

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lieutenant Governor

**LUIS P. SALAVERIA**  
Director

**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Deputy Director



**LAND USE COMMISSION**  
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism  
State of Hawai`i

**DANIEL ORODENKER**  
Executive Officer

**Bert K. Saruwatari**  
Planner  
**SCOTT A.K. DERRICKSON AICP**  
Planner

**RILEY K. HAKODA**  
Chief Clerk/Planner

**FRED A. TALON**  
Drafting Technician

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Statement of  
**Daniel E. Orodenker**  
**Executive Officer**  
Land Use Commission  
Before the  
**House Committee on Water and Land**  
Friday February 3, 2017  
9:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

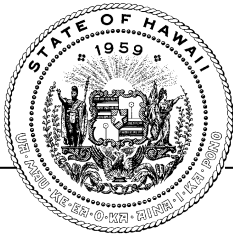
In consideration of  
**HB 0309**  
**RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water and Land:

The Land Use Commission supports HB 0309 that would provide funds for grants-in-aid to the counties for the identification and mapping of important agricultural lands (IAL).

The IAL identification and mapping process for the counties as set out in Section 205-47, Hawai`i Revised Statutes (HRS) requires significant public involvement to include coordination with a broad range of stakeholders, public meetings, and citizen advisory groups. Adequate funding to complete this process could result in a quality product supported by a broad range of stakeholders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



**OFFICE OF PLANNING  
STATE OF HAWAII**

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**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of  
**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**  
February 3, 2017  
9:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**HB 309**  
**RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS.**

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports HB 309, provided the appropriation does not replace the Administration's priorities requested in the Executive Budget. HB 309 would appropriate funds for grants-in-aid to the counties for the identification and mapping of agricultural lands for designation as important agricultural lands (IAL) by the State Land Use Commission (LUC), pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 205-47. HB 309 appropriates \$250,000 each year for Fiscal Years 2017-18 and 2018-19, to be allocated equally among the four counties.

Funding would facilitate completion of the county IAL mapping process and possibly accelerate the timeframe for submittal of county petitions for IAL to the LUC. However, it is our understanding that the County of Kauai has completed their mapping studies and does not anticipate petitioning for the designation of additional IAL lands beyond what has already been designated under the voluntary petition process. The City and County of Honolulu is also

nearing the completion of its identification and mapping process, and maps of proposed IAL are currently undergoing public review and comment.

This raises the question of whether the County of Kauai and the City and County of Honolulu would be allowed to be reimbursed for the work that has been completed. If so, this may need to be clarified in the measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

**FEBRUARY 3, 2017  
9:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 309  
RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Chairperson Yamane and Members of the Committee:

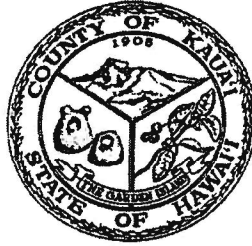
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 309 that appropriates the sum of \$250,000 for FY2017-18 and the same amount for 2018-19 to the Department of Business and Economic Development, and Tourism to be disbursed equally to the counties as grants-in-aid in support of their responsibility to identify and map potential Important Agricultural Lands pursuant to Section 205-47. The Department of Agriculture supports this measure that will help to move forward the Important Agricultural Lands Law with respect to completion of the county mapping process and subsequent designation by the Land Use Commission, and allowing the owners and farmers of these lands to have access to the IAL Incentives in support of agricultural production.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.



**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Arthur Brun  
Mason K. Chock  
Arryl Kaneshiro  
Derek S.K. Kawakami  
JoAnn A. Yukimura



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk  
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**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 1, 2017

**TESTIMONY OF MEL RAPOZO**  
**COUNCIL CHAIR, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ON**  
**HB 309, RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**  
**House Committee on Water & Land**  
**Friday, February 3, 2017**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Conference Room 325**

Dear Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 309, Relating to Important Agricultural Lands, which is included in the 2017 Hawai'i State Association of Counties Legislative Package. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Council Chair of the Kaua'i County Council and as Secretary of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties.

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate sufficient funds to the counties to identify and map important agricultural lands on their respective islands. It is the State's duty to "conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands." Once these important parcels of land are properly designated by the land use commission, the counties will be eligible for a variety of state and county assistance and incentive programs to develop needed protections, such as infrastructure, as well as provide farm and business education assistance.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the House Committee on Water & Land to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

MEL RAPOZO  
Council Chair, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:cy

## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:18 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** william.spence@mauicounty.gov  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB309 on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM

### **HB309**

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Spence	Maui Planning Department	Support	No

Comments: The Maui Planning Department is in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill. As the only county with three islands, each having significant amounts of high-quality agricultural lands, this bill will allow us to pursue the preservation of that land and toward a sustainable future for our islands.

