impact the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget for Fiscal Biennium 2013-2015.



Email: communications@uluponoinitiative.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, April 3, 2013 — 2:30 p.m. — Room 308

Ulupono Initiative Supports SB 757 SD2 HD1 Proposed HD2, 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 SB 757 SD2 HD1 Proposed HD2, which includes appropriation of funds to the Department of Education and the University of Hawai'i to help build the next generation of Hawai'i agricultural leaders by helping to fund the operation of 4-H programs and Future Farmers of America and their support for careers in agriculture.

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





Hawaii Reserves, Inc.
A LAND MANAGEMENT COMPANY

April 2, 2013

Via www.capitol.hawaii.gov/submittestimony.aspx
House Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Re: S.B. 757 SD2, Proposed HD2 (Re: Agriculture)
Testimony In Opposition
Hearing: Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 2:30 p.m., Conf. Rm. 308

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Committee Members:

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to the above bill, proposed House Draft 2, on behalf of Hawaii Reserves, Inc., a land management company located in Laie, Oahu.

House Draft 2 inserts at this late date language relating to taro; language similar to that found in other bills that have not been heard this session. This language restricts the use of certain "taro lands" and prohibits reclassification. Taro lands are defined as "any lands in wetland taro cultivation prior to statehood, or any traditional taro lands that retain historic structural evidence of lo'i kalo, for example, 'auwai irrigation ditches, terraces, or walls."

While likely well-intended, this language is overbroad and could have unintended consequences. Several issues and questions are not addressed in this bill, including:

1. Who makes the determination as to what was in "cultivation prior to statehood" - a government agency or panel, a state appointed council or commission, the landowner, third party private groups or citizens?
2. What criteria is used to make the determination - property records, aerial photography, oral testimony, etc?
3. What is the process? (What triggers a determination, what timeframe is involved, are there appeal procedures, etc?)
4. Decades may have passed since a particular property has been used for taro cultivation. If former taro lands have long since been reused for other crops or uses, should there be established exceptions since the "protection"/restriction afforded by this bill may be moot.

We know and understand the importance of kalo to Hawaii – our company's logo bears the kalo leaf and we have been strong supporters of lo'i kalo on our lands and in our community. However, the language of this bill has not been well considered.

For these reasons and others we respectfully urge you to hold S.B. 757, proposed H.D. 2.

Sincerely,

R. Eric Beaver
President & Chairman

SB757

Submitted on: 4/2/2013

Testimony for FIN on Apr 3, 2013 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	No

Comments: No more taxpayer dollars for an industry that cannot survive on its own- and no money for the self-serving 4-H livestock auction-

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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FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 12:59 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jtrujill@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB757 on Apr 3, 2013 14:30PM*

SB757

Submitted on: 4/2/2013

Testimony for FIN on Apr 3, 2013 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james trujillo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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