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February 21, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2008 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 309 1:00 PM

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF strongly supports HB 2008, which appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support FFA Program.

Hawaii's FFA program is vitally important to the future of agriculture in Hawaii. The passion and direct interaction of teachers, volunteer farmers and ranchers with young people will help grow and perpetuate the ranks of the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Programs such as the FFA address sustainability on social, economic and environmental levels. The FFA 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 HB 2008 as a continuing step towards rebuilding the vitality of the FFA program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 6:51 AM

To: FINTestimony

Cc: mgalimba@kuahiwiranch.com

*Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2008 on Feb 21, 2014 13:00PM*

HB2008

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2014 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Galimba	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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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT Chairperson, Board of Agriculture



State of Hawaii DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1428 South King Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512 Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2014 1:00 P.M. Conference Room 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 2008 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Luke, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2008. This bill appropriates funds for fiscal year 2014-2015 to be expended by the Department of Education (DOE) for the implementation and operation of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) to educate and support youth in agricultural careers.

This bill would allow the FFA, whose history in Hawaii began in 1928, to continue their work to encourage students to pursue careers in farming and ranching through hands-on education and workforce development in the agricultural sector. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture strongly supports this bill, but defers to the DOE.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2008.





February 19, 2014

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair House Committee on Finance

Testimony in Support of HB 2008, Relating to Agriculture (Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to operate and implement the Future Farmers of America Program).

Friday, February 21, 2014, 1:00 p.m., in Conference Room 308

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2008, and to offer comments.

HB 2008. The purpose of this bill is to rebuild existing programs that educate, support, and encourage youth for agricultural careers, specifically Future Farmers of America (FFA), in order to achieve community resilience and sustainability.

LURF's Position. LURF members include private property owners, farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider programs such as the FFA critical to the continued conduct of their operations and to help sustain and preserve their businesses. These land owners and agricultural stakeholders believe HB 2008 and the appropriation of funds to the Department of Education to support the FFA Program will greatly assist with the perpetuation of the agricultural industry in this State by inspiring interest in agriculture, as well as educating youth about agricultural production, leadership and life skills, and the importance of increasing Hawaii's long-term resilience and sustainability.

For the reasons stated above, LURF **supports HB 2008**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of this measure.



STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION P.O. BOX 2360 HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96804

Date: 02/21/2014

Committee: House Finance

Department:

Education

Person Testifying:

Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill:

HB 2008(hscr416-14) RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Purpose of Bill:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to operate and

implement the Future Farmers of America Program. Effective July 1,

2014.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2008 and appreciates the continued program support provided by the Legislature for the Future Farmers of America Program to educate and encourage youth to pursue agricultural careers.

This measure provides a year 2 appropriation to assist with school-level program implementation in school year 2014-15 as we would not have the means to do so under our budget appropriation. Respectfully, the Department would also like to ensure that HB 2008 would not replace or adversely impact priorities set forth in the Department's Supplemental Budget.

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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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE Friday, February 21, 2014 – 1:00 p.m. – Room 308

The Local Food Coalition <u>Strongly Supports</u> HB 2008, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson 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 farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawai'i's food supply.

The Local Food Coalition strongly supports HB 2008, which requests a state budget appropriation to help build the next generation of Hawai'i agriculture leaders by helping to fund Future Farmers of America (FFA) 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 FFA agricultural education.

Ulupono recognizes the vital importance of FFA with their long history of educating and training the sustainable farmers and ranchers of our community. FFA helps 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 FFA 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 Hawai'i.

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.

The Coalition includes the Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation, the Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council, Inc., Hawai'i Famers' Union United, 4 Ag Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association, the Kohala Center, Hawai'i

The Local Food Coalition Supports All Forms of Agriculture.

Local Food Coalition Testimony – Strong Support for HB 748 "Local Food Bonds" Page 2

Food Manufacturers Association, Hawai'i Food Industry Association, Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools, Maui School Garden Network, Malama Kaua'i, and 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