

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
April 2, 2015  
9:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1042, SD 1  
RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1042, Senate Draft 1. The purpose of this measure is to provide grants-in-aid to the counties for the identification and mapping of potential Important Agricultural Lands (IAL). The Department of Agriculture strongly supports this measure provided it does not adversely affect the priorities expressed in the Administration's FY15-17 executive biennium budget.

The county identification of potential IAL is a critical component of the IAL Law (Chapter 205, Part III, HRS). Unlike the "voluntary" IAL process, the county process is more intensive and time-consuming, involving significant stakeholder and public input, use of advisory committees, notification of affected land owners, and adoption of the maps and plans by resolution of the county council prior to transmittal to the Land Use Commission for further action. The counties of Kauai and Honolulu have already made significant progress in identifying potential IAL pursuant to Section 205-47. Passage of this measure would reinforce the State's commitment to identifying and incentivizing IAL in alignment with the mandate to protect and conserve IAL found in Article XI, Section 3 of the State Constitution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

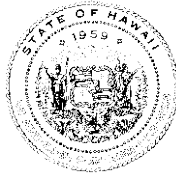


**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lieutenant Governor

**LUIS P. SALAVERIA**  
Director

**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Acting Deputy Director



**LAND USE COMMISSION**  
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism  
State of Hawai'i

**DANIEL ORODENKER**  
Executive Officer

**Bert K. Saruwatari**  
Planner  
**SCOTT A.K. DERRICKSON AICP**  
Planner

**RILEY K. HAKODA**  
Chief Clerk/Planner

**FRED A. TALON**  
Drafting Technician

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Statement of  
**Daniel E. Orodener**  
**Executive Officer**  
Land Use Commission

Before the  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

April 2, 2015  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of  
**HB 1042 SD1**  
**RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The Land Use Commission supports HB 1042 SD1 that would provide funds for grants-in-aid to the counties for the identification and mapping of important agricultural lands (IAL).

The IAL identification and mapping process for the counties as set out in Section 205-47, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) requires significant public involvement to include coordination with a broad range of stakeholders, public meetings, and citizen advisory groups. Adequate funding to complete this process could result in a quality product supported by a broad range of stakeholders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 7<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 768-8000 • FAX: (808) 768-6041  
DEPT. WEB SITE: [www.honolulu.dpp.org](http://www.honolulu.dpp.org) • CITY WEB SITE: [www.honolulu.gov](http://www.honolulu.gov)

KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



GEORGE I. ATTA, FAICP  
DIRECTOR

ARTHUR D. CHALLACOMBE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 2, 2015

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Ways  
and Means  
Hawaii State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 1042, SD 1  
Relating to Important Agricultural Lands

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **supports** House Bill No. 1042, SD 1, which appropriates funds to counties for assistance with identifying and mapping important agricultural lands (IAL).

The proposed funding will further assist the City and County of Honolulu's efforts to comply with Act 183, SLH 2005. We have been making a good faith effort to comply with the mandate of this State law, despite receiving no State funding, as provided for under Section 7 of Act 183.

We anticipate completing our IAL mapping soon, possibly by the end of this calendar year. With this appropriation, we may be able to prepare the final submission package to the State Land Use Commission, and to assist with exploring county incentives for IAL. This amendment would increase the overall effectiveness of the IAL program as counties move into implementation.

We respectfully request the Committee move this Bill forward with the requested amendment.

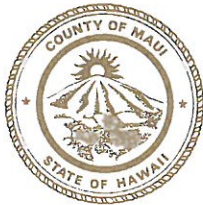
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George I. Atta".

George I. Atta, FAICP  
Director

ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
MAYOR



200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793-2155  
Telephone (808) 270-7855  
Fax (808) 270-7870  
e-mail: mayors.office@mauicounty.gov

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Ke'ena O Ka Meia

COUNTY OF MAUI – Kalana O Maui

### TESTIMONY OF ALAN ARAKAWA, MAYOR COUNTY OF MAUI

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, April 2, 2015  
9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 211

#### HB 1042, SD1, RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Honorable Sen. Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong **SUPPORT of HB 1042, SD1.**

**Background:** The purpose of this measure is to fully implement Act 183 in accordance with the State's constitutional duty to protect important agricultural lands ("IAL") by providing funds to the counties for the identification and mapping of important agricultural lands.

IAL first emerged in 1978 when voters passed an amendment to the Hawaii State Constitution. Under this amendment (Article XI, Section 3) the State is required to "protect and conserve agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency, and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands."

In 2005, in order to fulfill this requirement, the State legislature passed landmark legislation to establish a process and criteria for the establishment of IAL (Act 183). Act 183 requires each County to undertake a process to designate IAL within five years of receipt of State funding to undertake the IAL project (identify and map potential important agricultural lands within its jurisdiction.)

