

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**MARCH 19, 2018
11:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2105 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill No. 2105 HD1 SD1. This bill appropriates funds to support local food production projects for the State. The Department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

The Department supports efforts to increase local food production in the State. The committee should note that the Department strongly supports agricultural and aqua-cultural industry expansion and preservation through its agricultural loan program. This program is extremely important in moving the State toward increased food production. The Department's Executive Budget request provides for a cash infusion for this program and SB 2396 provides similar funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





March 14, 2018

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Support of HB 2105, S.D. 1, Relating to Agriculture (Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to support local food production in the State).

Monday, March 19, 2018, at 11:00 a.m., in Conference Room 211

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 2105, S.D. 1** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii.

HB 2105, S.D. 1. This bill proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture to support local food production projects in the State.

LURF's Position. LURF members include farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider such assistance very helpful, if not critical to the agriculture industry and conduct of their operations, to help sustain their businesses, promote local food production, and increase the State's ability to achieve its food sustainability goals.

LURF appreciates the objective of HB 2105, S.D. 1, which is to support the agriculture industry and aid agriculture-related businesses, and believes that this bill 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."

By recognizing the significance of, and need to assist the local agriculture industry, and implement incentives which help to support the growth and maintenance of agriculture in the State, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture, food production, and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

For the reasons set forth above, LURF is **in support of HB 2105, S.D. 1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this measure.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Monday, March 19, 2018 — 11:00 a.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2105 HD 1 SD 1, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 2105 HD 1 SD 1, which establishes a grant program administered by the Department of Agriculture to finance agriculture related improvements, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

Agriculture is one of Hawai'i's most important and yet most challenging industries. A critical challenge for our local farmers and ranchers is to obtain adequate funding. The grant funding in this bill will stimulate and increase new investment in Hawai'i's agricultural industry.

Farming and ranching require a number of costly expenditures to succeed. Some of these costs include rent, water infrastructure, farming equipment, labor expenses, production inputs like seeds, fertilizer, and feed, processing facilities, and marketing development.

With agricultural statistics showing a pronounced decrease in local farming and ranching, there will be an increasing need to find new investment to support a diversified agricultural base and to find meaningful employment for the many farm workers.

This bill would provide our local farmers and ranchers with necessary funding streams to stimulate and grow new investment in Hawai'i's agricultural industry. Ultimately, this will lead to more local food on our plates.

As investors, Ulupono looks for and is more likely to invest our private capital on farmers and ranchers with demonstrated funding streams from other sources.

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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,

Kyle Datta
General Partner



Wednesday, March 15, 2018

RE: Passage of HB 2105

To whom it may concern,

As a small business owner on, and life-long resident of, Hawai'i Island, I wholeheartedly support the passage of HB 2105. The Hawaiian archipelago is among the most isolated land masses in the world. Due to this isolation, the State of Hawaii is highly vulnerable to disruptions in our imported supply of goods. Increasing the amount of food produced in our island chain has positive ripple effects across many sectors of our economy, while also helping to increase our food self-reliance. Please do what is necessary to pass HB 2105.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zach Mermel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Zach Mermel

Founder / Director
Ola Design Group LLC

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 9:27:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Testifying for HFUU	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:39:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Kelly	Testifying for North Shore EVP	Support	No

Comments:

North Shore EVP strongly supports additional support to increase local food production. We hope that these funds will be directed primarily at small to mid-sized farms and other business and organizations that are working towards increasing efficiency and market access for the producers.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kevin Kelly, President

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:39:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phyllis Robinson	Testifying for Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

As the Program Director of the Farm Apprentice Mentoring Program on Maui, I would like to strongly encourage the passage of this bill. As we intend to grow new farmers indefinitely to meet Hawaii's food self-sufficiency needs, the support of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to in turn support statewide projects focused on our local food production workforce will be just one of many ways we can help meet this goal that could someday be the key to our survival on Hawai'i Nei.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Phyllis Robinson

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 1:12:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harriet Witt	Testifying for Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

This bill can help us to move beyond our dangerous dependence on the mainland.

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 10:08:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Testifying for Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 8:51:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Stern	Testifying for Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:00:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Good afternoon. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2105 HD1 SD1**, regarding the Department of Agriculture; Local Food Production; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB2105 HD1 SD1** and support its passage.