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.

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**HB 309  
RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

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

**FEBRUARY 3, 2017**

Chair Yamane and Members of the House Committee on Water & Land:

I am Paul Oshiro, testifying on behalf of Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. (A&B) on HB 309, “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS.”

We support this bill.

After over twenty five years of debate, negotiation, and compromise, the IAL Law and process was finally enacted in July 2008. After years of pursuing a land-use approach to this constitutional mandate, the IAL law that was successfully passed (Act 183 (2005) and Act 233 (2008)) was premised on the principle that the best way to preserve agricultural lands is to preserve agricultural businesses and agricultural viability. As such, the IAL Law not only provides the standards, criteria, and processes to identify and designate important agricultural lands to fulfill the intent and purpose of Article XI, Section 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution, it also provides for a package of incentives designated to support and encourage sustained, viable agricultural activity on IAL.

The IAL Law presently authorizes the identification and designation of IAL in one of two ways --- by voluntary petition to the State Land Use Commission by the landowner or farmer; or subsequently by the Counties filing a petition to designate lands

as IAL pursuant to a County identification and mapping process. In either case, the LUC determines whether the petitioned lands qualify for IAL designation pursuant to the standards, criteria, objectives, and policies set forth in the IAL Law. To date, the voluntary petition process has resulted in the designation by the LUC of over 110,000 acres of agricultural lands as IAL from voluntary petitions by Alexander & Baldwin, Parker Ranch, Castle & Cooke, Mahaulepu Farm, Grove Farm, and Kamehameha Schools.

This bill provides grants in aid to the Counties for the identification and mapping of IAL. With the voluntary petition process already providing a significant amount of IAL throughout Hawaii, this appropriation will assist the Counties in fulfilling the second method of IAL designation, which will be initiated by the County identification and mapping of IAL. When completed, these County maps will be forwarded to the LUC which will enable them to designate qualified lands as IAL.

Based on the aforementioned, we respectfully request your favorable consideration on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# Hawai`i State Association of Counties (HSAC)

Counties of Kaua`i, Maui, Hawai`i and City & County of Honolulu

200 S. High Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 (808) 270-7665

[www.hicounties.com](http://www.hicounties.com)



February 1, 2017

TO: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
House Committee on Water & Land

FROM: Stacy Crivello  
HSAC President

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2017; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
HB 309, RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Hawaii State Association of Counties in **support** of this measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the counties to identify and map important agricultural lands.

This measure is included in the 2017 Hawaii State Association of Counties Legislative Package. Therefore, I submit this testimony on HSAC's behalf.

HSAC supports this measure for the following reasons:

1. In 2005, the legislature enacted Act 183 which directed each county to identify and map potential important agricultural lands. Designation would allow for a variety of incentive programs and favorable infrastructure and permit requirements. Most counties did not receive state funds to assist with the duties imposed by Act 183 and have not yet completed the identification and mapping process.
2. The \$250,000 funding to the counties would greatly help implement and achieve the purposes and goals of the program.

Mahalo for your consideration.

*HSAC:FY2017:17Testimony:HB309a\_mkz*

**LATE**

**kong2 - Crystal**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 12:41 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** blawaiianlvr@icloud.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB309 on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB309**

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

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.

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**LATE**

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, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

**TESTIMONY ON HB 309**  
RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Room 325  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, 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 HB 309**, which appropriates funds to the counties to identify and map important agricultural lands.

Since the enactment of the Constitutional Mandate in 1978 to preserve and protect Important Agricultural Lands (IAL), HFBF came before the Legislature every year with proposals of how this measure could be implemented. It was only in 2005 when the standards and criteria to designate IAL was finally passed and in 2008 when the incentives were passed. It was a long road.

We were pleased when the first lands were designated by Alexander and Baldwin in 2009 totaling nearly 4000 acres in Kauai. Today, we have over 100,000 acres that were voluntarily designated by landowners across the State.

Nearly nine years have passed since the incentives were passed in 2008 and we remain in the phase in which counties will submit maps to the LUC identifying lands to be designated as IAL. Act 183 (SLH 2005) states that the counties will work on identification and mapping of important agricultural lands via funding from the State disbursed through the Land Use Commission. Most Counties have yet to receive funding and in turn the county IAL identification and mapping has not progressed as anticipated. HFB supports the funding necessary to identify and map IAL in each county and defers to the LUC on amount necessary to carry out this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.