

**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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS**

**FEBRUARY 27, 2017  
9:40 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 839  
RELATING TO THE PUNA DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL PARK**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 839 relating to the Puna District Agricultural Park. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for a feasibility study for planning and land acquisition for an agricultural park in the Puna district. The department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the priorities identified in the department's executive biennium budget.

One of the primary missions of the Department of Agriculture is the provision of affordable agricultural land for long-term leasing. The continued growth of diversified agriculture provides additional food security for the state's residents and visitors, as well as ensuring the protection of green space to preserve the natural beauty of our islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Monday, February 27, 2017  
9:40 A.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 839  
RELATING TO THE PUNA DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL PARK**

Senate Bill 839 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) for a feasibility study for planning and land acquisition for an agricultural park in the Puna District to provide access to agricultural lands for small scale farmers. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure as long as it does not replace our priorities requested in the Executive Budget.**

The Department supports the establishment of agricultural parks in areas safely removed from the State's vulnerable native forests and will cooperate with DOA to determine whether there are any state-owned agricultural lands in the Puna District available for such a park.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

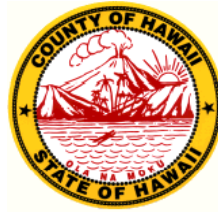
**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**KEKOA KALUHIWA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**Harry Kim**  
*Mayor*



**Wil Okabe**  
*Managing Director*

**Barbara J. Kossow**  
*Deputy Managing Director*

**County of Hawai'i**  
**Office of the Mayor**

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Dear Chair Tokuda and committee members:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of SB 839.

As you know, SB 839 would appropriate funds for a feasibility study for an agricultural park in the Puna district. Puna covers a large geographic area (about the size of the Island of Kauai) and because it has relatively low-cost housing, its population has boomed over the years. However, economic opportunities within the district are extremely limited.

Puna is blessed with fertile soil, ample rainfall, and residents who are willing to work hard, so it has great potential in agriculture. But land that Puna residents could afford and which would be suitable for farming would be difficult to find. For this reason, a new agricultural park in Puna would be most welcomed.

We support SB 839.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim  
Mayor  
County of Hawaii



**LATE**

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February 27, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 839**  
RELATING TO THE PUNA DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL PARK

Room 211  
9:40 AM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, 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 839**, which appropriates funds for a feasibility study for planning and land acquisition for an agricultural park in the Puna district.

HFB believes that in order for agriculture to flourish in Hawaii and reach their full potential, land availability and long-term leases at affordable and predictable lease rental rates are critical. The acquisition by the state of agricultural lands will significantly increase the available agricultural land under the State's control and will provide farmers with long-term leases that will enhance the economic viability of Hawaii's agriculture industry.

We believe this is an opportunity to further support and expand the state's ability to provide agricultural lands for farmers, which is consistent with the State's goal of increasing self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 26, 2017 11:28 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** legechair@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB839 on Feb 27, 2017 09:40AM\*

**SB839**

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2017 09:40AM in Conference Room 211

<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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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 25, 2017 7:40 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** katc31999@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB839 on Feb 27, 2017 09:40AM\*

**SB839**

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2017 09:40AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kat Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 25, 2017 9:28 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** 333cory@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB839 on Feb 27, 2017 09:40AM

**SB839**

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2017 09:40AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha legislators, The more we grow our own food, the better protected we are from shipping disruptions. mahalo, Cory Harden, Hilo

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 26, 2017 3:27 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** rachel.e.mason1@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB839 on Feb 27, 2017 09:40AM

**SB839**

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2017 09:40AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel Mason	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Widespread economically, ecologically, and socially sustainable agriculture on the Big Island would be a big win all round. To get that established, we will need to answer many difficult questions about appropriate agricultural methods and economic issues. The Puna district has many characteristics that make it potentially suitable for fostering sustainable agriculture (available land, rainfall, infrastructure, need for job opportunities). A thoughtful and well-executed Puna ag park feasibility study will therefore be a worthwhile step in a very important direction.

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