

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
AND WAYS AND MEANS**

April 4, 2016
9:15 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1996 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Keith-Agaran and Tokuda and Members of the Committees:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1996 HD1. The bill proposes to establish a two-year pilot project to investigate and prosecute agricultural theft and vandalism. The bill will dedicate an enforcement officer specifically to prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism incidences in the county of Hawaii; identify best practices for prevention and provide recommendations for a statewide program to address agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism. The department supports this bill provided that it does not impact the priorities submitted in the department's executive budget.

Agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism have been a constant problem for farmers on the island of Hawaii, increasing the cost of production and preventing farming operations to be successful. The vast farming land area on the island of Hawaii and limited law enforcement officers make it difficult to capture perpetrators.

If the intent of this bill is for a two-year project, the department respectfully requests that the department be allowed to submit a report of the findings and recommendations to the legislature by December 31, 2018.



Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

MITCHELL D. ROTH
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DALE A. ROSS
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1996, HD 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUCIARY AND LABOR

Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Monday, April 4, 2016, 9:15 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Honorable Chairs Tokuda and Keith-Agaran, Honorable Vice- Chairs Dela Cruz and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in support of House Bill No. 1996, HD 1.

This measure establishes a two-year Agricultural Theft Pilot Project in the Department of Agriculture to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the County of Hawai'i. Appropriates funds.

Agricultural theft and vandalism in the county of Hawai'i is not only an impediment to running a successful and profitable farming operation, but can also prove harmful to consumers. In 2011, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) halted the importation of all Mexican-sourced papayas into the United States. The FDA found salmonella in about 16% of imported papayas from Mexico and the finding of this human pathogen in papayas caused the FDA to stop the importation of a food-source from the entire country of Mexico. We cannot allow this to happen here. At the time, 65% of all U.S. imported papayas came from Mexico.

Hawai'i county is the breadbasket of the State. Having the ability to identify and track the sources of agricultural products from field to table is crucial in the event a contamination is found to exist.

Agricultural theft is a serious, ongoing problem statewide, with farmers reporting the theft of crops, animals, equipment/tools, and vandalized fences and gates. Much of the theft and trespass goes unreported, as a result, the actual losses can only be estimated, but are believed by

many industry experts to run from hundreds of thousands of dollars to millions annually. This pilot project will provide an enforcement officer within the county of Hawai‘i with the ability to focus on investigating and prosecuting these agricultural issues, as our over-tasked police department does not have the ability to provide a permanent officer to investigate agricultural crimes.

This pilot project has the capability to increase the safety and sustainability of our farming and agricultural industry by allowing farmers to focus less on the security of their crops and more on high-quality products and safe farming techniques. By having a committed investigator when crime, vandalism, or contamination of our agricultural products occur, we will be able to act swiftly and decisively to tackle the issues.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai‘i supports the passage of House Bill No. 1996, HD 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HAWAII FISH COMPANY, INC.

Since 1978

P. O. Box 740
Waialua, HI 96791, USA
Contact: 808-429-3147
E-mail: hawaiiifish@gmail.com

City Bank TIGR Award
US SBA Tibbitts Award
US SBA Small Business Award
Special Congressional Recognition

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair, Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, April 4, 2016
TIME: 9:15 A.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Relating to HB 1996 - AG THEFT PILOT PROJECT

Aloha Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Shimabukuro and Dela Cruz, and Committee Members:

Hawaii Fish Company strongly support HB 1996 which establishes a two-year agricultural theft pilot project to work with the county of Hawaii to hire an enforcement officer to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft; and the same should be done with the other counties.

We have filed six (6) police reports for 2nd Degree burglary on our North Shore Oahu fish farm since the first of the year, and we've chosen to not file reports for numerous subsequent incidents due to the lack of follow-up action by HPD administrators. Agricultural theft is a serious, ongoing problem statewide, with farmers reporting the theft of crops, animals, equipment/tools, and vandalized fences and gates. Much of the theft and trespass goes unreported, as a result, the actual losses can only be estimated, but are believed by many industry experts to run from hundreds of thousands of dollars to millions annually.

This pilot project will provide an enforcement officer within the county of Hawai'i with the ability to focus on investigating and prosecuting these agricultural crimes, as our police departments apparently do not have the resources to provide a permanent officer to investigate our State's agricultural crimes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter,

Ron and Lita Weidenbach

From: wam5 - Caroline on behalf of WAM Testimony
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2016 2:07 PM
To: Keith Agaran2 - Danielle
Subject: FW: I Strongly Support HB 1996, HD1 - Relating to Ag Theft

-----Original Message-----

From: Brendan Balthazar
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2016 2:00 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: I Strongly Support HB 1996, HD1 - Relating to Ag Theft

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR and SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Relating to HB 1996 - AG THEFT PILOT PROJECT

Aloha Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair(s), and Vice Chair(s) Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, and Committee members.

I support HB 1996 which establishes a two-year agricultural theft pilot project to work with the county of Hawaii to hire an enforcement officer within the county of Hawaii to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft.

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Thank you for the Opportunity to testify on this matter.

Brendan Balthazar

Makawao, HI

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR and SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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Brian Miyamoto

Honolulu, HI

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR and SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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Darryl Okuda

Kula, HI

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Elliot Telles

Pearl City, HI

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Gerrit Takasaki

Hilo, HI

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Greg Friel

Makawao, HI

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Harold Keyser

Kula, HI

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Ian Baldrige

Kula, HI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2016 8:53 AM
To: JDCTestimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1996 on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM

HB1996

Submitted on: 4/3/2016

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please vote in support of this bill to help farmers combat agricultural theft and vandalism. Criminals know that farmers and ranchers are easy targets and that the police department is short-staffed, and has other priorities. We all want food self-sufficiency but farmers who repeatedly lose their crops and equipment to thieves cannot keep farming. Thank you.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

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Joanna DeRego

Laupahoehoe, HI

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Joe McClure

Kahului, HI

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John Frostad

Makawao, HI

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Jolene Lau

Honolulu, HI

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Linda Silva

Kalaheo, HI

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Lisa Parker

Kapaa, HI

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Patricia Dukes

Kailua, HI

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ROBERT MORRIS

KAILUA, HI

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Robert Paull

Honolulu, HI

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Stan Cypriano

Honokaa, HI

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Stuart Nicholls

Kula, HI

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Agricultural theft is a serious, ongoing problem statewide, with farmers reporting the theft of crops, animals, equipment/tools, and vandalized fences and gates. Much of the theft and trespass goes unreported, as a result, the actual losses can only be estimated, but are believed by many industry experts to run from hundreds of thousands of dollars to millions annually.

This pilot project will provide an enforcement officer within the county of Hawai'i with the ability to focus on investigating and prosecuting these agricultural issues, as our over-tasked police department does not have the resources to provide a permanent officer to investigate agricultural crimes.

Thank you for the Opportunity to testify on this matter.

Ted Yamamura

Wailuku, HI

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR and SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Relating to HB 1996 - AG THEFT PILOT PROJECT

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