

# **SB 992**

## Testimony

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 AGRICULTURE  
TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2013  
2:55 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

SENATE BILL NO. 992  
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK BIOSECURITY

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB992. 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.

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**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB992 on Feb 12, 2013 14:55PM\*  
**Date:** Saturday, February 09, 2013 7:59:41 AM

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**SB992**

Submitted on: 2/9/2013

Testimony for AGL on Feb 12, 2013 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	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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Email: [communications@uluponoinitiative.com](mailto:communications@uluponoinitiative.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Tuesday, February 12, 2013 — 2:55 p.m. — Room 229

**UluPono Initiative Supports SB 992, Relating to Livestock Biosecurity**

Dear Chairs Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, 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**, 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.

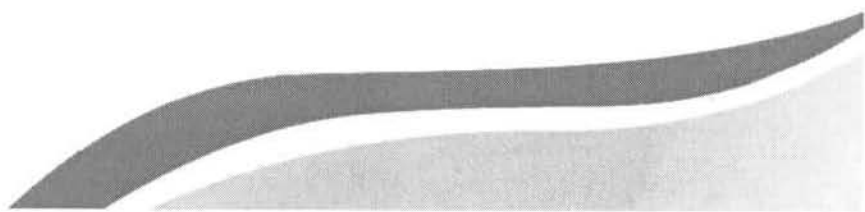
UluPono is happy to support this proposal requested by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture as another way to help our community grow more fresh, healthy local food. UluPono sees that putting more local food on local plates can best be accomplished by bringing people and organizations together who can 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

Kyle Datta, General Partner, UluPono Initiative  
1000 Kalia Road, Suite 100, Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: (808) 551-1000 | Fax: (808) 551-1001

[www.uluponoinitiative.com](http://www.uluponoinitiative.com)



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