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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 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

FEBRUARY 14, 2018
9:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 309

HOUSE BILL NO. 2099, HD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Evans and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2099 HD1 that seeks to require the Department of Agriculture to conduct a feasibility study on “ag-tech” zones within residential and commercial areas of the City and County of Honolulu’s urban core. There is an appropriation. The purpose of an “ag-tech” zone is to promote technological innovation in agriculture to increase food production in a more effective and environmentally responsible way that also contributes to State revenues. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of the bill provided it does not impact the Department’s priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

The Department is concerned about redirecting our very limited departmental resources away from current duties and responsibilities to undertake the tasks specified in this measure in a comprehensive manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HB-2099-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 8:33:34 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/14/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
BUSINESS**

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 309

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2099 HD1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

To the Honorable Cindy Evans, Chair; the Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business:

Good morning, 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.2099 HD1 relating to a feasibility study on the establishment of ag-tech zones within the City and County of Honolulu.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 2099 HD1 and supports its passage as the feasibility study will consider new agricultural

production methods, such as vertical farming, which have enormous potential to increase crop yields in limited land space. Several other developed countries, such as Singapore, have successfully implemented vertical farming operations that balance urban development and food production.

House Bill No.2099 HD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the Department of Agriculture to conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of ag-tech zones within the City and County of Honolulu and appropriates funds for conducting the feasibility study.

The DPH Platform states that "[a]griculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability. We encourage the responsible development of ocean resources in order to achieve sustainability of our marine resources and ensure and improve the health of our reef and marine life.

This approach includes but is not limited to, the adoption of the native Hawaiian concept of ahupua'a, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include the development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times.

We will promote the ethical and safe production of livestock, dairy products, poultry, and eggs." (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-88 (2016)).

"As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy, sustainable, and diversified local food production, and "Buy Local" strategies to assure greater food security and food safety.

We recognize the essential link between the availability of adequate and affordable water and low-cost electrical power as essential components of viable agricultural businesses.

We support land use planning and infrastructure development to support sustainable diversified agriculture, including low-cost inter-island transportation of agricultural products. We likewise support publicly funded research and development for agricultural diversification and value-added products." (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 97-107(2016)).

"We need to give priority to the development of "green" sustainable industries and business. We need financial literacy and asset building programs to strengthen our 'ohana. Green commerce includes biodegradable or recycling packaging. We need to pursue relationships with the information technology industry. We need to invest in world-class higher education to stimulate our economic resources. We need to reduce

our dependence on tourism, real estate development, and military. A diversified economy will help to create diversified jobs. (Platform of the DPH, P.2, Lines 68-73 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 2099 HD1 requires the Department of Agriculture to conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of ag-tech zones within the City and County of Honolulu and appropriates funds for conducting the feasibility study, 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, Tel.: (808) 258-8889



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Economic Development and Business
Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2099 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Business:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2099 HD1. We are in full agreement that Hawai'i must entertain alternatives to its current agricultural operations. These alternatives should add to the diversity of agricultural systems that operate in the state.

Section 1. We feel that the purposes expressed in this section are appropriate and necessary.

Section 3. The principles outlined in this section are well outlined and necessary.

Section 4. We agree that this is an appropriate way to address the issue.

Section 5. CTAHR is capable of participating given the appropriate resources to adequately meet the mission objectives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support HB 2099 HD1.

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018



RE TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 2099, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

To the Honorable Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair; the Honorable Rep. Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 2099 I am strongly in favor of House Bill No. 2099.

Hawaii needs to look for more innovative ways toward food production without forgetting about our long history of protecting agricultural workers from decisions that provide benefits in the short term only to heap cost on the future. I feel this bill moves in the right direction striking a balance between integrating technology while supporting current and future agricultural workers.

This bill also addresses the need for Hawai'i to protect its food production since the onset of Rat Lung Worm Disease and other outside influences which have the potential to damage the reputation of Hawaii produced goods as well as diminish our domestic food supply.

Furthermore, this bill will seek to bring in the youth to see working in agriculture as a viable career pathway for youth that would like to pursue careers that are CTE (Career Technical Education) oriented through the innovative ways of using technology toward agricultural development.

In closing one of the most powerful reason to support this bill is its potential to massively increase food production in urban Honolulu. This is right step toward building up our state's food reliance and, possibly grow an export market which highlight made in Hawaii goods in which a new industry can be created.

Mahalo,

Ken Farm

Member At-Large
Neighborhood Board No. 15
Kalihi-Palama