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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**

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**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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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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**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
Governor



**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**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 HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 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.



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

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