

SB 2137

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 WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

February 3, 2016
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

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

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2137 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.;
- Provide grants, via a \$500,000 appropriation from the general fund, to support the on-farm mentoring program and 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.



Section 3 of the bill makes an appropriation for a “grant pursuant to chapter 42F,” which are grants made by the Legislature to a named recipient. The Department would like to know who the recipient(s) that the Legislature is granting this money to, and the amount to each person.

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 free 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.



P.O. Box 99, Wailuku, HI 96793-0099

February 2, 2016

Support for SB 2137

HFUU Board of
Directors

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Honorable WLA Committee members,

Vincent Mina
President
HFUU

Hawaii Farmers Union United is in strong support of SB 2137.

Simon Russell
Vice-President
HFUU

This measure helps guarantee that a critical need is met, recognizing, endorsing and supporting a program that allows kupuna and farmers with expertise to share their knowledge with other farmers and potential farmers. We envision and would appreciate having this bill being supported and expanded statewide in the future.

Anny Bruch
Secretary
HFUU

As our seasoned producers age out, Hawaii and America in general is in danger of losing the institutional knowledge we have to produce our food supply. This bill is written to support the teaching of whole systems of agriculture (AKA integrated farming or sustainable agriculture), which is defined as:

Ray Maki
Treasurer
HFUU

Pamela Boyer
Oahu

“A holistic management approach looking at the whole farm as cross-linked unit, on the fundamental role and function of agro-ecosystems, on nutrient cycles which are balanced and adapted to the demand of the crops, and on health and welfare of all livestock on the farm. Preserving and enhancing soil fertility, maintaining and improving a diverse environment and the adherence to ethical and social criteria are indispensable basic elements. Crop protection takes into account all biological, technical and chemical methods which then are balanced carefully and with the objective to protect the environment, to maintain profitability of the business and fulfill social requirements.”

Alika Atay
Mauna Kahalawai

Phyllis Robinson
Haleakala

Mikala Minn
Hana

Greg Smith
Ka'u

We appreciate your support for this important step forward for Hawaii's agricultural future.

Nate Hayward
Kohala

Kyle Studer
East Hawai'i

Mahalo,
HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED

Steve Sakala
Kona

Vincent Mina, President

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2137 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 4:47:43 AM

SB2137

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Honorable WLA Committee members, Hawaii Farmers Union United is in strong support of SB 2137. This measure helps guarantee that a critical need is met, recognizing, endorsing and supporting a program that allows kupuna and farmers with expertise to share their knowledge with other farmers and potential farmers. This bill should be supported and expanded statewide in the future As our seasoned producers age out, Hawaii and America in general is in danger of losing the institutional knowledge we have to produce our food supply. This bill is written to support the teaching of whole systems of agriculture (AKA integrated farming or sustainable agriculture), which is defined as: "a holistic management approach looking at the whole farm as cross-linked unit, on the fundamental role and function of agro-ecosystems, on nutrient cycles which are balanced and adapted to the demand of the crops, and on health and welfare of all livestock on the farm. Preserving and enhancing soil fertility, maintaining and improving a diverse environment and the adherence to ethical and social criteria are indispensable basic elements. Crop protection takes into account all biological, technical and chemical methods which then are balanced carefully and with the objective to protect the environment, to maintain profitability of the business and fulfill social requirements." We appreciate your support for this important step forward for Hawaii's agricultural future. Me ke aloha pumehana, Simon Russell Hawaii Farmers Union United Legislative Committee Chairman

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



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 3, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2137
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 224
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, 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 supports the intent of SB 2137 and would like to offer our comments. We certainly believe that local agriculture should be supported and encouraged. While it is true that the vast majority of food consumed in the state is imported, there are many complex factors that underlie this reality. Imported farm inputs are an important factor.

The farm technique mentoring program, as described in this bill, may be useful to assist niche market producers who are already using "natural" techniques and local inputs or are willing to experiment in these methods. We are interested in learning more details about the program, including the following:

- Who would provide the training---what expertise would be required to be a "mentor"
- How would the monetary grants to farmers and farm organizations be administered
- Would the grants be administered to commercial farmers (those who make their living from farming) or non-profit organizations that may compete with local farmers
- How would the program benefit the largest number of farmers

We defer to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: suellen@maui.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2137 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 8:08:45 AM

SB2137

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suellen Barton	Maui Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments: As a small farmer, I LOVE the idea of a mentoring program because it would shorten the expensive learning curve & I also think it would encourage more people to farm

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: ken@mycoffee.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2137 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 3:38:18 PM

SB2137

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Love	Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers fully supports this on farm mentoring program and believes it is essential for sustainability of farming in Hawaii. We have to help train the next generation of farmers today.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: crystalkpaul@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2137 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 6:37:03 PM

SB2137

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Kia Paul	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Wednesday, February 3, 2015; 2:45 pm
By
J. Kenneth Grace**

SB 2137 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture, I respectfully submit testimony in support of SB 2137, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish and support on-farm mentoring programs, with successful farmers serving as mentors.

My name is J. Kenneth Grace. I am a resident of Kaneohe, and employed as Associate Dean for Research in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am providing personal testimony on SB 2137.

Successful farmers have a great deal to contribute to mentoring the next generation of farmers, but as small businessmen usually cannot afford the time necessary to do this. The intent of this bill, reflecting the desire of the farming community, is to set up a means of grant-administration within the Department of Agriculture to support a mentoring program in each county by successful small farmers, based on the pilot program developed by the Hawaii Farmers Union on Maui, as an alternative or adjunct to the more formal and structured educational programs offered by the University of Hawaii, such as the Go-Farm Hawaii program directed by CTAHR and the Community Colleges.

Hawaii needs more successful farmers, and those who are successful certainly have a lot of expertise to share. The primary purpose of the bill is to engage small farmers themselves in individualized, on-farm mentoring by providing them with a financial incentive to do so, and I support SB 2137 towards that end.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: kristenmartinek@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2137 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 6:41:53 PM

SB2137

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Martinek	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: pogqoppogqop@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2137 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 6:49:25 PM

SB2137

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this important bill. It is very important for agriculture in Hawaii. Mahalo.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: tracy.emills@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2137 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 8:44:26 PM

SB2137

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracy E Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need to grow more farmers so we have healthy food from right here on Maui!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov