

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA
DIRECTOR

LEONARD HOSHJO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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February 11, 2016

To: The Honorable Mark Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Date: Friday, February 12, 2016
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Linda Chu Takayama, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. No. 2186 Relating to Dislocated Sugar Workers

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

HB2186 is intended to assist DLIR to provide job training and retraining to dislocated sugar workers by directing the department to seek federal grant funds for workforce development, worker training and retraining, and other dislocated assistance programs to assist the dislocated sugar workers.

The bill, in session law, appropriates funds for DLIR to provide workforce development, worker training and retraining, and other dislocated worker assistance programs for workers affected by the cessation of sugar production on Maui. The proposal also notes that the appropriated funds may be used as matching funds required as a condition of eligibility for federal or other grants and for coordination with and assistance to the Maui County Office of Economic Development.

The department supports the bill, with comments, provided it does not replace or adversely affect priorities identified in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request.

II. CURRENT LAWS

Federal funds currently available are projected to be insufficient to serve the large

numbers scheduled for layoff from HC&S. The amount allocated for Maui's dislocated worker program under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) this year is \$140,000, which includes funds for staff support and participant training. This may serve 30-40 individuals.

A federal Dislocated Worker Training grant and Job-Driven National Emergency Grant provides a total additional \$200,000 to serve about 25-35 dislocated workers on Maui County. The first grant expires June 30, 2016, and the second grant expires September 30, 2016.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

The closure of HC&S will result in the termination of about 670 workers over the period from March to December 2016. DLIR is working with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), HC&S, Maui County, Maui Workforce Development Board, U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration, and other agencies to gather data on workers' needs and provide services as appropriate with funds available.

That data will provide the basis for developing grant proposals to seek additional federal funds to address workers' needs for retraining and facilitate their successful transition to other jobs. DLIR notes that funding decisions by the federal government are contingent on funds available as well as other national priorities, including natural disasters.

Federal and other grants for workforce training often do not require matching funds although having non-federal funds scores extra points in the rating. Consequently, having State funds to leverage grant resources would enhance the competitiveness of a proposal. For this reason, DLIR requests that the language regarding matching funding be revised so that the funds also may be used as leveraged funds in grant applications.

DLIR notes that any funds appropriated will be unused if grant proposals are unsuccessful in securing federal or other funds. If the intent of the bill is to provide funding in any situation for those affected by the closure of HC&S, the language may need to be revised accordingly.

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

February 12, 2016
10:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 309

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2186
RELATING TO DISLOCATED SUGAR WORKERS**

Chairperson Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2186 that assists the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations in providing job training and retraining to the dislocated sugar workers on Maui. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure and defers to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

The closure of the Hawaiian Sugar and Commercial Company will mark the end of over 40 years of sugarcane and pineapple plantation shutdowns that spanned the length of Hawaii - from Ka'u on the Big Island to Kilauea on Kauai. Each closure was painful to the employees, and the many others affected throughout the community and island.

Now we look forward to new agricultural businesses of all sizes from family farms to plantation-scale operations to prepare and cultivate the land with crops and animals that they determine will be profitable and benefiting from the sugar plantation infrastructure. In doing so, they will improve the State's food security and self-sufficiency, bring in income by exporting food and non-food products to the mainland and abroad, and maintain the green and living carpet between the slopes of Haleakala and the West Maui mountains.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.





Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

345 Queen Street, Suite 500 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 597-1441

Fax: (808) 593-2149

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO
February 12, 2016

H.B. 2186 – RELATING TO
DISLOCATED SUGAR WORKERS

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO supports H.B. 2186 which directs and appropriates funds for the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to provide workforce development, worker training and retraining, and other dislocated worker assistance programs for workers affected by the cessation of sugar production on Maui.

When Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar (HC&S) ends their sugar operations on Maui later this year, hundreds of employees will be permanently laid off and will face a very difficult and challenging time as they begin to seek new employment in completely different industries. Ultimately, many former HC&S employees will need to be trained and educated for new jobs and those who continue working in the agricultural industry may be required to learn completely new skill sets. Fortunately, H.B. 2186 will help many of these dislocated workers by ensuring they are properly trained and educated for future jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
President



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 12, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

TESTIMONY ON
HB 2186: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DISLOCATED SUGAR WORKERS

Room 309
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Woodson, and
Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF is **in strong support of HB2186** seeking assistance for dislocated sugar workers.

