

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 AGRICULTURE

**FEBRUARY 15, 2017
8:40 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 452
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 452, which proposes to require the department to enforce all agricultural products labeled and advertised as “organic” and are sold in the state be certified by a qualified certifier pursuant to the federal National Organic Program (NOP). The department offers comments.

It will be very difficult or nearly impossible for the department to verify if imported agricultural products are truly organic. The USDA NOP allows states to oversee regulatory enforcement responsibilities, but only within its boundaries. The state must submit for approval to the USDA its proposed state organic program, including statutory authorities, and program description. Within six months of the receipt of the submission, the USDA will notify the state whether approval has been granted.

Currently, the state of California is the only state in the nation which oversees and enforces the USDA organic regulations, within California. This program requires organic operations to register annually, and includes spot checks of the registered organic businesses at various points in the supply chain, and sampling and testing for pesticide residues.



Page 2

This bill does not include any appropriations. Therefore, the department will not be able to implement this program without any staffing or funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

LATE

Director of Council Services
Sandy K. Baz

Council Chair
Mike White

Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Stacy Crivello

Councilmembers
Alika Atay
Elle Cochran
Don S. Guzman
Riki Hokama
Kelly T. King
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



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

February 14, 2017

TO: The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Robert Carroll
Council Member

DATE: February 13 2017

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 452; RELATING TO
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify as an individual in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure requires that all "Agricultural Products" labeled or advertised as "Organic" shall be certified as organic by a qualified certification agent pursuant to the federal National Organic Program..

I strongly support this measure for the following reasons:

1. By adding a new part, "Organic Agriculture Product" to Chapter 147, Hawai'i Revised Statutes it appropriately designated and defines "Agriculture product", "Board", "National Organic Program" and "Processed product". All clearly stated and outlined to guide you.
2. It goes on to clearly outline that no "Organic Agricultural Product" sold in the state shall be labeled, advertised or otherwise represented to be "Organic" unless the farm or handling facility that produced or processed it has been certified by a qualified certifying agent pursuant to the National Organic Program.
3. Consumers who are seeking "Organic Agriculture Products" will know that the product is authentic do to this measure.
4. Rules; violation and penalties are also applied and defined in this measure.

For the foregoing reasons, I strongly support this measure.

RC:dna



House Committee on Agriculture

Hawai'i Center for Food Safety strongly opposes: HB452

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Decoite and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Ashley Lukens and I am the Director of the Hawai'i 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 and the impacts these production practices have on human health and the environment. We have over 820,000 farmer and consumer members across the country, including nearing 11,000 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.

I am writing in strong opposition to HB452 which states that no agricultural product that is sold in the State shall be labeled, advertised, or otherwise represented to be organic unless the farm or handling facility that produced or processed the product has been certified by a qualified certifying agent pursuant to the National Organic Program. While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified. HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

As for farmers who make more than \$5000, the requirement that they be certified organic in order to use the organic claim is essentially already in existence under the National Organic Program, so the bill is simply redundant, and subjects farmers to double penalty by different governmental entities. As such it should be seen as nothing more than an attack on the growing organic farming community in our State.

The bill also suffers from other inconsistencies by setting a penalty that is different from the

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

660 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Suite 302
Washington, D.C. 20003
T: 202-547-9359 F: 202-547-9429

CALIFORNIA OFFICE

303 Sacramento Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
T: 415-826-2770 F: 415-826-0507

PACIFIC NORTHWEST OFFICE

917 SW Oak Street, Suite 300
Portland, OR 97205
T: 971-271-7372 F: 971-271-7374

HAWAI'I OFFICE

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 2107
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
T: 808-681-7688

office@centerforfoodsafety.org

centerforfoodsafety.org

National Organic Program, and also provides a different definition of “agricultural product” than the definition under federal law.

If challenged, a court will likely find the bill to be unlawful, in violation of the National Organic Program. The federal regulations implementing the National Organic Program makes clear that a State may administer its own State Organic Program by meeting the requirements of federal law and must be approved by the USDA prior to implementation. HB452 creates an inconsistent standards and definitions. and different penalties as compared to the National Organic Program, without previous approval from the USDA as required by federal law. It is an unlawful state scheme that is overly burdensome on organic farmers.

As we addressed last year with our state’s landmark organic tax credit bill, Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. Organic foods and products are a strong emerging market in Hawai’i, and the sector is valued at over \$6 million. The growing demand for locally grown, certified-organic produce and products in Hawai’i greatly exceeds supply, and Hawai’i farmers face numerous barriers that deter them from entering the organic sector. These include the financial and paperwork requirements associated with obtaining and maintaining organic certification and higher costs for organic materials, such as fertilizer, which can be double that of conventional farming. The state should only support this industry, and by eliminating an important small farmer protection provision, this bill would make it harder for small farmers to sell their products as organic.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Lukens', written over a light-colored rectangular background.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 6:29 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

HB452

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	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.

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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 15, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 452
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Room 312
8:40 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports HB 452, requiring National Organic Program certification for all agricultural products labeled or advertised as organic.

HFB strongly supports organic agriculture as we believe it is part of the diverse fabric needed to meet consumer demand. Our policy states:

"We strongly support the expansion of a viable local organic commodity group with practices following the definitions and rules of the National Organic Program".

Consumers are willing to spend more money for organic products based on their belief that they are buying an item of higher value due to the practices associated with its' production and processing. This measure will ensure that products purchased will meet consumer expectations.

We respectfully request your support of HB 452 as written.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



"Grown with Love"

Kakalina Farms
PO Box 534
Waimanalo, Hawai'i 96795

House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday February 15, 2017 8:40 a.m.

Testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 452 – Relating to Agricultural Products

Chair Creagan Vice Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tom Grande. My wife and I grow tropical fruits and flowers in Waimanalo.

I strongly oppose the adoption of HB 452. As drafted, HB 452 conflicts with and is in violation of the Organic Food Production Act of 1990 as it relates to the small farmer exemption.

