



**OFFICE OF PLANNING  
STATE OF HAWAII**

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846  
Fax: (808) 587-2824  
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of  
**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**  
Wednesday, February 14, 2018  
8:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of  
**HB 1785**  
**RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS.**

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports HB 1785, provided the appropriation does not replace the Administration's priorities requested in the Executive Budget. HB 1785 would appropriate funds for grants-in-aid to the counties for the identification and mapping of agricultural lands for designation as important agricultural lands (IAL) by the State Land Use Commission (LUC), pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 205-47. HB 1785 appropriates \$250,000 for Fiscal Year 2018-19, to be allocated equally among the four counties.

Funding would facilitate completion of the county IAL mapping process and possibly accelerate the timeframe for submittal of county petitions for IAL to the LUC. However, it is our understanding that the County of Kauai has completed their mapping studies and does not anticipate petitioning for the designation of additional IAL lands beyond what has already been designated under the voluntary petition process. The City and County of Honolulu is also nearing the completion of its identification and mapping process, and maps of proposed IAL are currently undergoing public review and comment prior to submittal to the Honolulu City Council.

This raises the question of whether the grants-in-aid to the County of Kauai and the City and County of Honolulu would be allowed for reimbursement for the work that has been completed. This may need to be clarified in the measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**DOUGLAS CHIN**  
Acting Lieutenant Governor

**LUIS P. SALAVERIA**  
Director

**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Deputy Director



**LAND USE COMMISSION**  
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism  
State of Hawai`i

**DANIEL ORODENKER**  
Executive Officer

**Bert K. Saruwatari**  
Planner  
**SCOTT A.K. DERRICKSON AICP**  
Planner

**RILEY K. HAKODA**  
Chief Clerk/Planner

**FRED A. TALON**  
Drafting Technician

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Statement of  
**Daniel E. Orodener**  
**Executive Officer**  
Land Use Commission  
Before the  
**House Committee on Agriculture**  
Wednesday February 14, 2018  
8:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of  
**HB 1785**  
**RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee on Agriculture:

The Land Use Commission supports HB 1785 that would provide funds for grants-in-aid to the counties for the identification and mapping of important agricultural lands (IAL).

The IAL identification and mapping process for the counties as set out in Section 205-47, Hawai`i Revised Statutes (HRS) requires significant public involvement to include coordination with a broad range of stakeholders, public meetings, and citizen advisory groups. Adequate funding to complete this process could result in a quality product supported by a broad range of stakeholders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**DOUGLAS S. CHIN**  
Lt. Governor



**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2018**  
**8:30 A.M.**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1785**  
**RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1785 that appropriates the sum of \$250,000 for FY2018-19 to the Department of Business and Economic Development, and Tourism to be disbursed equally to each of the four the counties as grants-in-aid in support of their responsibility to identify and map potential Important Agricultural Lands pursuant to Section 205-47. The Department of Agriculture supports this measure that will help to move forward the Important Agricultural Lands Law with respect to completion of the county mapping process and subsequent designation by the Land Use Commission, and allowing the owners and farmers of these lands to have access to the IAL Incentives in support of agricultural production.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.



**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Arthur Brun  
Mason K. Chock  
Arryl Kaneshiro  
Derek S.K. Kawakami  
JoAnn A. Yukimura



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk  
Scott K. Sato, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188  
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349  
E-mail: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 8, 2018

**TESTIMONY OF DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON**

**HB 1785, RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Conference Room 312

Dear Chair Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 1785, Relating to Important Agricultural Lands. My testimony is submitted as Vice President of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties, and in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council and Chair of the Council's Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

HB 1785, Relating to Important Agricultural Lands, is included in the 2018 Hawai'i State Association of Counties Legislative Package. This measure will help to move forward the Important Agricultural Lands ("IAL") Law with respect to completion of the county mapping process and subsequent designation by the Land Use Commission, and allow the owners and farmers of these lands to have access to the IAL Incentives in support of agricultural production.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the House Committee on Agriculture to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

**DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI**  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:lc

**HB-1785**

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 8:51:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura	Maui County Council	Support	No

## Comments:

I support this bill which implements Act 183 in accordance with the State's constitutional duty to protect important agricultural lands by providing funds to the counties for the identification and mapping of important agricultural lands.

# Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC)

Counties of Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i and City & County of Honolulu

74-5044 Aie Keshokalele Highway, Bldg A, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

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February 8, 2018

TESTIMONY OF DRU KANUHA  
HSAC PRESIDENT  
ON HB 1785, RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS  
Committee on Agriculture  
Wednesday, February 14, 2018  
8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Creagan and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties in **support** of House Bill 1785, relating to important agricultural lands which is included in the 2018 Hawai'i State Association of Counties Legislative Package.

The purpose of this measure implements Act 183, SLH 2005, in accordance with the State's constitutional duty to protect important agricultural lands by providing funds to the counties for the identification and mapping of important agricultural lands.

In 2005, the legislature enacted Act 183 which directed each county to identify and map potential important agricultural lands. Designation would allow for a variety of incentive programs and favorable infrastructure and permit requirements. Most counties did not receive state funds to assist with the duties imposed by Act 183 and have not yet completed the identification and mapping process. The funding of \$250,000 would greatly help implement and achieve the purposes and goals of the program.

HSAC supports this measure for the reasons stated above and we urge the Committee on Agriculture to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.



DRU KANUHA  
HSAC PRESIDENT

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Wil Okabe  
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow  
Deputy Managing Director

## County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 12, 2018

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair  
Committee on Agriculture  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 312  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Creagan and Committee Members:

**Re: HB 1785 Relating to Important Agricultural Lands**  
**Hearing Date: 02/14/18 – 8:30 am; House Conference Room 312**

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on HB 1785 dealing with Important Agricultural Lands (IAL).

The County of Hawai'i's General Plan and various Community Development Plans have goals, objectives, and policies consistent with preserving viable and productive agricultural land for farming and ranching. This County supports the intent of IAL, and any funding assistance from the state is welcomed, but offer some concerns and suggested amendments to HB 1785.

There are a number of issues that will not be resolved by this bill at its proposed funding level:

- The County of Hawai'i has more than 1.2 million acres designated as state land use (SLU) agriculture, far more than any other county (followed by Maui having just over 400,000 acres on its three islands).
- With other critical priorities in play, this County does not foresee having the staff, funds, or capacity in the coming years to initiate the IAL study and extensive landowner and public outreach required by Act 183, especially given the size of our island.
- Pursuant to HRS 205-45, Landowners can, at any time in the process, file a petition and lock out the county proceedings, thereby rendering moot any analysis, time, and expense already incurred by the counties.

During Hawai'i County's last General Plan review in 2005, we took information from a study being done by USGS, which was an initial effort in the direction of

identifying IAL, but it did not include the level of research required for true IAL based on Act 183 and was not intended to substantiate going public with a petition to the LUC. In consideration of the above, we request amendments to HB 1785 regarding the following:

1. The preamble of HB 1785 talks about identifying IAL “within sixty months of receipt of state funds.” The sixty month timeframe should be deleted, or if it must remain, triggered by petition of the counties to the state to accept the funds, which must be approved by our County Council.
2. While any state contribution to the IAL effort is always welcomed, the amount of money proposed in HB 1785 would be only a fraction of what is needed statewide. In consideration of what the other counties have spent on their IAL efforts, we respectfully request that the total sum be increased to at least \$2 million.
3. Although evenly splitting the funds among the counties may appear equitable, the cost of such a study is tied more closely to the amount of land studied and the number of parcels/landowners that will require review, consultation and coordination. We thereby request that you consider dividing the funds based on a percentage of state land use agriculture lands in each county, rather than dividing them equally.

Finally, to be fair, we would support the use of these funds to reimburse the other counties for IAL efforts they have concluded or currently have in process.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Kim", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Harry Kim  
Mayor, County of Hawai'i



Council Chair  
Mike White

Vice-Chair  
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Stacy Crivello

Councilmembers  
Alika Atay  
Elle Cochran  
Don S. Guzman  
Riki Hokama  
Kelly T. King  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 12, 2018

TO: The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Stacy Crivello, Secretary  
Hawaii State Association of Counties

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 14, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB  
1785, RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to implement Act 183, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, in accordance with the State's constitutional duty to protect important agricultural lands, by providing funds to the counties for the identification and mapping of important agricultural lands.

This measure is included in the Hawaii State Association of Counties' ("HSAC") Legislative Package; therefore, I offer this testimony as HSAC's Secretary.

