

SB 781

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

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Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**FEBRUARY 3, 2017
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 781
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 781, which proposes to establish the agricultural 2030 investment program and a farm to plate program in the State. The department has concerns with this measure and offers comments.

As written, this bill asks the Department to create a strategic plan by December 1, 2017 to identify the following:

- An inventory of Hawaii's agricultural system infrastructure including value added good produced, value added processors, current markets, current infrastructure in agriculture, sources of losses and mitigation measures to reduce losses, existing available Ag lands, potential for new farmers to enter the Ag economy, potential for new local products and barriers to markets, other barriers affecting Ag viability and suggested mitigation measures;
- Describe a plan for the farm to plate program and grant funding for such a program;
- Methods and funding necessary to strengthen the links among producers, processors, and markets including collaboration with State procurement



office to increase local Ag products in State institutions, collaboration with private business sector, informing financial institutions of this strategic plan, and collaboration with UH to resolve challenges facing farmers and ranchers; and

- Provide measureable goals for the life of the program and any updates to the program.

The Department has strong concerns with what this bill asks in the timeframe allotted. Essentially, this measure asks the Department to centralize all data available and provide an overview of the entire agricultural industry in Hawaii. With a 5-month timeframe and the nature of funding availability, the Department will struggle to provide information for such a robust strategic plan that realistically could take years to put together.

The bill also highlights a “Farm to Plate” program to “ensure access to local and healthy food in the State.” The bill states that the Department will support direct marketing efforts of farmers’ markets, community supported agriculture operations, and regional community food hubs. Without any further guidance, the Department will have to perform the necessary research and due diligence to develop a new program. Accordingly, this will require resources.

The Department understands the importance of strategic planning, however this bill seems to stretch the current resources at HDOA with a stringent timeframe and scope of work. The Department would like to note that the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan, recently released, took the Department nearly a year to release and required ample resources in both personnel and funding. This bill extends through various agricultural issues for local farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:36 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB781 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM*

SB781

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: ablukens@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB781 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM*

SB781

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Lukens	Hawaii Center for Food Safety	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: mnakahata@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB781 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM*

SB781

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mae Nakahata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: [Lorie Farrell](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB781 - 2030 Agricultural Investment & Farm to Plate Program
Date: Thursday, February 2, 2017 3:30:33 PM

From: info@loriefarrell.com <Lorie Farrell >

Message:

Investing in agriculture is vital!

I support SB 781 to Grow Hawaii Agriculture!

Growing Hawaii Agriculture requires Agricultural Investment and growing our markets from Farm to Plate.

Please Support Hawaii Agriculture, Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Lorie Farrell