Under the Organic Foods Production Act, small farmers whose gross annual organic sales are less than \$5,000, may market products as "organic" if they comply with all regulations as outlined in 7 CFR §§ 205.200-205.299 of the USDA organic standards. 7 CFR §205.101(a); 7 CFR § 205.102. "The exemption is primarily designed for those producers who market their product directly to consumers....[and] who grow and process produce and other agricultural products for sale at farmers markets and roadside stands to consumers within their communities." 80552 Federal Register/Vol. 65, No. 246/Thursday, December 21, 2000/Rules and Regulations.

HB 452 is defective and in violation of the Organic Foods Production Act because it would prevent small farmers from marketing their produce as "organic."

Please hold this bill in committee.

Thank you very much.

Thomas R. Grande

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 6:16 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jamesjtz@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

HB452

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 4:13 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: director@bettercropshawaii.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

HB452

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
BENNETTE MISALUCHA	Hawaii Crop Improvement Association	Support	No

Comments:

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AGRtestimony

From: Elvin Kamoku <elvinkamoku@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:24 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Elvin Kamoku
242 Hiipali Loop
Kula, HI 96790

AGRtestimony

From: Haydn Huntley <haydn.huntley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:24 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

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I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Haydn Huntley
582 Hoene St
Makawao, HI 96768

AGRtestimony

From: Colleen Chapman <Collardgreen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:47 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Colleen Chapman
67-427 Kekauwa St.
Waialua, HI 96791

AGRtestimony

From: Denise Woods <dbwoodsluv@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:18 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Denise Woods
pmb 128
Kapaa, HI 96746

AGRtestimony

From: Jonathan Boyne <boyne@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:09 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Jonathan Boyne
Kakela Dr
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:14 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gordines@kauaiflowers.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:00 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: klahaela@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM

HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Kimiko LaHaela Walter	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill would hurt small farmers. They are already struggling to keep their organic farms and cannot afford to pay up for organic certification, especially if they are just getting started. Please oppose this bill! Aloha and mahalo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:57 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: yappygrl1@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Fujita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:56 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ponosize@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pono Kealoha	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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AGRtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:29 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: bgreenleaf.maui@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM
Attachments: HB 452.docx

Categories: Green Category

HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Greenleaf	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:16 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jgelert@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM

HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Gelert	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The National Organic Program allows small growers under \$5000 annual sales to advertise and market their food as organic without having to be certified. These small growers would not be able to afford certification. I am opposed to this bill, because many of us want to eat affordable organic food, rather than chemically-treated food that makes us sick.

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AGRtestimony

From: Ethan West <ethan.west1990@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:58 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Ethan West
603 Koko Isle Circle
Honolulu, HI 96825

AGRtestimony

From: Sherryl Royce <roycehi@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:57 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Sherryl Royce
335 Awini Place
Honolulu, HI 96825

AGRtestimony

From: Taur Kiggins <taur.harper@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:53 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Taur Kiggins
PO Box 790991
Paia, HI 96779

AGRtestimony

From: Arnold Kotler <arnoldkotler@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:52 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Arnold Kotler
PO Box 822
Kihei, HI 96753

AGRtestimony

From: Wendy Tomita <Wendytomita12@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:43 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Wendy Tomita
640 Ainapo Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

AGRtestimony

From: Joseph Kohn MD <joseph@WeAreOne.cc>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:35 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Joseph Kohn MD
1268 W Hiahia Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

AGRtestimony

From: Jeffrey Heisel <jeffreyheisel2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:34 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Jeffrey Heisel
187 Akai St
Kihei, HI 96753

AGRtestimony

From: Carlynn Wolfe <wolfec004@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:27 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Oahu needs these people.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Carlynn Wolfe
1020 Green St, 108
Honolulu, HI 96822

AGRtestimony

From: Deborah Sevy <transformation@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:25 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Deborah Sevy
77-6477 Seaview Circle
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

AGRtestimony

From: Zoe Alexander <mauizoe@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:25 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Zoe Alexander
222 Peahi Road
Haiku, HI 96708

AGRtestimony

From: Tamara Paltin <Tampaltin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:24 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Tamara Paltin
110 Pualu Pl
Lahaina, HI 96761

AGRtestimony

From: Rachel Laderman <rachel.laderman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:22 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers, such as myself, in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000 - our sales last year were \$2000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Rachel Laderman
PO Box 100036
HAKALAU, HI 96710

AGRtestimony

From: Alexandra Krongos <sashakrongos@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:16 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Alexandra Krongos
3740 Lower Honoapi'ilani Rd. D108
Lahaina, HI 96761

AGRtestimony

From: YUANA GARVIN <ygarvin@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:16 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

YUANA GARVIN
141 Apau pl
MAKAWAO, HI 96768

AGRtestimony

From: L. Pauahi Hookano <pauahi.hookano@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:05 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

L. Pauahi Hookano
245 Wailua Rd.
Haiku, HI 96708

AGRtestimony

From: Virginia Van Kuran <Virginia@vankuran.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:05 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Virginia Van Kuran
7012 Hawaii Kai Drive
Honolulu, HI 96825

AGRtestimony

From: Lynn Wilson <lbwilson@webfishpacific.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:05 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Lynn Wilson
1188 Bishop Street, 1502
Honolulu, HI 96813

AGRtestimony

From: Harry Yoshida <sanseironin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:05 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Harry Yoshida
763 Paani St Apt 3
Honolulu, HI 96826

AGRtestimony

From: Rene Siracusa <renesiracusa@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:04 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Rene Siracusa
POB1520
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:51 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: fernrosenstiel@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fern Rosenstiel	Individual	Oppose	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
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:35 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: pamelapcm@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM

HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela M Williams	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: In strong opposition!