I am aware that the President of HSAC has submitted testimony, on behalf of HSAC, in support of this measure. As Secretary, I concur with the testimony submitted by the President, and urge you to **support** this measure.

ocs:proj:legis:18legis:18testimony:hb1785\_paf18-056\_jgk



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Wednesday, February 14, 2018 — 8:30 a.m. — Room 312

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 1785, Relating to Important Agricultural Lands**

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 better management of waste and fresh water. 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 1785**, which provides grants to the counties for identifying and mapping important agricultural lands, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

The Important Agricultural Lands designation is one of the policies that helps to keep agricultural land in agriculture, especially as development grows. This funding will help counties to designate key lands for agriculture. Once designated, agricultural operations on important agricultural lands are eligible for favorable benefits and regulations. Greater clarity on Important Agricultural Lands will help provide expanded opportunities for farmers and ranchers to obtain access to high quality land at affordable rates by protecting such land from development. The cost and availability of high quality land is a critical requirement for the success of local agriculture.

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

**HB-1785**

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 4:00:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

We STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. Mahalo.

**HB-1785**

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 4:03:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel L. Kailianu	Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	Yes

Comments:

**HB-1785**

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 11:52:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jacqui Hoover	Hawaii Island Economic Development Board	Support	Yes

Comments:

**HB-1785**

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 11:55:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jacqui Hoover	Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference	Support	Yes

Comments:



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**  
**Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair**  
**Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair**

DATE: Wednesday, February 7, 2018  
TIME: 8:30 AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 312

**HB 1785 – RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS.**

Implements Act 183, SLH 2005, in accordance with the State's constitutional duty to protect important agricultural lands by providing funds to the counties for the identification and mapping of important agricultural lands.

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dale Sandlin, and I am Managing Director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 150+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports** HB 1785 as this measure will provide funding to the counties for identification and mapping of Important Agricultural Lands (IAL).

With the constant pressure of development, keeping lands in agricultural production becomes more difficult every year. The designation of IAL lands has proven successful as many producers have designated these lands to remain in agricultural production. The ranching industry has designated thousands of acres to agricultural production on nearly every island.

By providing a funding mechanism to identify and map potential properties for IAL, the counties would be given the resources to encourage more landowners to place their land in the program. This could also allow for the counties to utilize the rural designation for lands that are not suitable for agricultural production.

We respectfully ask this committee to pass this measure and we appreciate the opportunity to testify on this important matter.







ALEXANDER & BALDWIN  
PARTNERS FOR HAWAII

**HB 1785  
RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

**PAUL T. OSHIRO  
DIRECTOR – GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS  
ALEXANDER & BALDWIN, INC.**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2018**

Chair Creagan and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

I am Paul Oshiro, testifying on behalf of Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. (A&B) on HB 1785, "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS." We support this bill.

After over twenty five years of debate, negotiation, and compromise, the IAL Law and process was finally enacted in July 2008. After years of pursuing a land-use approach to this constitutional mandate, the IAL Law that was successfully passed (Act 183 (2005) and Act 233 (2008)) was premised on the principle that the best way to preserve agricultural lands is to preserve agricultural businesses and agricultural viability. As such, the IAL Law not only provides the standards, criteria, and processes to identify and designate important agricultural lands to fulfill the intent and purpose of Article XI, Section 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution, it also provides for a package of incentives designated to support and encourage sustained, viable agricultural activity on IAL.

The IAL Law presently authorizes the identification and designation of IAL in one of two ways --- by voluntary petition to the State Land Use Commission by the landowner or farmer; or subsequently by the Counties filing a petition to designate lands as IAL pursuant

to a County identification and mapping process. In either case, the LUC determines whether the petitioned lands qualify for IAL designation pursuant to the standards, criteria, objectives, and policies set forth in the IAL Law. To date, the voluntary petition process has resulted in the designation by the LUC of over 130,000 acres of agricultural lands as IAL from voluntary petitions by Alexander & Baldwin, Parker Ranch, Castle & Cooke, Mahaulepu Farm, Grove Farm, Monsanto, the Robinson Family, and Kamehameha Schools.