HB2105 HD1 SD1, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to support local food production projects in the State.

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 **HB2105 HD1 SD1** appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to support local food production projects in the State. , 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-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:30:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith Ranney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:38:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Craig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:06:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chari of WAM

Ways and Means (WAM)

Bill HB 2015

Thursday, March 29, 2018

11:00 AM in Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Hello, my name is Stephen Kang and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of Bill Number HB 2015 which proposes to “appropriate funds to the department of agriculture to support local food production projects in the state.”

I support the idea of appropriating funds for the department of agriculture in order to raise local produce. The islands of Hawaii are one of the most isolated land mass in the world and importing food items from other areas takes a lot of resources. The amount of time and oil used to import these good is huge and so this bill seems like a solid step towards self-sustainability. I am also in support of this bill because of the results I have seen at my school. Mililani High School is apart of the “Farm to School” pilot program this year some of the lunches are made from locally produced meat and vegetables. Quite frankly the meals made on those days are far superior to the regular school lunches we have. As of now we only have those lunches made once a week on Wednesdays, but on the days they serve the locally produced lunches- the lunch line is extremely long. No one really took notice when the program first began, but after the first few weeks news of how good the food tasted quickly spread among the schools and now I

look forward to having lunch on Wednesdays because the food is actually good and I enjoy eating it.

This is just one example of a local food production project that I have been apart of and I can say that I have been thoroughly satisfied with the results. For this reason I support Bill Number HB 2015. Thank you so much for your time and all the hard work you do.

Stephen Kang

ssknc2000@gmail.com

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:47:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John A. H. Tomoso	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

03-15-18

RE:HB 2105, HD1, SD1

TO: WAM

Aloha kakou, I know that you have scheduled decision-making for Monday, March 19 at 11 a.m. on this Bill:

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE Which seeks to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture to support food production.

I am in strong support of this Bill, as I know Maui, with newly fallowed and open agricultural lands, stand poised to be a part of the solutions this Bill proposes; with the "top of mind" for me being the idea that we, Statewide, can grow our own food and, in no small way, become self-sufficient in food growing, production and marketing.

Mahalo for your consideration and deliberations in and for this Bill.

John A. H. Tomoso+, MSW, ACSW, LSW

51 Ku'ula Street

Kahului, Maui, HI 96732-2906

808-280-1749

john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com

cc: HFUU Legis

HFB

MFB

AGRICULPARTNERS

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 3:17:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neil Vonhof	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 12:58:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
valerie Lasciak	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to get away from importing 80% of our food . We need to become self sufficient. There is no reason not to be with our three growing cycles.

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:20:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 1:02:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brealand Tam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For our feature Farmers in hawaii.

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 5:12:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helmut Klauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:27:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:24:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raphiell Nolin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:37:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Forman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:35:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 2:04:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suellen Barton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 6:44:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Harley Simmons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 2:52:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian F. Funai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 9:32:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support local food production projects, especially after seeing the Star Advertiser 2/21/18 stating we only have 5-7 days of food reserves in the state.

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 1:20:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB 2015, especially if it funds organic farming for food production. Our soils and pollinators have been harmed by excessive use of pesticides and as a Farmers Union Member, I want to see organic farming supported by our State funds.

Mahalo,

Ms. Barbara Barry

Ha'iku

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 12:01:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
A Kathleen Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo Incredible Sponsors of this worthy bill,

I am more than a firm believer in the purpose of this legislation. PLEASE enact the funding to support local food production. It is the way in which we survived here in the past and we need to continue the sound, protective and enduring values and lifestyle of the best of our Hawai'ian culture.

Mahalo for me and my ohana,

April Lee

Hawi, HI

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:05:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Crawford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:24:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2105-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 10:29:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/19/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sunnie lasconia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Sunnie Lasconia and I am a Student at the University of Hawaii-West Oahu. I would like to thank you all for taking your time to focus on HB2105.

As a friend of local farmers, I support local agriculture and as a disaster and emergency management major I understand the importance of local agriculture. It is vital to Hawaii's well-being. By double the production of local agriculture it does not only provide job security to local farmers, it also contributes to a self-reliant Hawaii.

I am asking you to pass bill HB2105 so we as a State can be self-sufficient.

Thank you for this opportunity.