

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 1, 2017  
8:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 783  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 783 which proposes to establish a two-year agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project to examine the effectiveness of prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the County of Hawaii. The department supports this bill provided it does not impact the department's priorities submitted in the Executive Budget.

Agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism have been a constant problem for farmers and ranchers on the island of Hawaii, increasing the cost of production and preventing farming operations to be successful. The vast farming land area on the island of Hawaii and limited law enforcement officers make it difficult to capture perpetrators.

If the intent of this bill is for a two-year project, the department respectfully requests that the department be allowed to submit a report of the findings and recommendations to the legislature by December 31, 2019.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 11:03 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** dale@hicattle.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 11:00 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** sue.leeloy@hawaiicounty.gov  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan L.K. Lee Loy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In strong support of HB 783.

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**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 1:24 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** alan@prloffice.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:

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PO BOX 116  
Honolulu, HI 96728  
[www.kayefamilyfarms.org](http://www.kayefamilyfarms.org)

Mahalo for the opportunity to support HB 783 Relating to Agricultural Theft.

Last year during peak Lychee Season our farm was "raided." Thieves cut whole large branches off of mature lychee trees, stealing about \$1,000 worth of ripe fruit in a few minutes. Worse, these branches will not grow back, and the vandalized trees will not recover for years, compounding the losses for our farm.

During the lychee season, thieves stake-out either end of our rural access road, using cell phones to alert one another when farmers are coming and going from our farms. We set out motion sensor lights, camped out in fields, but could not defend our farm while going to our day jobs or running errands in town. We are completely exposed and alone, with the nearest police station 30 minutes' drive away. When officers do arrive, they are unaware of state agricultural theft laws that lower the dollar amount that triggers a felony offense, and require that produce in transit be accompanied by a bill of lading (documentation of whose produce it is, and who has a right to transport it). Officers have not been trained to take it seriously.

This bill would make it clear that ag theft *is theft*, has a serious impact on a farmer's bottom line, and *will be prosecuted*. Thank you for your consideration.

Springer Kaye, Owner

Kaye Family Farms

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 2:27 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 4:45 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** steve@playtoplay.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steve Jefferson	Company Rum LLC	Support	No

Comments: This will put some very necessary teeth into a law that is flagrantly ignored because people know they will not be prosecuted. We have had incidents of agricultural vandalism and would love to see that the legislature supports agriculture as a business in Hawaii and will allow a process to prosecute those who would harm or steal.

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# HAWAII COFFEE COMPANY™

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Written Testimony of  
**Daniel Dinell**  
**President, Hawaii Coffee Company**  
before the  
**House Committee on Agriculture**  
Wednesday, February 1, 2017; 8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

RE: HB783 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Hawaii Coffee Company (HCC) **supports** HB 783, which establishes a two-year agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project to examine the effectiveness of prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the county of Hawaii and appropriates funds.

HCC has been in the coffee roasting business since 2000 and today is the world's largest roaster of Kona Coffee. Our 100 plus employees at our plant in Kalihi and other locations around the state, including in Captain Cook, the heart of the South Kona coffee district, earn a livelihood milling, roasting, packing, distributing, and retailing coffee. We have a major retail presence throughout Hawaii, are a leading provider of coffee to Hawaii hotels and restaurants as well as an exporter of our products around the globe.

HCC does not own or operate any coffee farms, but we enthusiastically support coffee farmers by buying millions of dollars of coffee cherry in the Kona district, pulping and drying it into coffee parchment and milling it into green coffee beans. This bill helps farmers by going after a difficult problem that makes farming, already a challenging activity, much more difficult. Farmers put time, energy and money into their fields/pastures, so when criminals steal or vandalize it really is an affront economically and emotionally.

HB 783 deserves this committee support. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 5:54 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** hajim@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Geoffrey Hajim	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My farm has had six mature avocado trees CUT DOWN and KILLED for the avocados. I photographed the license plate of the criminal during the crime, but the police said they can't do anything.

