



SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

LATE

Monday, March 13, 2017 1:15 PM Room 224
In SUPPORT HB 891 HD1 Relating to Agriculture

Aloha Chairman Gabbard and members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters throughout the state, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i strongly supports HB 891 HD1, which would require the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and office of the governor to develop a strategic plan to double local food production and exports by 2020.

Our State Constitution mandates that we “conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, [and] increase agricultural self-sufficiency.”¹ As the bill points out, studies have shown that by even replacing 10% of the food we currently import with locally grown food, Hawai‘i would realize significant benefits to its economy.² In addition to the more than 2,300 jobs that would be created, the State would generate around \$6 million in state tax revenues alone.³

By establishing a strategic plan to assist the State in reaching its 2020 goal of doubling local food production, HB 891 HD1 is directly aligned with the State’s constitutional duty and will greatly benefit the people of Hawai‘i. Further, any decrease in the amount of food and agriculture products being imported into Hawai‘i would substantially benefit our beautiful natural environment by reducing our carbon footprint, while simultaneously decreasing our risk to harmful invasive species introductions.⁴

For the reasons mentioned above, we urge you to support HB 891 HD1. Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Mahalo,
Martha Townsend
Director

¹ Haw. Const. Art. XI § 3.

² PingSun Leung & Matthew Loke, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii at Manoa, *Economic Impacts of Increasing Hawai‘i’s Food Self-Sufficiency*, p.6 (Dec. 2008) available at: <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/add/files/2012/12/FoodSSReport.pdf>.

³ Leung & Loke, *supra* note 2, at 4-6.

⁴ *Id.*



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SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Monday, March 13, 2017 — 1:15 p.m. — Room 224

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 891 HD 1, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, 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 891 HD 1, which develops a strategic plan to double local food production by 2020, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

Ulupono is supportive of the Governor's plan to double local food production by 2020. However, to meet such an ambitious goal, it is important to have a strategic plan to help the industry, funders, policymakers, and the public. If everyone is using similar metrics and are on the same page, it will help to provide guidance so organizations like Ulupono can be more effective at aligning our actions. We also understand that with so many funding requests to the Legislature, what gets measured gets funded. We hope more metrics and information will help provide momentum at the Legislature for increasing funding for agricultural initiatives.

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,

Kyle Datta
General Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 2:02 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: skaye@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB891 on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM

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HB891

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for AEN on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments: The increased production of locally-grown food will improve the local economy, stop the conversion of abandoned prime agricultural land into secondary invasive-species-dominated forests, and may reduce the risk of importing invasive pests. For these reasons, BIISC supports measures to increase local food production.

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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