
From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2016 11:37 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1997 on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM*

HB1997

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
Lorie Farrell	Hawaii Farmers & Ranchers United	Support	No

Comments:

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April 4, 2016

Senator Gilbert S.C. Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Comments in Support of HB 1997 Relating to Agriculture (Implements the recommendation of the Hawaii agriculture workforce advisory board to create an agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative to conduct training on all islands for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.)

Monday, April 4, 2016, 9:15 a.m., in Conference Room 211

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 1997** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii. The bill conveys the need for collaboration amongst diverse sectors of the community - business, government, educational institutions, and agricultural stakeholders - and the importance for them to work together cooperatively to improve the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry.

HB 1997. The purpose of this bill is to implement the recommendation of the Hawaii agriculture workforce advisory board (the "Board") that the State establish an agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative (the "Initiative") to conduct training in agricultural self-sufficiency on all islands for teachers and school administrators.

LURF's Position. LURF believes that the proposed establishment of the Initiative by the Board in HB 1997 is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes [HRS], Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution, "to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands." As noted in HRS Section 205-41, the intent of Act 183 (2005) was to develop agricultural incentive programs to promote agricultural viability, sustained growth of the agricultural industry, and the long-term use and protection of important agricultural lands for agricultural use.

Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be pointless without implementation of these programs, incentives and inducements which require the cooperation and support of agricultural, business, and educational organizations, as well as government agencies, which this bill is intended to cultivate and promote.

LURF members include private property owners, farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider programs such as this Initiative significant to the continued conduct of their operations and to help sustain and preserve their businesses into the future. Regrettably, interest in agriculture continues to decline due to misguided assumptions of the trade as entailing hard work for low pay, and requiring little, if any appreciable skills.

LURF believes efforts like the Initiative and the appropriation of funds for its implementation would greatly assist in the perpetuation of the agricultural industry in this State by identifying workforce needs; assisting the industry with training to help farmers and ranchers comply with onerous regulatory requirements; providing knowledge and inspiring interest in agriculture; as well as educating youth about the importance of increasing Hawaii's long-term resilience and sustainability.

As the establishment of the Initiative significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii, LURF is in **support of HB 1997**.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this measure.

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

Relating to HB 1997 Agriculture WorkForce Development

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 1997, which implements the recommendation of the Hawaii agriculture workforce advisory board to create an agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative to conduct training on all islands for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

Hawaii's commercial farmers' average age is over 60 years. To maintain and expand production levels, it's clear that we need a new generation of farmers and ranchers equipped to assume the task of growing crops and livestock. This is critical to achieving Hawaii's goal of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Additionally, farmers and ranchers endure numerous regulatory requirements. Among them, labor laws are among the most problematic; with significant differences between Federal and State requirements. Training to meet these and other requirements is vital.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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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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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Jason Moniz

Paauilo, HI

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Jerry Nishek

Lihue, HI

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Joan Lasua

Kaunakakai, HI

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Kaneohe, HI

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Lahaina, HI

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Kylie Matsuda-Lum

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Lance Okayama

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Lesley Hill

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philippe visintainer

Paia, HI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 7:01 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1997 on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM*

HB1997

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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Rodney Chin

Wailuku, HI

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Sandy Brodie

Princeville, HI

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Waimea, HI

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Tom BECK

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Wilfredo Adella

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