The announcement by HC&S on the same day as a similar announcement by Hamakua Springs of their closure clearly demonstrates the challenges faced by commercial agriculture. Yet, Hawaii wants to see agriculture as part of their plan for increased self sufficiency and sustainability.

HFB strongly supports this measure to provide training assistance in adapting to job opportunities. Employees will need to find other jobs and require training to enhance their skills to become successful in new job opportunities. However, at the same time A&B's diversification plans will also require workers in the future. General horticultural knowledge which quite different from sugarcane will be needed.

We respectfully request your strong support of this measure.

We respectfully request your support of this important measure while addressing the concern to ensure that confidential business information is protected. We respectfully **urge the passage of HB2186**. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this measure.

Hawai'i Construction Alliance

P.O. Box 179441
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 348-8885

February 11, 2016

The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
and members
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Strong Support for HB2186, Relating to Dislocated Sugar Workers

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members:

The Hawai'i Construction Alliance is comprised of the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters; the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Union, Local 630; International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Local 1; the Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 368; and the Operating Engineers, Local Union No. 3. Together, the member unions of the Hawai'i Construction Alliance represent 15,000 working men and women in the basic crafts of Hawai'i's construction industry.

We are strongly supportive of HB2186, Relating to Dislocated Sugar Workers, which would direct the DLIR to seek all possible assistance from the federal Department of Labor and appropriate funds for DLIR's Maui Workforce Development Division office.

We are proud to be a member of Mayor Arakawa's Sugar Operators Work Assistance Task Force, which was convened following the announcement that Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company would be shutting down sugar production in 2016.

The purpose of the task force is "to assist the displaced sugar workers with their transition by identifying and coordinating available employment opportunities, programs and services (including but not limited to training, counseling, job placement, entrepreneurial programs, etc.) and safety net programs (including but not limited to financial counseling, mental health, food and mortgage assistance, etc.), and maximizing their availability to the displaced employees."

Through the task force, we have been collaborating with other stakeholders including DLIR and the Maui County Office of Economic Development to find ways to provide job training and retraining to the workers who will be laid off as a result of the HC&S closure. We have been impressed by the assistance that DLIR has offered thus far, and believe that with more resources DLIR will be able to even better address the needs of the workers who will soon be displaced.

For the above reasons, we respectfully request your committee's favorable action on **HB2186, Relating to Dislocated Sugar Workers.**

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler Dos Santos-Tam". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam
Executive Director
Hawai'i Construction Alliance
execdir@hawaiiconstructionalliance.org

**HB 2186
RELATING TO DISLOCATED SUGAR WORKERS**

**PAUL T. OSHIRO
MANAGER – GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
ALEXANDER & BALDWIN, INC.**

FEBRUARY 12, 2016

Chair Nakashima and Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public
Employment:

I am Paul Oshiro, testifying on behalf of Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. (A&B) on HB 2186, “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DISLOCATED SUGAR WORKERS.” We support this bill.

Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company (HC&S) has been in operation for over 140 years and is Hawaii’s last remaining sugar plantation. Regretfully, HC&S will be transitioning out of farming sugar by the end of this year, and will instead pursue a diversified agricultural model for the 36,000 acres presently in cultivation. For many years, A&B has made every possible effort to keep HC&S in operation and did so far longer than any other sugar company in the state. Unfortunately, we are unable to sustain the kind of financial losses that HC&S has realized over the past two years, with no significant improvement in performance anticipated in the future.

A&B is fully committed to support its impacted employees. The Company is providing a team of transition coordinators whose sole responsibility will be to assist HC&S employees on a one-to-one basis in finding alternate employment opportunities, training or re-education, as appropriate. The coordinators will identify and coordinate

available Federal, State, County, and private job assistance programs, including employment counseling, job training, financial counseling, job placement, and education services. A&B also intends to offer all employees enhanced severance and benefit packages. Retirement benefits accrued by eligible employees, retirees, and past employees will not be affected by the transition out of sugar.