With all due respect, to date Maui County has not received any State funding necessary to fulfill the requirements of Act 183 and to implement this project.

**Approach and Benefits:** In accordance with Act 183, Maui County is respectfully requesting that the State appropriate \$500,000 for this purpose. Our reasons for this request include:

- Maui County is the only county made up of three separate islands. Staff would be required to travel inter-island and identify and map potential IAL for Maui Island, Molokai, and Lanai.
- Resultant products would include:
  - A geodatabase and hard copy maps of IAL.
  - A report of findings and recommendations and related technical studies supporting the identification of IAL.
- Expected benefits of IAL include:
  - Significant land base designated and farmed.
  - Increased investment in basic agricultural infrastructure.
  - Greater self-sufficiency in food production.
  - Reduced development threats for lands designated IAL.

For these reasons I strongly support HB 1042, SD1, and respectfully request an appropriation for Maui County in the amount of \$500,000 to fulfill the requirements of Act 183, by identifying and preparing maps of proposed IAL on the islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai.

April 2, 2015

**The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair**  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol, Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: H.B. 1042, S.D.1, Relating to Important Agricultural Lands**

**HEARING: Thursday, April 2, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

I am Myoung Oh, Government Affairs Director, submitting written testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® (“HAR”), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 8,400 members. HAR **supports** H.B. 1042, S.D.1 which appropriates funds for grants-in-aid to the counties for identifying and mapping important agricultural lands, preparing the final submission package to the land use commission, and assistance with exploring county incentives for important agricultural lands.

In 1978, voter approved article XI, section 3, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, which sets out the framework for state policies to promote agriculture and the conservation of productive agricultural lands in the State.

In 2005, the Legislature passed Act 183, finding that there is a compelling need to provide standards, criteria, and mechanisms to fulfill the intent and purpose of Article XI, section 3 of the Constitution. Additionally, Act 183 tasked the Counties to identify IAL, provide maps, and establish one or more citizens' advisory committees to provide public input. Unfortunately, the lack of funding jeopardized this necessary need.

HAR supports the mapping and identification of IALs in Hawai'i and believes that such mapping and identification will help justify and dictate what uses will be permitted on IAL and other non-IAL lands.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

**In Support of HB 1042**

**Relating to Important Agricultural Land**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**April 2, 2015, 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room 224**

Aloha Chair Tokuda and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association. HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes ag biotech to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices and build a healthy state economy.

HCIA is in support of the intent of HB 1042.

The identification and the mapping of potential important ag lands, as well as its eventual designation by the Land Use Commission, is an important task that was provided for in Act 183, which was enacted by the Legislature in 2005.

Unfortunately, the monies to support the five counties to implement ACT 183, was never appropriated.

We believe this Bill seeks to correct that funding gap so the goal to ” conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, agricultural self-sufficiency, and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands” and provide specialized protections for lands identified as important agricultural lands” , may be appropriately fulfilled.

We humbly ask for the Committees’ support of HB 1042.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

April 2, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1042 SD 1  
RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Room 211  
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, 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 1,932 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.

**HFB supports HB 1042 SD 1**, which appropriates funds for grants-in-aid to the counties for assistance with identifying and mapping important agricultural lands.

Since the enactment of the Constitutional Mandate in 1978 to preserve and protect Important Agricultural Lands (IAL), HFBF came before the Legislature every year with proposals of how this measure could be implemented. It was only in 2005 when the standards and criteria to designate IAL was finally passed and in 2008 when the incentives were passed. It was a long road.

We were pleased when the first lands were designated by Alexander and Baldwin in 2009 totaling nearly 4000 acres in Kauai. Today, we have over 100,000 acres that were voluntarily designated by landowners across the State.

Seven years have passed since 2008 and we remain in the phase in which counties will submit maps to the LUC identifying lands to be designated as IAL. Act 183 (SLH 2005) states that the counties will work on identification and mapping of important agricultural lands via funding from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism disbursed through the Land Use Commission. The funding has never been released and in turn the county IAL identification and mapping has not progressed as anticipated. HFB supports the funding necessary to identify and map IAL in each county and defers to the LUC on amount necessary to carry out this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lbc@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:lbc@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1042 on Apr 2, 2015 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 01, 2015 11:09:21 AM

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**HB1042**

Submitted on: 4/1/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 2, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
lois crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Our prime ag lands are incredibly important to our sustainability and allowing rain to get into our aquifers... Please let's not concrete over our beautiful island. We cant go back once we do. We have got to stop!

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Don.Couch@mauicounty.us](mailto:Don.Couch@mauicounty.us)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1042 on Apr 2, 2015 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 01, 2015 8:50:58 AM

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**HB1042**

Submitted on: 4/1/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 2, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Councilmember Don Couch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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