



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

HCIA 2014 - 2016 Board of Directors

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Executive Director
Bennette Misalucha

OUR MISSION

HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture 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 economy.

In Strong Support of HB1996 HD1

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

04-04-16 9:15AM in conference room 211

Aloha Chairs Tokuda and Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chairs Dela Cruz and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA). HCIA is a Hawaii based non-profit organization promoting agricultural bio tech 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 HB1996 HD1**, 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.

We recognize the challenges that confront today's farmers: weather, pests, soil conditions, among many. Unfortunately, for some, there is also the issue of agricultural theft and vandalism. It is a serious ongoing problem with reports of thefts of crops, machinery and tools, animals and the vandalism of property, fences and gates or equipment.

We have seen these instances particularly on the Big Island. We assert the need for additional focus on this crime since the perpetuation of these acts have increased the cost of production and stymied agriculture.

The proposed pilot program will be a step in the right direction of seeing justice appropriately served. We humbly ask for your support of HB1996 HD1.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Bennette Misalucha
Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association



We Grow 93% of Hawaii Island Agriculture Crops

~ 625,000 acres of land in production ~ \$194 Million in Revenue ~

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR and COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

April 3, 2016

TESTIMONY ON HB 1996, HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE THEFT

STRONGLY SUPPORT

Founding Association Members

Hawaii Papaya Industry
Association (HPIA)

Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

Big Island Banana Growers

Hamakua, Hilo & Kohala Farm
Bureau Counties

Hawaii Floriculture & Nursery
Association

Aloha Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair(s), and Vice Chair(s) Senator Maile Shimabukuro and Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, and Committee Members.

My Name is Lorie Farrell; I'm testifying today on behalf of Hawaii Farmers and Ranchers United, Mahalo for allowing us to testify on this matter.

Agriculture theft and vandalism has been a huge and constant problem for Hawaii Island and across the State. It increases 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.

The penalties for trespassing carry little penalty and are difficult to prove. This pilot program should help to address these issues.

Big Island is the perfect location for this pilot project as we have suffered tremendous ag theft losses. I have watched as farmers have ceased farming due to their ag losses; many are unaware of how theft and vandalism impact our farmers futures. We need to take every opportunity to thwart ag theft.

We encourage you to pass HB 1996, HD1 as it Supports Ag sustainability, preserving agriculture's future.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Lorie Farrell

Hawaii Farmers & Ranchers United

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 8:46 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1996 on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM*

HB1996

Submitted on: 4/4/2016

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

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

Comments:

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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.

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.

Antya Miller

Haleiwa, HI

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Ashlee Taniyama

Honolulu, HI

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BENNETTE MISALUCHA

AIEA, HI

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Blaine Grassman

Naalehu, HI

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Blake Rabe

Kaunakakai, HI

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Blake Vance

Aiea, HI

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Bruce Heckman

Waimea, HI

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Clifford Hunter

Mililani, HI

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HB1996

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darrell Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

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dave kula

Wahiawa, HI

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David Stoltzfus

Kihei, HI

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Davud G Rietow

Kamuela, HI

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Dean Okimoto

Waimanalo, HI

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Deo Rhoden

Wahiawa, HI

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Don Gerbig

Lahaina, HI

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Douglas Luka

Pearl City, HI

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Dusty Alderks

Kihei, HI

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Efren Abellera

Pahala, HI

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GLENN TOYAMA

MOUNTAIN VIEW, HI

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Harold Keyser

Kula, HI

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HI PAPAYA INDUSTRY ASSN

Hilo, HI

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Jacqueline Davis

Wailuku, HI

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Jamie Barton

kunia, HI

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Lihue, HI

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Kaunakakai, HI

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Joni Kamiya

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Judith Rivera

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Kimo Falconer

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Kylie Matsuda-Lum

Kahuku, HI

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Lance Okayama

Waialua, HI

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Waipahu, HI

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philippe visintainer

Paia, HI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 7:00 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1996 on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM*

HB1996

Submitted on: 4/4/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:

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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.

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.

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Raymond Foster

Kualapuu, HI

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Rhonda Stoltzfus

Kihei, HI

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Richard Ha

Hilo, HI

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Richard Probst

Volcano, HI

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Richard Schnitzler

Kawaihae, HI

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Robert Osgood

Kaneohe, HI

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Rodney Chin

Wailuku, HI

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Sandy Brodie

Princeville, HI

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Sarah Thompson

Lawai, HI

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Sean O'Keefe

Kula, HI

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Stacie Sasagawa

Ewa Beach, HI

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Stephanie Iona

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stephanie whalen

Kunia, HI

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Susan Schenck

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