

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
FEBRUARY 21, 2013
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 992 SD 1
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK BIOSECURITY**

Chairperson Ige and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB992 SD1. The Department strongly supports this bill.

Hawaii's livestock industry is faced with increased federal regulations to ensure that their facilities meet biosecurity standards. These regulations are required to minimize the spread of livestock and zoonotic diseases among wild animals, herds and humans as well as to ensure a safe food supply for Hawaii's citizens. Many of Hawaii's livestock operations are struggling to make a profit and complying with the increased regulations are costly.

The proposed bill will create a low interest loan program under the Agricultural Loan Program to assist the livestock and poultry industry renovate their existing structure or construct new infrastructure to ensure that they are bio-secure and meet all federal standards. This will prevent feral and domestic animals from intermingling with the herd and spreading disease such as west Nile virus, hoof and mouth disease or bovine tuberculosis.

The improved biosecurity infrastructure will result in a safer food supply and help to ensure that fresh eggs, beef and pork remain available to Hawaii's citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Email: communications@uluponoinitiative.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Thursday, February 21, 2013 — 9 a.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Supports SB 992 SD 1, Relating to Livestock Biosecurity

Dear Senator Ige, Vice Chair Kidani 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 supports SB 992 SD 1, which allows for agricultural loans to assist the livestock industry with biosecurity measures that help protect livestock operations from the introduction of pests and diseases. These pests and disease can affect the health and welfare of the animals and, in some cases, may affect the health and well-being of people who come in contact with the animals or farm products. Installing biosecurity measures protects the health of poultry and livestock from diseases, pests, and pathogens by reducing their introduction into farm operations as well as limiting the spread of risk to other farms. These measures are increasingly being required by federal programs to ensure a safe food supply. While these measures help protect the farm and consumers, they often add costs without additional profits for the operation. To help install these vital measures, a low-interest biosecurity loan program is being proposed to assist the livestock industry.

Ulupono is happy to support this proposal requested by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture as another way to help our community grow more fresh, healthy local food. Ulupono sees 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 working together we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Kyle Datta
General Partner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB992 on Feb 21, 2013 09:00AM*
Date: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 10:24:13 AM

SB992

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 21, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	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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