

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

February 19, 2015  
8:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1042  
RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

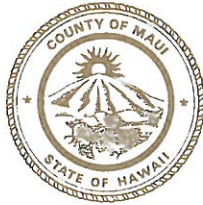
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1042. The purpose of this measure is to provide grants-in-aid to the counties for the identification and mapping of potential Important Agricultural Lands (IAL). The Department of Agriculture strongly supports this measure provided it does not adversely 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.

ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
MAYOR



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## 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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Thursday, February 19, 2015  
8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 312

#### HB 1042 RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Honorable Clift Tsuji, Chair  
Honorable Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

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

**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:

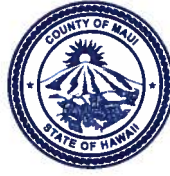
- Maui County is the only county made up of three separate islands. Staff would be required to travel inter-island and identify and map potential IAL for Maui Island, Molokai, and Lanai.
- Resultant products would include:
  - A geodatabase and hard copy maps of IAL.
  - A report of findings and recommendations 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, and respectfully request an appropriation for Maui County in the amount of \$500,000 to identify and prepare maps of proposed Important Agricultural Lands on the islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai.

ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
Mayor

WILLIAM R. SPENCE  
Director

MICHELE CHOUTEAU McLEAN  
Deputy Director



COUNTY OF MAUI  
**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

**TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM SPENCE, PLANNING DIRECTOR  
COUNTY OF MAUI**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Thursday, February 19, 2015  
8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 312

HB 1042 RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Honorable Cliff Tsuji, Chair  
Honorable Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1042.**

The purpose of HB 1042 is to implement Article XI, Section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution which establishes the State's duty to "conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency, and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands" and includes specialized protections for lands identified as important agricultural lands.

In 2005 the Legislature adopted Act 183 to establish a process and criteria for the identification of important agricultural lands (IAL). Act 183 requires each County to begin the process of identifying IAL within five years of receipt of State funding to undertake the IAL project. Maui County has not yet received State funding to identify IAL.

The identification of Maui County's IAL will ensure that a significant amount of productive farmland is protected for future generations of Maui County farmers. We also expect that IAL designation will lead to new investment in the basic infrastructure that is needed for a viable agricultural economy. IAL will stimulate new farming activity that will further State and Maui County policy to become more self-sufficient in food production. The identification of IAL will also reduce development pressure and speculation on Maui County's best agricultural lands.

Maui County is well positioned to take on the IAL project. The County recently adopted its Maui Island Plan, and the update to its Lanai Community Plan is pending final review and adoption before the Maui County Council. The Planning Department has also prepared a Draft Molokai Community Plan update which the Molokai Community Plan

Chair Tsuji  
HB 1042  
Testimony of Planning Director William Spence  
February 19, 2015  
Page 2 of 2

Advisory Committee will soon review. These plans provide directed growth strategies to meet community needs over a 20-year planning horizon. These Plans also include goals, policies and actions to support agriculture throughout Maui County including the identification of IAL.

In accordance with Act 183, the Maui County Planning Department is respectfully requesting that the State appropriate \$500,000 to Maui County so it can identify and prepare maps of proposed important agricultural lands for Maui Island, Molokai and Lanai.

onishi3 - Timothy

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 6:51 AM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB1042 on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM\*

**HB1042**

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi3 - Timothy

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2015 8:28 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: leimomikekina@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB1042 on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM\*

**HB1042**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Dierks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 9:46 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB1042 on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM\*



**HB1042**

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



GEORGE I. ATTA, FAICP  
DIRECTOR

ARTHUR D. CHALLACOMBE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 19, 2015

The Honorable Clift Tsuji, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture  
Hawaii House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tsuji:

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

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **supports, with an amendment,** House Bill No. 1042, which appropriates funds to counties for assistance with identifying and mapping important agricultural lands (IAL). We suggest an amendment to allow funds to be used for developing county IAL incentives.

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. While this pending appropriation may not be helpful in preparing our maps, we may be able to use such funds 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

GIA:ts



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
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**LATE**

February 19, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1042  
RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Room 312  
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, 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**, 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.

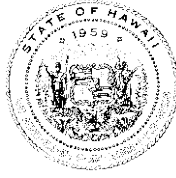
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**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

**LATE**

Statement of  
**Daniel E. Orodener**  
**Executive Officer**  
Land Use Commission  
Before the  
**House Committee on Agriculture**  
February 19, 2015  
8:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

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

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the Committee on Agriculture:

The Land Use Commission supports HB 1042 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 4:46 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: mark.phillipson@syngenta.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1042 on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM



**HB1042**

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Phillipson	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: As a Member of the City and County of Honolulu Task Force, I want to let the committee know that a wide variety of agricultural stakeholders have been delingently meeting and working over the last year and a half to identify important agricultural lands. We have identified important parameters and guidelines in addition to mapping. I know other counties have been doing the same. All of us in agriculture are committed to this important process and designation. We appreciate the State's support of these important works. Mahalo.

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