

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
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 7, 2018
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 2099
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2099 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. 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 Agriculture
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

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

HB 2099 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2099. We are in full agreement that Hawaii 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 Hawaii. 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, 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.

We support HB 2099 with the caveat that it does not affect, and is in addition to, the UH budget request. We also defer to the DOA as per their ability to accomplish the mission objectives given the appropriated resources and their consideration of the DOA mission.

HB-2099

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 3:44:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 312

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2099, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

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, 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 and support its passage.

House Bill No. 2099, 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.

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 calls for a feasibility study on the establishment of ag-tech zones within the City and County of Honolulu, 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

TO THE CHAIR OF THE
ON AGRICULTURE
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 Richard Creagan MD, Chair; the Honorable Lynn Pualani DeCoite, Vice Chair; and Members of the Agriculture 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