

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**MARCH 28, 2017
9:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 453 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 453 HD1 SD1, which proposes to establish a grant program within the department of agriculture to assist farmers and ranchers in meeting the costs, including audit costs and other expenses of complying with the federal Food Safety Modernization Act, U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations, and state food safety laws. The department supports this bill provided it does not impact the department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

Food safety regulations will soon drive many farmers into financial issues. The State's agricultural industry will need the support from the State to address these issues. This grant program will directly serve local farmers and ranchers with federal regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 211
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017 AT 9:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair;
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB453 TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO FARMERS TO ASSIST IN
COSTS OF COMPLIANCE WITH FDA FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT**

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap and I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce representing approximately 600 businesses and 16,000 employees on Maui. I am writing share our support of HB453.

This bill fits with one of our important legislative priorities this year, which is to support the agriculture industry and our local farmers and ranchers. One of the more recent issues to arise that could negatively affect our agriculture industry are the new requirements imposed by the FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act. Farmers and ranchers may be faced with huge costs and time consuming processes In order to comply with many of the new regulations, which is a burden that many cannot undertake with the already unpredictable nature of the agriculture industry. Therefore, we support this bill that would give grants to qualifying farmers and ranchers to assist with meeting the costs of complying with the federal Food Safety Modernization Act, United States Food and Drug Administration regulations and state food safety laws. This is vital for our agriculture industry that provides a number of jobs and resources for our local community.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this matter and therefore ask that this bill be passed.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony and we hope you will move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Tuesday, March 28, 2017 — 9:30 a.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 453 HD 1 SD 1, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and reduce waste. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono strongly supports HB 453 HD 1 SD 1, which provides grants to farmers for compliance with food safety regulations, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

One of the greatest challenges facing agricultural enterprises over the next few years is getting into compliance with new federal food safety regulations. These new rules are expected to protect public health by providing more information about food production. However, the new regulations are expected to be significantly more strict than the current guidelines, which requires more time and cost for compliance. It is a challenge for our farmers and ranchers to navigate the nuances of the law, track new data requirements, and implement best practices for food safety. Without this funding, farmers and ranchers, particularly smaller scale operations, may be in violation of the law or be forced to shut down, which will jeopardize the future of local agriculture in Hawai'i.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become more complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

We believe that by collaborating, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Kyle Datta
General Partner



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

March 28, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 453, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports HB 453, HD1, SD1, which requires DOA to provide grants to farmers to assist them in paying for the costs of compliance with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act and state food safety laws.

HFB appreciates the support by the legislature in our past efforts to help Hawaii's farmers achieve compliance with the FDA Food Safety and Modernization Act. As the actual rule has been rolled out by FDA the immensity of the task is becoming evident.

Foodborne illnesses can be serious and we should seek ways to reduce the risk. This bill will provide that assistance to our farmers for the costs they will incur to become food safety compliant.

The many criteria associated with FSMA to be compliant should not be an impediment for safe food. Hawaii cannot afford to further lose farmers as we strive to increase local food production. We want to incentivize our farmers' ability to continue their operations and provide Hawaii with abundant safe food.

Hawaii Farm Bureau respectfully requests your **strong support of HB 453, HD1, SD1**, which will assist farmers with expenses to become compliant with the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 5:00 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: director@bettercropshawaii.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB453 on Mar 28, 2017 09:30AM*

HB453

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for WAM on Mar 28, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
BENNETTE MISALUCHA	Hawaii Crop Improvement Association	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



March 28, 2017

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

**Testimony in Support of HB 453, HD1, SD1 Relating to Agriculture
(Requires the Department of Agriculture to provide grants to farmers to
assist them in paying for the costs of compliance with the FDA Food Safety
Modernization Act, FDA regulations, and state food safety laws.
Appropriates funds.)**

WAM Hrg: Tuesday, March 28, 2016, 9:30 a.m., in Conference Room 211

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, agricultural operations, renewable energy and housing for Hawaii residents of all income levels, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 453, HD1, SD1.**

HB 453, HD1, SD1. This measure will require the Department of Agriculture to provide grants to farmers to assist them in paying for the costs of compliance with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act, FDA regulations, and state food safety laws; and also appropriates funds.

LURF's Position. LURF supports the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act the purpose of which is to ensure that the United States food supply is safe by preventing contamination of food for human consumption. LURF understands, however, that it may be difficult and costly for Hawaii's farmers and ranchers in the State to comply with the requirements of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act and other federal and state food safety regulations. Your Committee believes that this measure will support Hawaii's agricultural industry by assisting farmers and ranchers with compliance with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, Food and Drug Administration regulations, and state food safety laws.

If this Committee chooses to pass this measure, LURF respectfully requests that it consider inserting an appropriation amount of \$1,000,000 for implementation of the food safety certification costs grant program and related administrative costs.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports HB 453, HD1, SD1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 3:41 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB453 on Mar 28, 2017 09:30AM*

HB453

Submitted on: 3/24/2017

Testimony for WAM on Mar 28, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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