

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 31, 2016

9:05 A.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 211

HOUSE BILL NO. 2582 HD1
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committees:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2582 HD1. This bill proposes to create an agricultural food safety certification program to develop and implement a certification system that will comply with the requirements of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The department supports the intent of this bill provided that it does not impact the priorities established in the Department's executive budget.

If the intent of the bill is to have the department have capacity to address the FDA's Produce Safety Rule and Preventive Control Rule in the FSMA, it may be too premature, for the FDA has not yet defined how to implement compliance with FSMA.

There are various private companies who offer audit services for good agricultural practices (GAP). Each company has their own different audit schemes and requirements. Currently, under a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the department conducts annual GAP audits utilizing USDA's audit matrix. The USDA is working with the FDA to receive recognition of the USDA GAP audits to meet FSMA requirements.

The department requests that funding be directed to continue our outreach and education efforts for farmers to meet the requirements of the FSMA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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

March 31, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2582, HD1
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Room 211
9:05 AM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, 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.

HFB strongly supports HB 2582, HD1, requiring the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement an Agricultural Food Safety Certification Program that concurrently complies with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act as it applies to farmers and authorizes funds as needed.

HFB appreciates the support by the legislature in our past efforts to help Hawaii's farmers achieve compliance with the FDA Food Safety and Modernization Act. As the actual rule has been rolled out by FDA the immensity of the task is becoming evident. The final details are still not clear as the agency themselves have finished articulating the details of the measure but training sessions have been delayed. However, basic requirements about water treatment and refrigeration are clear. This will mean changes on many of our farms. Cooperative efforts will be important to ensure affordability. The Department will play a key role in not only facilitating training with the University and other partners but also identifying implementation measures needed. The Department and Counties all have ag parks so their responsibility also extends to their roles as managers of agricultural operations.

HFB respectfully requests your support in moving this measure forward to ensure that our farmers are able to meet compliance deadlines and remain competitive in the marketplace.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



March 29, 2016

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

Comments in Support of HB 2582, HD1 Relating to Agriculture (Requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to develop and implement an Agricultural Food Safety Certification Program that concurrently complies with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) as it applies to farmers and ranchers; Authorizes and appropriates funds for program staff.)

Thursday, March 31, 2016, 9:05 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 2582, HD1** 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.

HB 2582, HD1. This bill articulates the need, and requires the DOA to establish and implement an Agricultural Food Safety Certification Program that complies with the FSMA in order to mitigate the risks involved in food production and to ensure food safety throughout the State's agricultural industry.

LURF's Position. Agricultural safety is vital for the safe and secure production, processing, sale, distribution, importation and consumption of food products and agricultural commodities in Hawaii. This bill will result in the establishment of a food safety certification program which is needed to help the State's agricultural industry identify and implement good agricultural practices and preventative measures to meet food safety objectives and standards, and to effectively comply with applicable governmental rules, regulations and guidelines such as the FSMA.

LURF understands that such a program and the certification established thereby are essential on a local level to improve the overall safety of locally grown food; to ensure that local food safety regulations and certifications comply with federal governmental standards and requirements; and to help farmers and ranchers satisfy the requirements of the FSMA.

This push toward standardized practices and acceptable measures of agricultural safety which are transparent to all is needed in Hawaii. Establishment and implementation of the program will provide a practical means for the State to support agriculture through research, education, and training of agricultural industry members, and will assist the State in its effort to attain increased food self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Based on the above, LURF **supports HB 2582, HD1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and to express support for this measure.

North Shore EVP



A Community Economic Vitality Partnership

March 29, 2016

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2582

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

Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM Committee

The ability to comply with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act is perhaps the biggest obstacle for small farmers wishing to diversify the marketing of their food products and HB2582 is a much needed investment that can assist all farmers in that effort. At the North Shore EVP we are working on a project that will provide small farmers in our region an opportunity to aggregate their products and participate in marketing their goods to institutional customers with full food safety certification. While the entire bill will benefit farmers across the state, we are particularly supportive of Section 141-3 that provides resources to conduct research into alternative, less burdensome methods by which Hawaii's farmers and ranchers can satisfy the requirements of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kevin M Kelly
President