

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 FINANCE

March 4, 2015
11:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1042
RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Chairperson Luke 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.

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

Statement of
Daniel E. Orodener
Executive Officer
Land Use Commission
Before the
House Committee on Finance
March 4, 2015
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB 1042
RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the Committee on Finance:

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).

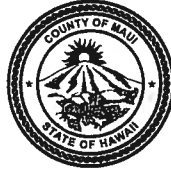
The IAL identification and mapping process for the counties as set out in Section 205-47, Hawai`i Revised Statutes (HRS) requires significant public involvement to include coordination with a broad range of stakeholders, public meetings, and citizen advisory groups. Adequate funding to complete this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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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 FINANCE

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

11:00 a.m.

Conference Room 308

HB 1042 RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair

Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

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



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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 12:47 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1042 on Mar 4, 2015 11:00AM

HB1042

Submitted on: 3/3/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 4, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii is in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 1042, RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS, which appropriates funds for grants-in-aid to the counties for assistance with identifying and mapping IAL.

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March 4, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1042
RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Room 308
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, 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.

finance1-Kim

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 12:18 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1042 on Mar 4, 2015 11:00AM*

HB1042

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 4, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	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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