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P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
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e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 1, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 783**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312  
8:30 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.

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

**HFB strongly supports HB 783**, which would establish a two-year agricultural theft pilot project to work with the county of Hawaii to hire an enforcement officer within the county of Hawaii to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft.

Agricultural theft and vandalism are persistent problems facing agriculture. Weather, drought, pests, weeds, disease, activists, unstable markets, transportation and labor issues, and a changing climate all contribute to uncertainty for farmers and ranchers. Few businesses face such challenges, yet we are charged with producing food, fiber, fuel and flowers for the 99% of non-farmers. Add in the constant threat and impacts of trespass, theft and vandalism, and it's a wonder farms and ranches remain viable.

In working with our members, HDOA, and law enforcement, we have collectively concluded that a dedicated enforcement officer housed in the county prosecutor's office would be a giant step forward in minimizing agricultural crimes and enhancing public safety. Too often a farmer or rancher has sweated, worried, and worked to the bone to produce a crop, only to wake up one morning to find that an opportunistic criminal has helped himself to the harvest. Farmers and ranchers are fed up with this activity and frankly, deserve better. We understand that law enforcement resources are often

prioritized for public health and safety. Is the health, safety and livelihood of a farmer and his family any less important? We think not.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 8:39 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** dmitts@kohalacenter.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Donna Mitts	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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January 31, 2017

Members of the 29<sup>th</sup> Hawaii State Legislature

**RE: HB783 Relating to Agricultural Theft and Vandalism**

Agricultural theft and vandalism is a major problem throughout the State of Hawaii. Our farmers are robbed of their equipment and their produce while their facilities are often vandalized causing significant economic loss.

We all understand the importance of our farms and farmers. Our support for them, their operations and their well-being is expressed in a number of ways. Through HB783 we have the opportunity to express our support in a palpable and meaningful way: by helping them to combat one of the most insidious activities that saps their economic strength and their will to continue.

As a land owner with over 100 farm operations on our land we have worked hand in hand with our farmers and with the Hawaii County Prosecutor's office to find means of combating Agricultural Theft and Vandalism. The problems are daunting, with thousands of acres of agricultural lands and tens of miles of borders in rural Puna, keeping our lands free of trespassers of all kinds is a nearly impossible job – particularly during night hours.

The determination of thieves has proven to be nearly unbelievable. They drive off of State Highways crossing significant berms to get into farms; they cut down significant foliage (trees more than 30 feet high) to create access points; they use ATV's that are swift and highly maneuverable to run throughout the farms; they use stolen trucks to ram through gates. And the list could go on. Once in the farm lands they target valuable farm equipment and produce. To hide their identity they wear masks, gloves and even costumes to ensure that their identities will be hard to discover.

This bill would result in a concentrated effort to find means of preventing agricultural theft and arresting those perpetrating theft in our communities. I would note that as a company, W. H. Shipman has spent over \$100,000/year in efforts to combat this problem; we are not alone among those in the community spending heavily with too few results. Additional help from the State would make a real difference.

We would greatly appreciate your affirmative consideration of these bills

Sincerely,

Bill Walter  
President

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16-523 Keaau-Pahoa Road Keaau, HI 96749  
tel.: 808.966.9325 • fax: 808.966.8522  
[www.whshipman.com](http://www.whshipman.com)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:54 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** keith@keithranney.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keith Ranney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:50 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** sunnysavage@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sunny Savage-Luskin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:39 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** surf77@mac.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ROBERT DUERR	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 783. Do you know how hard it is to farm? The human insects that steal crops need to be stopped. What's so hard to understand about this?

