



February 18, 2014

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

***Re: Supporting Testimony to SB2020 SD1 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT***

Dear Chair Ige and Committee Members:

This testimony is to provide the support of Wahiawa's oldest community association, the Wahiawa Community and Business Association (WCBA) to this bill.

The establishment of an agricultural foreign-trade zone in the Wahiawa area makes a lot sense. Instead of applying duty to goods when they are first admitted from other countries, customs inspections and duty collection only apply after the agricultural products, machinery, materials and goods leave the zone for U.S. commerce. Agricultural enterprise will be encouraged to flourish in the lands between the Ko'olau and the Waianae range from Wahiawa to the North Shore.

Hawaii is not plowing new ground with this effort. According to Daniel Griswold, President, National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones, U.S. foreign-trade zones are currently home to 2,800 companies across the United States and Puerto Rico.

The agricultural zone is going to be a huge benefit to Hawaii's farmers. The zone can level the playing field with foreign agricultural competition.

The foreign-trade zone will benefit Wahiawa and the surrounding areas by bringing agricultural jobs and enhanced economic activity into the area.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Walter R. Benavitz Jr.  
WCBA Government Action Committee Chair

Wahiawa Community & Business Association  
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**SB2020**

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 19, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alex Kanamu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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