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Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lt. Governor



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Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

March 18, 2016  
8:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

**SENATE BILL NO. 2137 SD2**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2137 SD 2 that encourages the development and implementation of a “whole farm system approach” to agriculture in Hawaii. This bill requires the Department of Agriculture to:

- Create an on-farm mentoring program to teach farmers about “whole farm systems”;
- Appoint on-farm mentors for each of the major islands except, by definition, Lanai;
- Develop, with the assistance of the Hawaii Farmers Union United; a curriculum for the on-farm mentoring program that emphasizes organic and other bio-diverse agricultural amendments using waste products and other inputs, and recycle nutrients back into the soil; farm management, animal husbandry, farmer/food cooperatives, beneficial insects, etc.;
- With an unspecified appropriation from the general fund, support existing on-farm mentoring programs and develop a pilot on-farm mentoring program on Maui County.

The Department of Agriculture offers comments.

The Department of Agriculture supports efforts to improve the capacity of new and existing farms to succeed in their endeavors. We support all forms of agricultural activities and practices. However, the Department of Agriculture is not structured for or has any practical experience with establishing and implementing an agricultural educational program.



The University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources hosts the GoFarm Hawaii program which is a mentoring program that focuses on providing farmers with the practical skills and knowledge necessary to become a successful agricultural entrepreneur. This program is currently being provided to interested farmers and has a curriculum that covers the fundamentals of farm production and business management and exposes participants to the realities of farming through the experience of seasoned farmers, all with the goal to transition program participants into commercial farming. Additionally, the program is designed to assist farmers in to becoming viable production growers in a manner that encourages sustainability. The Department has provided funding and support for this program and believes additional support could expand this program's reach and effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2016 8:33 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** nredfeather@kohalacenter.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2137 on Mar 18, 2016 08:30AM

**SB2137**

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for AGR on Mar 18, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network	Support	No

Comments: Pairing Mentor Farmers with beginning and young farmers just makes good sense. It is a practical solution to increasing the amount of real knowledge being passed between the generations, and gives our young and beginning farmers real life situations to learn in and from.

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# HAWAI'I CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY

## House Committee on Agriculture Hawai'i Center for Food Safety Supports: SB2137 SD2 Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Ashley Lukens and I am the Hawai'i Director for the Center for Food Safety (CFS). CFS is a nationwide public interest, sustainable agriculture nonprofit organization whose mission centers on furthering the public's right to know how their food is produced, through labeling and other means. We have over 750,000 farmer and consumer members across the country, including nearing 10,000 in Hawai'i. On behalf of CFS and our members, I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today regarding this important bill.

CFS has been dedicated to addressing the human health and environmental impacts of our increased reliance on pesticide use in food production, both in the State of Hawai'i and nationally. We were instrumental in providing legal and communications support in the passage of numerous ordinances relating to pesticide use and disclosure, such as Kaua'i's Bill 2491. Since 2014, as the inaugural director here in Hawai'i, I have worked closely with community members across the state, in all counties, and have played an instrumental role in the passage of Maui's moratorium on GE production until companies submit environmental and public health impact assessments.

I am writing in support of SB2137 SD2, which establishes an on-farm mentoring program to teach and train farmers to utilize a whole farm system approach to agriculture, as well as, make an appropriation to the department of agriculture to support existing on-farm mentoring programs and for a pilot on-farm mentoring program in Maui.

Hawai'i needs more local farmers and food production. We support this measure because the program has the potential to expand and enhance the local farmer community, which will strengthen local knowledge, environmental stewardship, and safe food production. This bill will help Hawai'i take steps to create a more sustainable and safe food system through organic techniques, use of indigenous microorganisms, and nutrient recycling. These topics can be difficult to implement but with the help of kupuna and farmers with the experience and expertise to share, the next generation of farmers will be stronger and better prepared to grow safe food.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony, and I am happy to provide further analysis or respond to any follow-up questions.

Respectfully,

Ashley Lukens, PhD  
Hawai'i Director Center for Food Safety

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 10:53 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** haleyrandell9@gmail.com  
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**SB2137**

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Haley Randell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2137**

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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