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:36 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** jmccay@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James McCay	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Being a farmer is tough enough work and very challenging to be sustainable and productive if crippled by theft or vandalism. Everything possible and pragmatic must be done to assist good pono people become successful in farming. Perhaps criminals prosecuted (and why not homeless too?) could help for hours on farms around Hawaii? Thank you for supporting.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:32 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** bob@fergusonleadersunlimited.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bob Ferguson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: If farmers can't feel protected from theft it will have a chilling effect on expansion of local production.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:28 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** earthasone@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lawrence Koss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:14 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** breezybees808@Gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Briana Hurley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha I support this bill and ask that you do as well. When farmers have their property stolen or vandalized, we are all affected. Some of these incidents place great burden on the farmer, and may even put them out of business. Thank you for your time.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:58 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** johnnaylor@kula.us  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:19 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** alohalways@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tanja Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:35 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** begoniabarry@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:05 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** rkaiwi@hicoffeeco.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roger Kaiwi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, for years Hawaii Farmers have not received the attention from HDOA for AG theft and other issues. We urge you to pass HB783 to protect our rights .  
RK

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:05 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** westmango7@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joy Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:36 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** alan31sail@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Egusa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need to promote food independence in Hawaii. Having our lives literally dependent on shipping is not a good long term situation. We need to produce most of the food we eat, and all measures that will help to achieve this goal should be supported. All of this will not work if people can simply steal produce from a farm with impunity. Thank you.

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:11 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** kristenmartinek@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017  
Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kristen Martinek	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

# Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Ninth Legislature, 2017  
State of Hawaii

## COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair  
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 1, 2017  
8:30 AM  
Conference Room 312  
415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act

### **HB783** RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) **SUPPORTS** House **Bill 783**.

Our industry has noticed an increase in theft targeting Agriculture and agree that steps do need to be taken to help ease the burden off farmers.

We find it unfortunate that farms are being viewed as an easy source of theft due to their size and open nature. My own farm of Green Point Nurseries has been a victim of theft, with vehicles and farm equipment and supplies being stolen. We feel the need to patrol our farms at night and worry that we will be unable to work the next day with tools and supplies gone missing, or that all of our hard work will go towards replacing the items that were stolen.

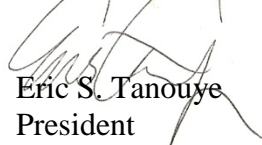
HFNA supports this bill and we hope that it will help everyone understand the theft problem that is facing agriculture, so that farmers can continue to be farmers.

We thank you for your consideration of HB783. If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email [eric@greenpointnursery.com](mailto:eric@greenpointnursery.com).



# Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,



Eric S. Tanouye

President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 12:49 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** chris@mentzel.com  
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**HB783**

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Mentzel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill is helping local farmers in Hawaii. I am in full support of it.

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**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

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**OUR MISSION**

HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices and build a healthy economy.

**TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**IN SUPPORT OF HB783  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, 02-01-17 8:30AM

House conference room 312



Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA). HCIA is a Hawaii based non-profit organization promoting agricultural bio tech to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy state economy.

HCIA is in support of HB783. We recognize that there are many challenges that confront today's farmers: weather, pests, soil conditions, among many. Unfortunately, for some, there is also the issue of agricultural theft and vandalism. It is a serious ongoing problem with reports of thefts of crops, machinery and tools, animals and the vandalism of property, fences and gates or equipment.

We have seen these instances particularly on the Big Island. We assert that there needs to be additional focus on this crime since the perpetuation of these acts have increased the cost of production and stymied agriculture.

The proposed pilot program will be a step in the right direction of seeing justice appropriately served. We humbly ask for your support of HB783.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Bennette Misalucha

Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:23 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
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**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sydney smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** sunshineconsulting808@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM

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**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elizabeth Barretto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need to appropriate funds for this.

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**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** carlosm650@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB783 on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM

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**HB783**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carlos Monica	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I personally have met Farmers who have had diesel gas and equipment stolen and others have had their papaya crops stolen. Making funds available to study the impact of this is necessary and would be good for Farmers and their insurers.

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