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

HB 452

Organic Products Certification

L A T E

Hearing Date: Feb. 15,. 2017, 8:40 am
Name: Karen K. Cobeen
From House District: House, 7th District
Position: Support, with recommendations
Committee: Committee on Agriculture
Chair: Rep. Richard P. Creagan
Vice Chair: Rep Lynn DeCoite

Date: Feb. 14, 2017

Aloha Chairman Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite and members of this committee:

My name is Karen Cobeen and I live on Hawaii Island with my husband and adult disabled son.

It has been my experience that there is currently considerable confusion as to what constitutes “organic” in the State of Hawaii. Many products are labeled organic or natural with no identifiable certification or markings that such a claim is true. In addition, as I attend local farmers markets here on the Big Island, the people in the stands claim their product is organic, when I know with certainty they are not.

My family owned and operated one of the first “certified” organic farms in the State of Washington. We had to prove we were organic and penalties were stiff. There was considerable information available to organic farmers. There were surprise visits and inspections of our farm and formal sworn statements we had to make as to our organic practices and status.

Creating a Hawaii certification program is critical for the credibility of agriculture or other products. I commend this effort. However, this endeavor outlined in this bill does not seem adequate to the task. I do not recommend a “board” of people whose motives may be unclear. I do recommend an actual department in the state Dept of Agriculture whose actions are accountable.

Many states have proven, efficient and effective state certification programs. For just this type of program, I would recommend also contacting some of those states on their experiences. Let’s not reinvent the wheel and then make a mess of it.

For these reasons, I strongly support this bill with the recommendations noted here.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen K. Cobeen

AGRtestimony

From: barbara garofano <garofanob001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:59 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

barbara garofano
41-037 Ehukai St.
Waimanalo, HI 96795

AGRtestimony

From: Marianne Stiteler <stiteler.marianne@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:40 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Marianne Stiteler
16- 1925 7rd
Hawaiian Acres, Kurtistown, HI 96760

AGRtestimony

From: Lisa McDaniel <lisamcdaniel@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:22 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Lisa McDaniel
68-315 Mahinaai St.
Mokuleia, HI 96791

AGRtestimony

From: Wes Fujii <keaaunat@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:57 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Wes Fujii
16-586 Old Volcano Road
Keaau, HI 96749

AGRtestimony

From: Alana Ross <Alana.ross@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:39 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to section 5 of HB 961 which repeal the historic organic farming tax credit. Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection.

The growing demand for locally grown, certified-organic produce and products in Hawai'i greatly exceeds supply, and Hawai'i farmers face numerous barriers that deter them from entering the organic sector. These include the financial and paperwork requirements associated with obtaining and maintaining organic certification and higher costs for organic materials, such as fertilizer, which can be double that of conventional farming.

The tax credit will help off-set those costs and encourage growth of the organic sector. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

Please protect this important support mechanism for Hawai'i's small organic farmers. Thank you for your time.

Alana Ross
Box 964
Hana, HI 96713

AGRtestimony

From: Kevon Borowski <Kevon_borowski@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:37 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Kevon Borowski
PO Box 1277
Mountain View, HI 96749

AGRtestimony

From: Lela Kalama <Homegurl637@mail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:55 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Lela Kalama
Kanoelehua ave
Hilo, HI 96720

AGRtestimony

From: David O'Quinn <doquinn@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:31 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

David O'Quinn
6437 Kahuna Rd. Unit B
Kapaa, HI 96746

AGRtestimony

From: Cory Barros <cory@brandingventures.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:31 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

As an entrepreneur that is in the process of developing an organic farm, HB452 would limit and potentially harm my ability to grow my farm.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Cory Barros
PO Box 10646
Hilo, HI 96721

AGRtestimony

From: Kathleen Boyd <kathleenbyd@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:50 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Kathleen Boyd
15-1681 1st Ave
Keaau, HI 96749

AGRtestimony

From: Sophia Bicoy <sophiabicoy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:29 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Sophia Bicoy
3142 Bear Springs Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78245

AGRtestimony

From: Renee Miller <Reneeclare5@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:46 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Renee Miller
33 B Alaiki Place
Makawao, HI 96768

AGRtestimony

From: Annie Suite <suiteness@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:25 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Annie Suite
PO Box 1395
Kailua, HI 96734

AGRtestimony

From: Charles Moore <CharlesM99@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:44 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Charles Moore
457 Lahainaluna Rd
Lahaina, HI 96761

AGRtestimony

From: Lorna Larsen-Jeyte <tutulorna@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:24 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Lorna Larsen-Jeyte
19-3956 Old Volcano Rd Volcano Hawaii 96785 Volcano, HI 96785

AGRtestimony

From: Kate Burroughs <buglady@sonic.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:43 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

I own a 12 acre certified organic farm and while this provision would not harm me, I know many small organic growers who gross less than \$5000 a year who do not have to be certified by the NOP to be able to sell their products as organic.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Kate Burroughs
8521 Sonoma Ave.
Laupahoehoe, HI 95472

AGRtestimony

From: Patricia Blair <patriciablair@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:23 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Patricia Blair
25 Aulike St
Kailua, HI 96734

AGRtestimony

From: Dale Evans <evans@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:39 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

CTAHR AGRICULTURISTS HAVE IDENTIFIED A FARMING SECTOR CALLED "MULTIPLE-INCOME FARM FAMILIES." THESE FAMILIES OR INDIVIDUALS SUPPLEMENT OTHER INCOME SOURCES WITH SMALL-SCALE FARMING; SOME ARE RETIRED OR "HOBBY" GROWERS WHO ARE TRYING TO PLAY A ROLE IN HAWAII'S FOOD SUPPLY. IF THESE FARMERS PRODUCE A CROP WITH ORGANIC METHODS, THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO MAKE THAT CLAIM WITHOUT THE COSTLY AND ELABORATE PROCESS OF OBTAINING USDA ORGANIC CERTIFICATION. IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THEIR CLAIMING THEIR PRODUCE IS "ORGANIC," THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO STATE THAT IT IS "GROWN WITH ORGANIC METHODS" OR "GROWN WITHOUT PESTICIDES OR INORGANIC FERTILIZERS." YOU GUYS MAKE THE RULES: WRITE THEM SO AS TO ALLOW THESE CLAIMS, DON'T JUST KILL THE OPTION.

