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Governor

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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**

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

**SENATE BILL NO. 352 SD1  
RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL LOAN REVOLVING FUND**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 352 SD1 which appropriates funds into the agricultural loan revolving fund. The Department strongly supports this bill.

This bill seeks to expand the Department's Agricultural Loan Program by providing additional funds to support the start-up capital in generating the State's next generation of farmers. The Galbraith lands on Oahu are now becoming available for production agriculture and farmers will be able to take advantage of these lands to fully mechanize production, utilize new technologies and achieve greater economies of scale. Access to affordable capital will be vital in helping these new operations to develop.

The department believes the agricultural loan program is the best avenue to provide access to affordable capital, as clients will not borrow more than they need, repayment of principal can assist future borrowers, and interest collected helps pay for the program. Investing funds into the program will help to preserve and expand agriculture production throughout the islands, enabling the replacement of food imports and increasing food sustainability for the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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March 15, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 352, SD1**  
RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURAL LOAN REVOLVING FUND

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.

**HFB supports SB 352, SD1**, which appropriates moneys to and from the agricultural loan revolving fund.

Food security, food self-sufficiency and growing agriculture are popular concepts seen in many of the measures before the legislature this year. This Legislative Session, there have been many bills introduced that support of Hawaii's Agricultural Industry. This year, HFB has introduced a package of measures addressing the real needs of our farmers and ranchers all associated with increasing farm and ranch viability. These include infrastructure needs, agricultural education, Food Safety, invasive species control, and regulatory assistance.

This measure supports the growth of Hawaii's agricultural industry by providing additional funding to HDOA to assist Hawaii in growing its agriculture sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2017 3:16 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** dale@hicattle.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB352 on Mar 15, 2017 08:30AM\*

**SB352**

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>
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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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Wednesday, March 15, 2017 — 8:30 a.m. — Room 312

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 352 SD 1, Relating to the Agricultural Loan Revolving Fund**

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 SB 352 SD 1**, which provides funding for the agricultural loan revolving fund, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

One major persistent and formidable obstacle to expanding, diversifying, and ensuring the sustainability of Hawai'i's local food production is the need for substantial capital investment in agriculture infrastructure, technologies, facilities, agricultural workforce training, and production activities. Yet, our local farmers and ranchers have few options for agricultural financing. The agricultural loan revolving fund is one of the many ways the State has been supportive of agriculture in Hawai'i over the years. We urge this committee to support continued funding for the revolving fund to help increase local food production.

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

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2017 4:14 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB352 on Mar 15, 2017 08:30AM\*

**SB352**

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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