A&B supports this bill as it will further assist the State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations in providing job training and retraining for HC&S employees. Additional funds are appropriated in this bill for workforce development, worker training and retraining, and for use as matching funds to acquire Federal grants or other assistance grants. Any additional initiatives and funding authorizations that will assist in better preparing HC&S employees to meet the qualifications and requirements of new employment opportunities is greatly welcomed. Over the years, HC&S employees have exhibited a strong commitment and dedication towards their jobs and responsibilities, which has been an essential component in enabling HC&S to continue its sugar operations long after the closure of many of the other sugar plantations in Hawaii. We are certain that with proper training and retraining, the many positive attributes of HC&S employees will be of great benefit to other entities and businesses.

Based on the aforementioned, we respectfully request your favorable consideration on this bill.

LABtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:17 PM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2186 on Feb 12, 2016 10:00AM

HB2186

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for LAB on Feb 12, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: We FULLY SUPPORT this bill, since there is no other workforce in Hawai'i who needs the assistance right now. We would like to suggest that the passage of the Hemp Bill could open the door for the funding from this bill to be put to great use of valuable tax payer dollars. Mahalo.

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LABtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 1:05 PM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: mnakahata@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2186 on Feb 12, 2016 10:00AM*

HB2186

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for LAB on Feb 12, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mae Nakahata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 12:58 PM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: ashman.janet@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2186 on Feb 12, 2016 10:00AM*

HB2186

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for LAB on Feb 12, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments:

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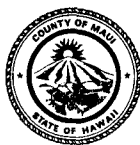
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Mike White

Vice-Chair
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Don Couch
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Riki Hokama



Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.


COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

LATE

February 11, 2016

TO: Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair
House Committee on Public Safety

FROM: Stacy Helm Crivello
Councilmember 

DATE: February 12, 2016

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF HB 2186, RELATING TO DISLOCATED SUGAR WORKERS**

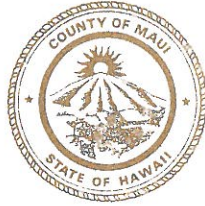
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to direct and appropriate funds for the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to provide workforce development, worker training and retraining, and other dislocated worker assistance programs for workers affected by the cessation of sugar production.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. The reality of HC&S's shutting down of the last sugar plantation in Hawaii hits home with the first wave of layoffs on March 7th affecting 95 employees culminating with their entire workforce of 675 being reduced to 15 by the end of the year.
2. While the transitioning to diversified agriculture on HC&S's lands may afford these workers future employment, these plans coming to fruition are years away. The ramifications of HC&S's shutdown are exponential and affect more than the 675 workers directly impacted therefore it is crucial to get these individuals back to work.
3. Training, retraining and workforce assistance programs offered by state and federal agencies are imperative in assisting the workers directly impacted as well as those indirectly impacted.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR



KEITH A. REGAN
MANAGING DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT
COUNTY OF MAUI

LATE

TESTIMONY OF KEITH REGAN, MANAGING DIRECTOR
COUNTY OF MAUI

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Friday, February 12, 2016
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 309

HB 2186 RELATING TO LABOR

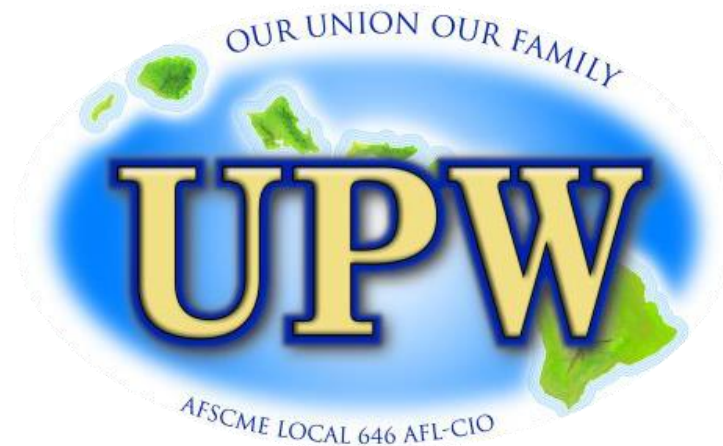
Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT of HB 2186** which would appropriate funds to support job training for those impacted by the closure of Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company on Maui. As the Managing Director and the Chair of the Sugar Operators Work Assistance Task Force, I support this bill for the following reasons:

1. Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co. (H.C. & S.) recently announced that it will be closing our state's last sugar plantation and layoffs are expected to begin as early as March 7, 2016. It is expected that more than 650 employees will be impacted by the closure.
2. It is anticipated that, on March 7th, the first wave of layoffs will occur and approximately 170 employees will be impacted. Time is of the essence as we are quickly approaching the initial release date.
3. Job-driven training programs have a positive track record of providing jobs in many different industries, and, according to the U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Perez, these programs serve as a conduit by "connecting people who are ready to work with employers who are ready to hire."
4. The expansion of job-driven training programs will provide additional opportunities for dislocated H.C. & S. employees to find new employment by encouraging local businesses and organizations to increase existing apprenticeship programs or develop new apprenticeship programs.

For these reasons I **support HB 2186**.

LATE



The Hawaii State House of Representatives
The Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2016

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT/(LAB)
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY (PBS)

The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair (LAB)
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair (PBS)
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair (LAB)

DATE OF HEARING: Friday, February 12, 2016
TIME OF HEARING: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY ON HB 2186 RELATING TO DISLOCATED SUGAR WORKERS

By Dayton M. Nakanelua,
State Director of the United Public Workers,
AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, state director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, and AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 11,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties.

HB2186 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to provide workforce development, worker training and retraining, and other dislocated worker assistance programs for workers affected by the cessation of sugar production on Maui.

The UPW strongly supports this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 5:23 PM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2186 on Feb 12, 2016 10:00AM*

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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HB2186

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for LAB on Feb 12, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

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HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

LATE

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 12, 2016

H.B. 2186 – RELATING TO
DISLOCATED SUGAR WORKERS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 2186, which is to assist the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations by providing job training and retraining to dislocated sugar workers, and to seek assistance from the federal Department of Labor.

The transition of thousands of acres of farmland on Maui to diversified agriculture will affect the local economy in significant ways. Therefore, retraining Maui's workforce is critical to mitigating the effects of large scale job losses on businesses and the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2186.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2016



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Rep. Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 309
Friday, February 12, 2016; 10:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 2186
RELATING TO DISLOCATED SUGAR WORKERS**

The ILWU Local 142 **supports the intent** of H.B. 2186, which directs and appropriates funds for the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to provide workforce development, worker training and retraining, and other dislocated worker assistance programs for workers affected by the cessation of sugar production on Maui.

H.B. 2186 requests an appropriation for “workforce development, worker training and retraining, and other dislocated worker assistance programs” for dislocated sugar workers. However, the caveat seems to be that the appropriation be used as matching funds to qualify for federal and other grants.

As such, we prefer H.B. 2605, which appropriates amounts to be used to “establish, administer, and support on-the-job training” which we believe will be the most effective means of getting dislocated sugar workers into gainful employment.

The ILWU respectfully requests passage of H.B. 2605 instead of H.B. 2186. Thank you for considering our testimony.



LATE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2186 RELATING TO DISLOCATED SUGAR WORKERS

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 309
February 12, 2016
10:00a.m.

Dear Chair Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and
Members of Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2186** which would appropriate funds to support job training for those impacted by the closure of Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company (HC&S) on Maui.

This historical company began on Maui 145 years ago. It is the last remaining sugar plantation in our state. HC&S is a big part of our heritage that spurred ethnic diversity, culture, and the business community we have today. The fact that HC&S will stop farming sugar at the end of 2016 is a tragic loss for our community and our hearts, prayers and thoughts are with the employees during this difficult time.