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Dale Evans
Hilu St
Waimanalo, HI 96795

AGRtestimony

From: Kilia Purdy-Avelino <kpurdyavelino@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:23 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Kilia Purdy-Avelino
Lihi Pali Avenue
Hoolehua, HI 96729

AGRtestimony

From: Ava Fedorov <telltaleeye@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:38 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of Section 5 of HB961 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to section 5 of HB 961 which repeal the historic organic farming tax credit. Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection.

The growing demand for locally grown, certified-organic produce and products in Hawai'i greatly exceeds supply, and Hawai'i farmers face numerous barriers that deter them from entering the organic sector. These include the financial and paperwork requirements associated with obtaining and maintaining organic certification and higher costs for organic materials, such as fertilizer, which can be double that of conventional farming.

The tax credit will help off-set those costs and encourage growth of the organic sector. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

Please protect this important support mechanism for Hawai'i's small organic farmers. Thank you for your time.

Ava Fedorov
115-B Popoia Rd
Kailua, HI 96734

AGRtestimony

From: Erika Ireland <erikaireland@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:06 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Erika Ireland
PO Box 2718
Honolulu, HI 96803

AGRtestimony

From: Holli Shiro <shiro.holli@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:36 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Holli Shiro
94-1043 Pulelo St.
Waipahu, HI 96797

AGRtestimony

From: Carol Culver <carol@dancekauai.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:58 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Carol Culver
PO Box 1673
Kapaa, HI 96746

AGRtestimony

From: David Sutton <malamaourworld@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:30 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

David Sutton
PO Box 1159
Kilauea,, HI 96754

AGRtestimony

From: ann gommers <annietbi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:58 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

Again, you have an opportunity to show that you are not owned by BIG AG in Hawaii and all their campaign persuasion money.....There are now less than 2 million farmers in the U.S. today....and you now going to make it harder for the most desirable of farmers in Hawaii to farm? Our aina needs to be preserved with ORGANIC farmers, not the industrial seed growers who take and poison the land and do not give back to Hawaii!!!!

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Show your independence and your constituents will thank you as will future generations for fostering the Organic farming industry.

Sincerely,
Ann Gommers

ann gommers
68-615 Farrington Hwy. 17B
Waialua, HI 96791

AGRtestimony

From: Cheryl Sterling <reefgirlmaui@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 3:04 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Cheryl Sterling
2020 Main St., 505
Wailuku, HI 96793

AGRtestimony

From: Katherine pomeroy <k2pome@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:25 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Katherine pomeroy
PO Box 1556
Kapaau, HI 96755

AGRtestimony

From: Stacy Soderholm <green91522@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:19 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Stacy Soderholm
321 Waipoli Road
Kula, HI 96790

AGRtestimony

From: Mary Beth Van Hoogstraten <mbvh@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:18 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Mary Beth Van Hoogstraten
1331-B 9th Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816

AGRtestimony

From: Michael Morgan <michael.t.morgan@usa.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:17 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Michael Morgan
3-3400 Kuhio HWY APT C211
Lihue, HI 96766

AGRtestimony

From: Mark Van Horne <mrvh49@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:14 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Mark Van Horne
1571 Piikoi St Apt 1706
Honolulu, HI 96822

AGRtestimony

From: Carol Beardmore <willie.cb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:10 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Carol Beardmore
1051 Puuopae Road
Kapaa, HI 96746

AGRtestimony

From: Daniel Hodel <danhodel@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:08 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Daniel Hodel
76-897 Hualalai Road
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

AGRtestimony

From: Tanja Miller <alohalways@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:05 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Tanja Miller
2751 Aina Lani
Makawao, HI 96768

AGRtestimony

From: Sheryl Roberts <roberts_gus@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:57 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Sheryl Roberts
1010 Alaea St
Makawao, HI 96768

AGRtestimony

From: Julius Gutierrez <julius415@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:49 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Julius Gutierrez
745084 huaala st
Kailua kona, HI 96740

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Richard Furst <rfurst808@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 3:19 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Richard Furst
766 Hao Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Barry Sato <bsato@theavco.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 3:35 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee, As you read my testimony please understand that the use of convenient form letters does not diminish the importance of issues like this to constituents like myself.

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Barry Sato
2363 anini pl
Aiea, HI 96701

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Kimberly Dukes <dukesohana@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 3:37 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Kimberly Dukes
1774 Na'alae rd
Kula, HI 96790

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Robert Wilcox <bertzz@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 3:46 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Robert Wilcox
45 Pualu Loop
Lahaina, HI 96761

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Sharron Cushman <cushmanzoo@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 3:16 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Sharron Cushman
HC 2 Box 6467
Keaau, HI 96749

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: laurel brier <browerr001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:19 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

laurel brier
p o box 220
anahola, HI 96703

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Elif Beall <Elif.beall@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:18 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i.

We import almost 80% of our food here in Hawaii. Yet HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Elif Beall
PO Box 1304
Kilauea, HI 96754

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: S T <kala@mauimail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:13 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which would make it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless "certified by the National Organic Program."

However, the National Organic Program is a federal law that contains an exemption allowing small organic farmers (those whose gross annual organic sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision, and also *seems to be an overreach* since this is an existing federal law that is codified inside the U.S. code of federal regulations at title 7 Agriculture, part 205, national organic program. The exemption clause you're looking for is part 205.101.

The exemption is critical for small farmers who may not yet afford the cost of certification but who nonetheless follow organic requirements.

The bill seems to possibly be illegal and should be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that does not exist under existing federal law.

I am an employee of an organic certification agency that is accredited by the USDA AMS National Organic Program.

