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Governor

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Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
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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**

**MARCH 15, 2017**  
**8:30 A.M.**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**SENATE BILL NO. 340 SD1**  
**RELATING TO URBAN AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 340 SD1 that requires the counties to fully consider urban agriculture principles and policies. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent and defers to the counties to determine what is appropriate to their specific circumstances.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 6:36 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** william.spence@mauicounty.gov  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB340 on Mar 15, 2017 08:30AM

**SB340**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 15, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Spence	Maui Planning Department	Comments Only	No

Comments: The Maui Planning Department can support this bill in its current form. We already incorporate the concepts of urban agriculture into our long-range plans through objectives, policies, and implementing actions. We already allow agriculture in our residential and apartment zoning that would be considered consistent with residential uses. Such ag would be truck farms, green houses, and community gardens. Please note that we opposed the House version which required that the counties allow "processing" and "marketing" in their codes. The unintended consequences could be that "processing" such as a slaughter house, distillery, or commercial canneries would be allowed. Piggeries and stock yards would be allowed under the previous version. Those uses are not compatible with our residential areas, and we would oppose any effort to re-introduce those requirements. Mahalo

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March 15, 2017

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 340, SD1**  
RELATING TO URBAN 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.

Hawaii Farm Bureau **supports the intent of SB 340, SD1, with comments**, creating opportunities in Urban Agriculture.

S.3420 introduced by Senator Stenebow, titled "Urban Agriculture Act of 2016" clearly recognizes the changes in agriculture. Farm Bureau supports the concept of Urban agriculture. AFBF President Zippy Duvall states:

*"As an organization that supports farmers of all sizes, commodities and production systems, Farm Bureau believes this legislation will build a stronger bond among all farmers--rural, suburban and urban."*

We strongly believe that it will take all kinds of agriculture, complementing each other to achieve Hawaii's goal of moving the needle on Hawaii's level of self-sufficiency and sustainability.

We also need to be aware of changes in people's expectations of agriculture and the regulatory environment within which ag exists. This measure addresses this concern through the requirement of ordinances in County zoning laws. Based on our experience, we strongly recommend consultation with the various Counties while moving forth with this measure.

Implementation criteria are important. People in residential zoning have expectations of the environment in their communities. Would the sounds of livestock be acceptable? How much traffic would be tolerated with home based marketing? In rural areas, crime

has increased and neighborhood watches are implemented to watch for unknown vehicles in the area. How will this be handled?

These are real concerns. The prospect of more people growing food provides an excellent opportunity to connect with people to develop an understanding of agriculture. At the same time, we need to balance this with the expectations of the neighborhood. Roof top farming truly provide opportunities. On the other hand careful consideration of an empty lot in a business district must be evaluated carefully. There are concerns about urban sprawl. It should not be an unintended consequence of utilizing empty lots. Should the lot be used for low income housing? HFB looks forward to being part of the dialogue to reach a workable program.

HFB respectfully requests your consideration of County zoning concerns as this measure is considered.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this important subject.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2017 4:14 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB340 on Mar 15, 2017 08:30AM\*

**SB340**

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 15, 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, March 13, 2017 6:35 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** jamesjtz@aol.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB340 on Mar 15, 2017 08:30AM\*

**SB340**

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 15, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:28 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** rfurst808@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB340 on Mar 15, 2017 08:30AM



**SB340**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 15, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard Furst	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I believe that urban agriculture is critically important to our community's food security on Oahu. Our land use policies should reflect this goal, and I strongly support any measure such as SB340 that furthers this aim. Mahalo for your kokua!

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