Sadly, closings of sugar plantations are not new and many well know the struggles families face when this happens, especially in families where members have worked for the plantation for generations. On Maui, we are looking at a tsunami, with a direct hit of 675 HC&S jobs lost, along with a tidal wave of job losses in related industries from suppliers and service providers who counted on HC&S for a significant portion of their business, and the further waves that will ripple out to restaurants, retailers, etc. who will also be impacted. Many of these ancillary and smaller companies do not have the resources of HC&S to help transition their workers when laid off, so we ask that these funds be used to help both HC&S laid off workers and those in related industries who are affected by the closing of HC&S.

On Maui, the community is uniting in a volunteer effort to take action and the Maui Chamber of Commerce has joined roughly 40 other members on the Mayor's Sugar Operators Work Assistance Task Force to help.

Many of these loyal and dedicated workers affected have worked for the company for decades, have English as a second language, are not computer literate, need assistance putting together resumes and applying for other positions, and need significant retraining to qualify for the jobs available. This funding will be of great assistance in that regard as our community looks to address those needs, along with the employee's financial, health, mental health, and social needs. There is a lot to be done and any way the state can provide assistance is deeply appreciated.

Time is of the essence as the first lay-offs will take place on March 7th, with approximately 89 laid off on that date and a total of 170 individuals to be laid off in March. The sooner this bill can be passed, the more effective we and our state can be in meeting the tremendous needs as a result of the plantation's closing.

Therefore, we **wholeheartedly support HB 2186** and urge you to do so as well. We are already working to help connect displaced workers with available jobs, creating new apprenticeship programs, and serving where needed to make this as smooth of a transition as possible for our affected families, neighbors, and community members.

Mahalo for your kokua.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 7:12 PM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: mike@mauiymca.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2186 on Feb 12, 2016 10:00AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

HB2186

Submitted on: 2/11/2016
Testimony for LAB on Feb 12, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Morris	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill and hope that you will as well. Without your help, Maui community members could suffer harsh economic times.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 8:15 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: luly.unemori2@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2186 on Feb 12, 2016 10:00AM



HB2186

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for LAB on Feb 12, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

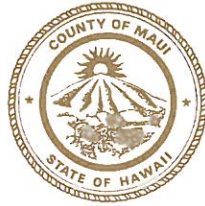
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Luly Unemori	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Honorable Representatives, I am from Maui and I ask that you please support this bill. Although I am not an employee of HC&S, I feel for the 600+ families who are being significantly impacted by the closure of our island's sugar cane industry. The closure will also have a ripple effect, negatively affecting many other businesses and families. Please do all you can to minimize the hurt and stabilize our island's economy by helping these displaced workers transition to new jobs as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

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ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR



KEITH A. REGAN
MANAGING DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Ke'ena O Ka Meia
COUNTY OF MAUI – Kalana O Maui

LATE

**TESTIMONY OF ALAN ARAKAWA, MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Friday, February 12, 2016
10:00 a.m. - Conference Room 309

HB 2186 RELATING TO DISLOCATED SUGAR WORKERS

Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Honorable Jarret Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB 2186**.

The purpose of this Act is to assist the department of labor and industrial relations in providing job training and retraining to dislocated sugar workers by directing the department to seek all possible assistance from the federal Department of Labor and appropriating funds for the department of labor and industrial relations' Maui workforce development division office.

As mayor of Maui County I support this bill for the following reasons:

1. HC&S recently announced that it will be closing our state's last sugar plantation. Over 650 employees (about two percent of Maui's workforce) will lose their jobs. Layoffs are expected to begin as early as March 7, 2016, with approximately 170 employees losing their jobs.
2. Unemployment can greatly impact a person's life as families may not be able to make mortgage, rent and car payments. Parents may not be able to afford sending their children to pre-school, and students may no longer be able to afford school or college tuitions. Our communities will also be impacted as unemployed individuals will not be able to afford going to restaurants and will minimize spending at our local stores.
3. An appropriation is necessary for the fiscal year 2016-2017 for workforce development, worker training and retraining, and other dislocated worker assistance programs for workers affected by the cessation of sugar production on Maui.

For these reasons I **strongly support** **HB 2186**.