NOTA: no farm, ranch, kitchen, or processing plant is ever certified directly by the national organic program, they are all certified by third-party agencies that are accredited by USDA's NOP.

If you have questions about the structure of accreditation, or exemptions, exclusions, and/or requirements of the NOP regulation, PLEASE feel free to contact me.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

S T
Kauhikoa Road
Haiku, HI 96768

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Emma Twigg-Smith <emmaloves808@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 3:55 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Emma Twigg-Smith
76-6036 mamalahoa hwy
Holualoa, HI 96725

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Katharine Owen <RNKOWEN@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 3:55 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program ACTUALLY ALLOWS SMALL ORGANIC FARMERS (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and LABEL their products as organic WITHOUT having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the BILL seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it SETS UP INCONSISTENT STANDARDS THAT PENALIZE SMALL FARMERS and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We MUST do all that we can to PROTECT these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I URGE YOU TO OPPOSE HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Katharine Owen
1165 Kukila Street
Honolulu, HI 96818

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Lauren Ampolos <Laurenelaine721@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 3:52 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Lauren Ampolos
111 hekiki st Kailua hi 96734
Kahului, HI 96732

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:00 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: nataliejeanf@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

LATE

HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
natalie	Individual	Oppose	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.

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LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Jaci Chan <Musicalryder@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:35 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Jaci Chan
1355 16th Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

AGRtestimony

From: Gregory Hungerford <doctorforgolf@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:38 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)



Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Gregory Hungerford
68-085 Waialua Beach Rd
Waialua, HI 96791

AGRtestimony

From: Ibbie Alshamma <iwhite001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:45 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)



Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Ibbie Alshamma
4620 Kapuna Rd
Kilauea, HI 96754

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:46 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mamaupin@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017
Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Maupin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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LATE

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I strongly oppose HB 452 which hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. Yet the National Organic Program has an exemption that allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without being certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that exemption, which is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford certification and record keeping requirements yet practice organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that does not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and creates redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a critical role to play in addressing our island states' food security in addition to economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452.

AGRtestimony

From: Debra Nix <info@lifeislight.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:52 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)



Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Debra Nix
PO Box 808
Kihei, HI 96753

AGRtestimony

From: Debra Nix <info@lifeislight.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:52 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

LATE

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Debra Nix
PO Box 808
Kihei, HI 96753

AGRtestimony

From: Jennifer Lilla <themaunanny@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:55 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)



Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Lilla
245 Keonekai Rd.
Kihei, HI 96753

AGRtestimony

From: John Nix <nix@lifeislight.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:55 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

LATE

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

John Nix
P O Box 808
Kihei, HI 96753

AGRtestimony

From: Judy Walker <joodiekay@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:00 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)



Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Judy Walker
PO Box 1957
Hilo, HI 96721

AGRtestimony

From: brynn foster <Bfoster@voyagingfoods.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:06 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

LATE

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

brynn foster
4619 Moho St.
Honolulu, HI 96816

AGRtestimony

From: Megan Blazak <Mblazak@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:07 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)



Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Megan Blazak
495 Waianuenue Ave
Hilo, HI 96720

AGRtestimony

From: Mary True <streamgirll@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:06 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

LATE

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Mary True
PO BOX 1020
Pepeekeo, HI 96783

AGRtestimony

From: Lisa McDaniel <lisamcdaniel@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:21 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

LATE

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Lisa McDaniel
68-315 Mahinaai St.
Mokuleia, HI 96791

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:56 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: freundtheresa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM



HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Theresa Freund	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee, My name is Theresa Freund and I am from Nuuanu. I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified. HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program. While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production. Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive. For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 6:04 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: helmut@classicorganic.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM



HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helmut Klauer	A'a Li'i Farm	Comments Only	No

Comments: The federal standards states small farmers who gross less than \$5000 annually do not have to be certified. They do have to farm using the USDA organic standards, but do not have to be certified. Hawaii should follow the USDA 's lead.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:36 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tulsigreenlee@icloud.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*



HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tulsi Greenlee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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AGRtestimony

From: Peggy McArdle <Hapuna22@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:59 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)



Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

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Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Peggy McArdle
Alii
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

AGRtestimony

From: Nino White <white_nino@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:56 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)



Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Nino White
2839 Henry St #E
Honolulu, HI 96817

AGRtestimony

From: Carrie Grace <Carrieculver@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 6:02 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)



Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Carrie Grace
Po box 1145
Kingston, WA 98346

AGRtestimony

From: Helmut Klauer <helmut@classicorganic.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:53 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

LATE

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Helmut Klauer
12-4341 Lanai Street
Pahoa, HI 96778

AGRtestimony

From: Lisa Newman <tylerrylieghjett@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:47 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)



LATE

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Lisa Newman
11827 n Honeymoon Bay Rd
Newman Lake, WA 99025

AGRtestimony

From: Maya Ross <mayaross@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:37 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

LATE

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Maya Ross
PO BOX 232
Hana, HI 96713

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 7:48 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM

HB452

Submitted on: 2/15/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the Committee. Hawaii Farmers Union United respectfully opposes this measure. We believe that the National Organic Program sufficiently regulates the organic sector, and the State of Hawaii does not need to create further restrictions. Furthermore, enforcement of this measure could be difficult and expensive. Respectfully Submitted, Simon Russell HFUU Legislative Chair

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

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 8:18 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: hokuokekai50@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM

HB452

Submitted on: 2/15/2017
Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee, I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452. HB452 would make it illegal for small organic farmers whose annual sales are below \$5000, to promote their products as organic without having to be certified. This harmful, anti-farmer bill is inconsistent with the National Organic Program which allows small organic farmers to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified. As legislators you must do everything possible to assist and encourage farmers that follow organic production principles but may not be able to afford the certification, to grow their business which promotes food security in the islands.

