

HB1990

Testimony

Establishes the Hawaii good agricultural practices program. Makes an appropriation.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

KEN H. KAKESAKO
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014
2:45 P.M.
Room 229**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1990
RELATING TO HAWAII GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES**

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1990 relating to Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices. This bill establishes a Hawaii good agricultural practices program to develop science and risk-based good agricultural practices that reasonably reduce the potential for on-farm food-borne illness; educate and train Hawaii farmers on good agricultural practices, and develop a consumer information program for home practices on treatment and handling of fresh and processed agricultural food products. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this bill but would suggest waiting for the recommendations from the good agricultural practices task force.

Act 106, SLH 2013 created a good agricultural practices task force to identify and develop good agricultural practices and preventative measure guidelines in the food supply system to improve the overall safety of locally grown food. The task force is will identify and develop good agricultural guidelines for agricultural producers and provide a report of its recommendations to the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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March 11, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1990
RELATING TO HAWAII GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Room 229
2:45 PM

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,832 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau **strongly supports** HB 1990, "Relating to Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices." While Hawaii's farmers recognize the critical importance of food safety, the current system of third-party food safety certification is unwieldy, expensive, and often impractical for the many small and diverse farms that make up the major part of Hawaii's food producers.

The recently passed Food Safety Modernization Act directs the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to create new, stronger regulations to prevent bacterial contamination of produce and to improve traceability of farm products. FDA's proposed regulations were distributed for public comment in early 2013, and FDA is currently in the process of reviewing the comments it has received. Nationwide, and particularly in Hawaii, there is a great deal of concern among farmers and farm organizations regarding the impact of the new rules. Farmers are confused as to which rules apply to their individual farms, what practices will satisfy the new rules, and what the cost of these practices will be. Further, Hawaii's climatic, social, and economic circumstances differ from those on the U.S. mainland, as do many of Hawaii's food crops, so criteria established for the U.S. as a whole may not be appropriate for Hawaiian conditions.

FSMA allows states to establish food safety criteria, provided that the alternative procedures can be shown scientifically to be at least as safe as the procedures prescribed by FDA's standards. HB 1990's proposed program would encourage the Department of Agriculture to develop science- and risk-based good agricultural practices that should meet these standards, while allowing for the diversity of crops, farm sizes, and farming practices present in Hawaii. It also would provide education

and training for farmers to learn and implement these practices. The certification program would likely be more practical, more cost-effective, more farmer-friendly, and better suited to Hawaii's unique situation than the current patchwork of third-party certification and impending, but uncertain, new regulations. The ultimate result should be more, and safer, local food for Hawaii's consumers.

We therefore urge you to pass HB 1990 and help Hawaii's farmers continue to produce safe, wholesome produce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter of importance to Hawaii's farmers.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – 2:45 p.m. - Room 229

RE: HB 1990 Relating to Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices – In Support

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am general partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Honolulu-based impact investment firm, which is working to improve the quality of life for Hawai'i residents by investing in projects that create more locally grown food, increase renewable energy and reduce/recycle waste. We are representing on behalf of the Local Food Coalition, which is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawai'i's food supply.

The Local Food Coalition supports HB 1990, which establishes the Hawai'i good agricultural practices program. As the number of small farms in Hawai'i has grown in importance during the last ten years, this trend is necessitating the development of a Hawai'i good agricultural practices program. The program's intent is to reduce the potential for contamination of food products on farms via science-based guidelines that support safe farming practices, including considerations for various farm sizes, techniques, and crops. Currently, food safety certification audits are costly for many Hawai'i farmers and preventing more local food from entering the marketplace.

There is a lot of uncertainty around food safety issues. Therefore, we are hopeful that this bill can develop programs to educate and train local farmers in best practices to meet food safety requirements. Furthermore, we are supportive of a consumer information program to teach the public about safe handling of agricultural products.

As part of the Local Food Coalition, Ulupono is very pleased to support proposals designed to help grow more local food. Our group's members came together last year with one common goal: to promote the local production of food in a sustainable and economically sound manner to benefit Hawai'i's people through the revitalization and expansion of our state's agricultural sector. This year the Coalition is continuing to pursue this comprehensive approach because it is the most effective way for Hawai'i to develop its resources for diversified food production, as well as lessen its dependence on importing that which can be grown, raised and processed locally.

We are pleased that a good agricultural practices task force is underway and passage of this bill will complement their effort.

4 Ag Hawai'i

Hawai'i Aquaculture &
Aquaponics Association

Hawai'i Association of
Independent Schools

Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council

Hawai'i Farm Bureau
Federation

Hawai'i Farmers' Union
United

Hawai'i Food Industry
Association

Hawai'i Food
Manufacturers Association

Kohala Center

Malama Kaua'i

Maui School Garden
Network

Ulupono Initiative

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,

Kyle Datta
General Partner
Ulupono Initiative

Email: communications@ulupono.com



1768 Kalawi Place
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March 10, 2014

Email Testimony

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara
Chairman Senate Agriculture Committee
sennishihara@capitol.hawaii.gov
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Senate Agriculture Committee hearing for House Bill 1990

Vincent Mina
President
Maui

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Kouchi, and honorable committee members.

Simon Russell
Vice-President
Maui

HFUU is **in Strong Support of HB 1990**; a State standard for Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and the work involved legislatively and administratively that will get us there.

David Case
Secretary
Kona

As more small farms sprout up across the state, we the Hawaii Farmers Union United are concerned about the over-regulation of the farmer by food purveyors distributors as well as government. Therefore, we ask that one set of standards (As determined by the Gaps Task force) be created for all food grown in Hawaii. We ask that consideration be taken so that Hawaii GAPs certified crops and other products are exportable to national and international markets. Furthermore, we ask that the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) as well as the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) garner appropriations so that they can be fully funded to work together to make a cohesive inspection regime (HDOA) and farmer GAPs compliance training (CTAHR).

Ray Maki
Treasurer
Kauai

Pamela Boyar
Member
Oahu

We are grateful for the legislatively mandated GAPs Task Force currently working to solve this lack of food safety certification, and urge the legislature to work with them to fine-tune this bill over the course of the session, but in no way hinder its passage. This question of food safety and associated cost to the small producer is critical, and we must move forward with a State of Hawaii food safety regime that works and is affordable for farmers.

David Fisher
Member
Maui

Respectfully submitted,

Hawaii Farmers Union United

Steve Sakala
Member
Kona

Simon Russell
Simon Russell Vice-President and Legislative Chair

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1990 on Mar 11, 2014 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, March 10, 2014 10:37:09 PM

HB1990

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 11, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nancy Redfeather | The Kohala Center | 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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