This bill provides grants in aid to the Counties for the identification and mapping of IAL. With the voluntary petition process already providing a significant amount of IAL throughout Hawaii, this appropriation will assist the Counties in fulfilling the second method of IAL designation, which will be initiated by the County identification and mapping of IAL. When completed, these County maps will be forwarded to the LUC which will enable them to designate qualified lands as IAL.

Based on the aforementioned, we respectfully request your favorable consideration on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1785**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 3:50:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Monday, February 14, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 312

**RE: Testimony in Support** of HB 1785 RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS

To the Honorable Richard P. Creagann, Chair; the Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 1785, relating to Important Agricultural Lands.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No.1785 and supports its passage as it protects Important Agricultural Lands.

House Bill No.1785 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as, in accordance with the State's constitutional duty to protect important agricultural lands, House Bill No.1785 provides funds to the counties for the identification and mapping of important agricultural lands.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e support the designation of Important Agricultural Lands as a step towards preserving high-grade productive lands for current and future needs.(Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 109-110 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 1785 provides funds to the counties for the identification and mapping of important agricultural lands, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/**Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Tel.: (808) 258-8889



February 12, 2018

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair  
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture

**Comments in Support of HB 1785, Relating to Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) (Implements Act 183, Session Laws of Hawaii [SLH] 2005, in accordance with the State’s constitutional duty to protect IAL by providing funds to the counties for the identification and mapping of IAL)**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 8:30 a.m., in Conference Room 312**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF’s mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii’s significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 1785** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including IAL in Hawaii. The bill conveys the need for collaboration amongst diverse sectors of the community - business, government, and agricultural stakeholders - and the importance for them to work together cooperatively to identify and map potential IAL to improve the economic viability of the State’s agricultural industry.

**HB 1785.** The purpose of this bill is to implement Act 183 in accordance with the State’s constitutional duty to protect IAL by providing funds to the counties to identify and map IAL.

**LURF’s Position.** LURF believes that the proposed appropriation of general revenues for the operations of the Initiative is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes [HRS], Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution, “to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands.”

As noted in HRS Section 205-41, the intent of Act 183 (2005) was to develop agricultural incentive programs to promote agricultural viability, sustained growth of the agricultural industry, and the long-term use and protection of important agricultural lands for agricultural use.

Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be pointless without complete implementation of the law which is intended to provide programs, incentives and inducements, and which requires the cooperation and support of agricultural, business, and educational organizations, as well as government agencies in order to become fully-realized.

LURF members include private property owners, farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider the identification and assured availability of IAL critical to the continued conduct of their operations and to help sustain and preserve their businesses into the future. Regrettably, interest in agriculture continues to decline in Hawaii, however, LURF believes efforts to fully implement and preserve IAL would greatly help to perpetuate the agricultural industry in this State by providing the industry with support through incentive programs including grants and other funding and training assistance; favorable infrastructure and permit requirements; and farm and business education assistance to provide knowledge and inspire interest in agriculture and educate youth about the importance of increasing Hawaii's long-term resilience and sustainability.

As the identification and mapping of IAL and implementation of Act 183, SLH 2005 will significantly help to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii, LURF is in **support of HB 1785**.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this measure.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

**LATE**

February 14, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1785**  
RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS

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.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 1785**, which provides funds to the Counties for the identification and mapping of Important Agricultural Lands.

Since the enactment of the Constitutional Mandate in 1978 to preserve and protect Important Agricultural Lands (IAL), HFBF came before the Legislature every year with proposals of how this measure could be implemented. It was only in 2005 when the standards and criteria to designate IAL was finally passed and in 2008 when the incentives were passed. It was a long road.

We were pleased when the first lands were designated by Alexander and Baldwin in 2009 totaling nearly 4000 acres in Kauai. Today, we have over 100,000 acres that were voluntarily designated by landowners across the State. This year marks the ten-year anniversary since the passage of the State incentives in 2008. Counties are responsible for developing incentives, creating maps which after a due process, will be submitted to the LUC for designation as IAL. Act 183 (SLH 2005) states that the counties will work on identification and mapping of important agricultural lands via funding from the State disbursed through the Land Use Commission. Most Counties have yet to receive funding and in turn the county IAL identification and mapping has not progressed as anticipated.

HFB supports this measure implementing Act 183 by providing the funds necessary to identify and map IAL in each county.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**HB-1785**

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 12:32:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez		Support	No

Comments: