

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 FINANCE

FEBRUARY 22, 2018
11:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 2099 HD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Luke 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.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 11:00 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 Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

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. There is significant potential to grow food in an urban environment. The positive outcomes of successful urban operations are several. First, the food that is being grown in an urban environment is in the population centers where the food demand exists. In fact, this is one tool for addressing food deserts in urban areas. Second, because of the location, transportation costs may be minimized. Third, there are possibilities in increasing efficiencies. However, there are down sides as well with the energy consumption being the greatest.

Vertical farming, the one option mentioned in the bill, is one component that fits into a general description of protective agriculture. Protected Ag, or “the modification of the natural environment to achieve optimal growth” is an approach that we feel is a potential future for Hawai'i. Beyond vertical farming, we also support low/high tunnels and greenhouse culture for appropriate crops.

Section 2. We feel that the term ag-tech could use a more complete definition in the bill. This term has been used in a variety of fashions including “transforming the global food system” to “getting smarter using digital technology”. We would suggest something such as: “using the latest technology addressing protected agriculture”. With a solid definition, the Department of Agriculture (DOA) will have a better sense of their mission. This definition also seems consistent with the vision of vertical farming stated in the bill, but expands it to cover all of protected ag.

Section 3. We see value in all aspects of this section.

Section 4. We see value in all aspects of this section

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2099 HD1.

HB-2099-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 9:38:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Thursday, February 22, 2018

11:00 AM

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

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

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

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, regarding 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 support its passage.

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.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides 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.

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.

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." (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-78, 82-86, 97-99 (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

HB-2099-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 12:38:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

TO THE COMMITTEE
ON FINANCE

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



NOTICE OF HEARING

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

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair; and Members of the Finance 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.

A section of this bill has a direct relation to education bringing students closer to the agricultural sector by way of exposure to new ways of learning outside the classroom setting and as the bill states: "to train and recruit youth for a new agricultural economy".

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