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

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 7:48 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM

HB452

Submitted on: 2/15/2017
Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the Committee. Hawaii Farmers Union United respectfully opposes this measure. We believe that the National Organic Program sufficiently regulates the organic sector, and the State of Hawaii does not need to create further restrictions. Furthermore, enforcement of this measure could be difficult and expensive. Respectfully Submitted, Simon Russell HFUU Legislative Chair

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 4:56 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: auli@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*



HB452

Submitted on: 2/15/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Sentel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 1:32 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: suzannakinsey@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

HB452

Submitted on: 2/15/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanna Kinsey	Individual	Oppose	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
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:20 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: blackbird4aloha@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

LATE

HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Merle Hayward	Individual	Oppose	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.

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:37 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ofstone@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017
Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeri Di Pietro	GMO Free Kaua'i	Oppose	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
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:31 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: shoregirlstudios@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM



HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mila Horak	Onila farms	Oppose	No

Comments: We are a certified organic coffee farm, and oppose this bill, because under the NOP standards, organic producers can label thier products as organic without certification. This bill hurts small organic farmers who can't afford to certify.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:28 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: auli@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*



HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noah Freeman	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
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 8:38 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM

LATE

HB452

Submitted on: 2/15/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments: We STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. As a native Hawaiian Advocacy Corporation that operates on the the Wai`anae Coast, we have an excellent ORGANIC company called Ma`o Farms, which we support. With respect to the issue of labeling, like GMO products, as consumers, we deserve to know, via a label, whether a product is ORGANIC or GMO or some combination of both. Right is right, wrong is wrong & fair is fair. We realize that there may be increased costs for the labeling, but such a cost is less of an importance to the health of our Lahui, especially our Keiki. 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
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:48 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: erika.lechugadisalvo@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*



HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erika Lechuga Disalvo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:19 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: alohadave72@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM



HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dave Burlew	Farmer	Oppose	No

Comments: The National Organic Program (NOP) administered by the USDA clearly defines how organic produce is intended to be produced and labeled. There is no need for the Hawaii legislator to get involved to try and regulate any provisions of the NOP. The NOP is clearly a highly regulated federal program. Furthermore, the burden of proof whether organic produce is properly labeled falls on the retailer which may not even be the producer. Fines are already administered by the USDA for violations of the NOP. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture is underfunded and understaffed. Enforcement of this act will continue to plague an inefficient, underfunded state department. The state legislator is clearly wasting their time and effort trying to preempt federal law with no benefits for the state of Hawaii.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:24 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tree@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

LATE

HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Luksic	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:59 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: waiala.ahn@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM



HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wai'ala Ahn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha, I Strongly Oppose HB452 because it hurts small farmers by making it a violation for anyone to claim that their product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the program currently allows small organic farmers, whose annual sales are below \$5,000, to label their products as organic without certification.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 6:31 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: bkdl@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB452 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM



HB452

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Lehmann	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I offer qualified support in that it appears the language of the bill does not reflect current exemption under the National Organic Program for farmers whose gross annual income from organic sales is less than \$5,000.

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LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Pualei Mo'okini-Oliveira <cydniekm@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 8:06 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. For ourselves, our 'ohana, our mo'opuna, our kupuna, and our communities! Thank you for your time.

Pualei Mo'okini-Oliveira
6965 Niumalu Loop
Honolulu, HI 96825

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Linda Luke <Linda@crownandcompany.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 7:55 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Linda Luke
PO Box 0
Tifton, GA 31793

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Sevyn Galambos <sevgalam@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 7:36 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Sevyn Galambos
76-77
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Robin Kutkowski <Robinkutkowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 7:26 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Robin Kutkowski
Kuhio hwy
Kilauea, HI 96754

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Sara Izen <izen.s.adah@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:22 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Sara Izen
639 Iliaina Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Barbara Mattson <bmat255255@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:08 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Barbara Mattson
3846 L Honoapiilani Rd
Lahaina, HI 96761

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Kate Paine <kate@hula.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:42 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Kate Paine
825 Coolidge
Honolulu, HI 96826

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Joy Gorman <joy_gorman888@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:41 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Joy Gorman
92 Ala Apapa Pl
Makawao, HI 96768

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Dwayne Munar <dwayne_munar@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 8:48 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Dwayne Munar
84-270 Jade Street
Waianae, HI 96792

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Danielle Lemieux <Danielle84.dt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:51 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Danielle Lemieux
14 cottonwood rd
Brookfield ma, MA 01506

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Philipp LaHaela Walter <p.lahaela.walter@posteo.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:50 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Philipp LaHaela Walter
579 Lauiki St, Apt D
Honolulu, HI 96826

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Lauryn rego <lauryn_rego@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:47 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Lauryn rego
128 kahana ridge dr
lahaina, HI 96761

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Erica Moise <Blessed0516@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 7:04 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Erica Moise
8473 Barossa Court
Las Vegas, NV, NV 89117

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: panelopi mckenzie <2spiralbirth@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:26 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

panelopi mckenzie
pobox1652
Makawao, HI 96768

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Debbie Hoy <Hoyschmitt1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 5:50 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Debbie Hoy
22958 Moonstone Lane
Lake Forest, CA 92630

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: H B <hbonmaui@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:11 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

H B
96768
Makawao, HI 96768

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Natasha Westhoff <Natashamcintosh1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 5:35 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Natasha Westhoff
2946 Kaluakoi Road
Maunaloa, HI 96770

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Pamela Gardener <pamilaelle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:57 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Pamela Gardener
5200 Paanau Road, Apt. K1-02
Koloa, HI 96756

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: joel goldfarb <joel@flex.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:48 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which suppresses small-scale organic farmers in Hawai'i and their products that have high market demand. You know what HB452 does. Please explain publically why you oppose the National Organic Program allowing small-scale organic farmers to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be "certified".

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may be able to afford the NOSB certification and record keeping requirements but who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that does not currently exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive, especially our representatives.

For these reasons and as a 31-year Hawai'i state resident, I demand you oppose HB 452.

