

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 WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE
AND EDUCATION

March 18, 2016
2:55 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

LATE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1997
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairpersons Gabbard and Kidani and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1997. This bill establishes a K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency. The Department supports this bill but would defer to the DLIR.

The Department has been participating in the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board that was created by Act 99, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013. Along with the DLIR, Department of Education, University of Hawaii, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, and a representative from the farming community, discussions have been held to find ways to increase our current agricultural workforce. Recent numbers from the 2012 US Agricultural Census has found the average age of farmers in Hawaii is over 63 years old. It is the Department's goal to reverse this trend and we look forward to continued collaboration with our brother and sister agencies and the public to achieve this goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



George K. Costa
Director

Nadine Nakamura
Managing Director

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i

4444 Rice Street, Suite 200, Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766
TEL (808) 241-4946 FAX (808) 241-6399

March 17, 2016

Friday, March 18, 2016
2:55 p.m., Conference Room 224
HB 1997: Relating to Agriculture

LATE

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair and Members
Committee on Water, Land, And Agriculture
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair and Members
Committee on Education
Hawaii State Senate

Dear Senators,

Aloha. On behalf of the County of Kauai – Office of Economic Development, we are submitting this testimony in support of this legislation which takes a strategic perspective in providing training for educators (teachers and school administrators) as an important avenue to facilitate a pipeline towards agricultural self-sufficiency for people in the State of Hawai'i.

The County of Kaua'i through the Office of Economic Development and the Kaua'i Workforce Investment Board (K.W.I.B.) agree that it is equally important to engage educators as key partners in fostering a workforce that understands agriculture as both a viable and economic pathway in our changing agricultural landscape.

Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Randy Francisco, Creative Industries & Small Business Specialist at 241-4953 or email at rfrancisco@kauai.gov.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Randall Francisco
Creative Industries & Small Business Specialist
Office of Economic Development

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Ian Baldrige <ian@mauiwine.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 11:56 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support HB 1997 - Relating to Ag Workforce

LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE and COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION and
TESTIMONY ON HB 1997 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Aloha Senator Gabbard and Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair(s) Vice Chairs Senator Clarence Nishihara and Senator Breene Harimoto 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.

Ian Baldrige

Kula, HI

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Luana Beck <hooluanaranch@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 7:31 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support HB 1997 - Relating to Ag Workforce

LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE and COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION and
TESTIMONY ON HB 1997 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Aloha Senator Gabbard and Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair(s) Vice Chairs Senator Clarence Nishihara and Senator Breene Harimoto 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.

Luana Beck

Mt. View, HI

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Tom BECK <yellowohia@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 7:36 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support HB 1997 - Relating to Ag Workforce

LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE and COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION and
TESTIMONY ON HB 1997 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Aloha Senator Gabbard and Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair(s) Vice Chairs Senator Clarence Nishihara and Senator Breene Harimoto 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.

Tom BECK

HILO, HI