

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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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. 453
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 453, 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 and offers comments.

The bill is requesting the department to adopt rules to carry out the purpose of the grant program. Promulgating rules may take six months or longer to implement. There is a likelihood that the funding may lapse while rules are being adopted. Therefore, the department requests the bill be amended to allow the department to expend funds for administrative costs and to ensure that the funds do not lapse after June 30, 2018.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Council Chair
Mike White

Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
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Councilmembers
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Elle Cochran
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Riki Hokama
Kelly T. King
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Director of Council Services
Sandy K. Baz

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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February 14, 2017

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

FROM: Robert Carroll
Council Member

DATE: February 14 2017

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 453; RELATING TO
AGRICULTURAL.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify as an individual in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure requires DOA to provide grants to farmers and ranchers to assist them in paying for the cost of compliance with the FDA Safety Moderation Act and state food safety laws.

I strongly support this measure for the following reasons:

1. By amending, Chapter 141, Hawai'i Revised Statutes with the addition of a new section to part (1) it appropriately defines the Grant Program; Food Safety Certification costs and Special fund.
2. It establishes in the Department of Agriculture a grant program to assist farmers and ranchers in meeting the cost, including the audit cost and other expenses of complying with the Federal Food Safety Modernization Act, United States Food and Drug Administration regulations and State food safety laws.
3. The program provides grants to qualified applicants who have first spent the money needed to comply and the grant shall not exceed \$5000.00 to any one person. This grant will come from an established Food Safety Certification grant program in the State Treasury. This special fund to be administered by the department.
4. We want to encourage sustainability and these added cost can prevent our farmers and ranchers from succeeding in this business. Any assistance we can help with is how we will encourage this line of business.

For the foregoing reasons, I strongly support this measure.

RC:dna



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February 15, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 453
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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 453, 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** 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, February 13, 2017 8:46 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dale@hicattle.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB453 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

HB453

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
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:28 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB453 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

HB453

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
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	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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Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, February 15, 2017 — 8:40 a.m. — Room 312

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 453, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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, 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