Thank you for your time and for considering the population you represent. Show us.

joel goldfarb
Mapu PI
Kihei, HI 96753

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Audrey Allencastre <aallencastre@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:33 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Audrey Allencastre
2299 Kaupakalua Rd
Haiku, HI 96708

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Dale Rice <rice41152@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:23 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Dale Rice
532 N Millet Ave
Gramercy, LA 70052

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: tia pearson <tia.pearson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 6:35 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

tia pearson
po box 861697
wahiawa, HI 96786

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Neil Vonhof <neil.vonhof@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:11 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Neil Vonhof
1209 W Kuiaha Rd
Haiku, HI 96708

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Michael Coon <michaelandjenica@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:07 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Michael Coon
PO 223098
Princeville,, HI 96722

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: jose negron <josenegron@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 4:59 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

jose negron
753 williams ave
BROOKLYN, NY 11207

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Burt Furuta <bfuruta@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:56 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Burt Furuta
242A Koalele Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Michael Brady <brady70@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 4:48 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Michael Brady
1614 Brook Manor Drive
Hixson, TN 37343

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Kathy Shimata <kshimata@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:28 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Kathy Shimata
3453 Pawaina St
Honolulu, HI 96822

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Andy Kripp <onlinegamingfortune@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 3:47 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Andy Kripp
609 W 37th St
AURORA, IL 60504

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Timothy Hills <seanhills53@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:19 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Timothy Hills
93 Makalani Place, Cottage
Makawao, HI 96768

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Jade Moss <moss.jade.e@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:05 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Jade Moss
P.O. Box 1214
Kalaheo, HI 96741

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Heather Regan-Suckow <rugr8ful2day@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 3:39 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Heather Regan-Suckow
483 East Jefferson St.
Dimondale, MI 48821

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Gary Johnson <orchids_7@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:11 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Gary Johnson
355 Aoloa St.
Kailua, HI 96734

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Allison Zito <allisonzitoandson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 2:56 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Allison Zito
101 Pearl Street
Claremont, NH 03743

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Ashley Wilcox <Ashzz@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:04 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Ashley Wilcox
45 Pualu Loop
Lahaina, HI 96761

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: sarah moglewer <smogg@q.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 12:55 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

sarah moglewer
3070 Peaks View Lane 9F
Prescott, AZ 86301

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Tracy Mills <tracy.emills@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 6:59 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Tracy Mills
1209 W Kuiaha Rd
Haiku, HI 96708

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Paulina Barsotti <Sumrlil@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 12:55 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Paulina Barsotti
4174 Waipua st
Kilauea, HI 96754

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Michael Pasco <Myklpasco@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 6:47 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. Small organic farmers are small businesses, and also excellent caretakers of the land. Government should be doing more to support them as they play one of the most essential roles in our community.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating a key exemption for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing small farm businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452.

Mahalo nui

Michael Pasco
220-A Oe Street
Kihei, HI 96753

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Jennifer Hee <jennifermeleana@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 12:40 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Hee
47-395 Ahaolelo Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Michael Johnson <Johnsonmichael01@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 6:43 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Michael Johnson
124 Satinwood Ln
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Linda Koyanagi <Inkoyanagi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 12:18 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Linda Koyanagi
133 N Kainalu Street
Kailua, HI 96734



From: Pamela Williamson <Wickedplaything@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 7:59 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to section 5 of HB 961 which repeal the historic organic farming tax credit. Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection.

The growing demand for locally grown, certified-organic produce and products in Hawai'i greatly exceeds supply, and Hawai'i farmers face numerous barriers that deter them from entering the organic sector. These include the financial and paperwork requirements associated with obtaining and maintaining organic certification and higher costs for organic materials, such as fertilizer, which can be double that of conventional farming.

The tax credit will help off-set those costs and encourage growth of the organic sector. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

Please protect this important support mechanism for Hawai'i's small organic farmers. Thank you for your time.

Pamela Williamson
P. O. Box 922
Apple Valley, CA 92307

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: EvaLani Siquig <esiquig@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 12:13 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

EvaLani Siquig
P O BOX 860266
WAHIAWA, HI 96786

From: Harold Agena <haroldagena@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 6:14 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Harold Agena
PO BOX246
Waianae, HI 96792

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Lilian Kong <Lilian.kong@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:57 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Lilian Kong
PO Box 11291
Honolulu, HI 96828

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Bellodgia Yamamoto <bellodgiabellodgia@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:51 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Bellodgia Yamamoto
59-606 Alapio Road
Haleiwa, HI 96712

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Nnamdi Kassel <Nnamdi_kassel@notes.k12.hi.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:41 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Nnamdi Kassel
74-4927
Holualoa, HI 96725

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: sylvia litchfield <sylvialitchfield@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 6:27 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

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While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

sylvia litchfield
415 Dairy rd. suite E414
Kahului, HI 96732

AGRtestimony

From: Anne Thurston <athurston@irmt.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:56 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)



Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Anne Thurston
3639 Keoniana Road
Princeville, HI 96722

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Jennifer Macagnone <Hairspraysalon@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:40 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to section 5 of HB 961 which repeal the historic organic farming tax credit. Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection.

The growing demand for locally grown, certified-organic produce and products in Hawai'i greatly exceeds supply, and Hawai'i farmers face numerous barriers that deter them from entering the organic sector. These include the financial and paperwork requirements associated with obtaining and maintaining organic certification and higher costs for organic materials, such as fertilizer, which can be double that of conventional farming.

The tax credit will help off-set those costs and encourage growth of the organic sector. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

Please protect this important support mechanism for Hawai 'i's small organic farmers. Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Macagnone
651 Apuwai place
Honolulu, HI 96816

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Pamela Wiseman <pammatiti@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:13 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to section 5 of HB 961 which repeal the historic organic farming tax credit. Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection.

The growing demand for locally grown, certified-organic produce and products in Hawai'i greatly exceeds supply, and Hawai'i farmers face numerous barriers that deter them from entering the organic sector. These include the financial and paperwork requirements associated with obtaining and maintaining organic certification and higher costs for organic materials, such as fertilizer, which can be double that of conventional farming.

The tax credit will help off-set those costs and encourage growth of the organic sector. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

Please protect this important support mechanism for Hawai 'i's small organic farmers. Thank you for your time.

Pamela Wiseman
no addy
Butte, MT 59701

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Marion McHenry <bob-marion@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:28 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to section 5 of HB 961 which repeal the historic organic farming tax credit. Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection.

The growing demand for locally grown, certified-organic produce and products in Hawai'i greatly exceeds supply, and Hawai'i farmers face numerous barriers that deter them from entering the organic sector. These include the financial and paperwork requirements associated with obtaining and maintaining organic certification and higher costs for organic materials, such as fertilizer, which can be double that of conventional farming.

The tax credit will help off-set those costs and encourage growth of the organic sector. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

Please protect this important support mechanism for Hawai 'i's small organic farmers. Thank you for your time.

Marion McHenry
3609 Kaweonui
Princeville, HI 96723

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Gina Meyer <ghkm3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:52 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere and members of the committee,

I am writing to urge your strong support of SB 29. This bill aims to protect Hawai'i's keiki from the impacts of large-scale agricultural pesticide use by establishing buffer zones around sensitive areas like schools, hospitals, nursing homes and waterways.

I am deeply concerned with the effects of pesticide application and pesticide drift on our keiki health while at school. There are at least 27 schools in Hawai'i within a mile of commercial agricultural operations that apply large volumes of restricted-use pesticides. The American Academy of Pediatrics finds there to be a significantly increased health risk for children exposed to pesticides, and additional precautions must be taken to protect them from unintended exposure.

It is critical that the state take action to reduce childhood pesticide exposure because toxic exposure to pesticides during fetal, neonatal, and infant life can disrupt critical developmental processes. Early life pesticide exposure has been linked to long-term health effects including cancer, decreased cognitive function, behavior problems, birth defects and other adverse birth outcomes, and asthma.

Despite this danger, Hawai'i is one of 19 states that does not have legislation on the books regulating the application of pesticides around schools. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that under Hawai'i law, counties and municipalities do not have the authority to regulate pesticide use. The authority to ensure local protection rests with the State. It is clear that it is the State's responsibility to step up and protect our keiki and our environment from toxic pesticide use.

I urge you to support SB 29 and protect our keiki.

Thank you for your time.

Gina Meyer
1012B Morris Lane
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Rachel LaDrig <Rladrig@asi-hawaii.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 12:19 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to section 5 of HB 961 which repeal the historic organic farming tax credit. Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection.

The growing demand for locally grown, certified-organic produce and products in Hawai'i greatly exceeds supply, and Hawai'i farmers face numerous barriers that deter them from entering the organic sector. These include the financial and paperwork requirements associated with obtaining and maintaining organic certification and higher costs for organic materials, such as fertilizer, which can be double that of conventional farming.

The tax credit will help off-set those costs and encourage growth of the organic sector. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

Please protect this important support mechanism for Hawai 'i's small organic farmers. Thank you for your time.

Rachel LaDrig
Lualualei Homestead
Wai'anae, HI 96792

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Paul Solomon <skysonghealing@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:37 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Paul Solomon
PO Box 1183
Haiku, HI 96708

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Brian Emmons <brimohi@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:36 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Brian Emmons
1755 Waiola St
Honolulu, HI 96826

LATE

AGRtestimony

From: Raphiell Nolin <Raphiell@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:31 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In Opposition of HB 452 (Hearing on 2/15/2017 at 8:40am)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 452 which unfairly hurts small organic farmers in Hawai'i. HB452 makes it a violation for anyone to claim that their agricultural product is organic unless certified by the National Organic Program. However, the National Organic Program actually allows small organic farmers (those whose annual sales are below \$5000) to advertise and label their products as organic without having to be certified.

HB452 would hurt small organic producers by eliminating that provision. The exemption is critical for small farms and small farmers who may not yet afford the certification and record keeping requirements who nonetheless follow organic production principles. The bill must be rejected for creating a penalty for small farmers that do not exist under the National Organic Program.

While the bill seems to uphold the National Organic Program on its face, in practice it sets up inconsistent standards that penalize small farmers and create redundant regulation that would discourage organic food production.

Organic agriculture has a huge role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time – economic revitalization, climate change, public health, and environmental protection. We must do all that we can to protect these growing businesses and allow them to thrive.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 452. Thank you for your time.

Raphiell Nolin
Po box 1216
Puunene, HI 96784

LATE

Aloha Chair Rep. Creagan,

On behalf of Tuipulotu Farm, my husband and I support HB452.

We own a certified organic farm and grow a variety of fruits and vegetables.

Becoming certified organic is a lengthy process. Here is a short list of what it takes to be certified organic.

1. Finding a certifying agency and applying online.
2. Determining size of your farm and what you grow to be charged accordingly.
3. Payment schedule
4. Paperwork that includes,
 - a. Map of farm
 - b. List of crops growing to be certified
 - c. Organic seed, seedlings and planting stock sources
 - d. Fertility program
 - e. Crop rotation
 - f. Tillage and cultivation
 - g. Crop Pests and disease control methods.
 - h. Weed mgmt
 - i. Recordkeeping
 - j. Harvest procedures
 - k. Compost and manure procedures
 - l. Field history for each field, 5 years back.
 - m. Yearly inspections, etc.

But, with all this the benefits are, higher prices for our crops, it improves our soil structure and good for the environment, and our production costs is low.

We take pride in our methods of farming and we know how important it is to our consumer's has the right to know the product they're consuming has paperwork to back it up.

Again, we support HB452.

Mahalo, Mosese and Faith Tuipulotu
Tuipulotu Farm
Faith Tuipulotu