

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

LATE

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 7, 2018
8:45 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 2105
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill No. 2105. This bill establishes the agriculture grant program to support local food production in the State and provides an appropriation. The Department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget and offers comments.

This bill seeks to provide farmers and ranchers with a subsidized grant program to increase local food production in the State of Hawaii. The Department supports these efforts, but suggests deleting reference to the grant program in the measure and making an appropriation to support local food production projects.

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.



HB-2105

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:14:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2018 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill appropriates \$1.5 million to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State. This program will aid farmers with their investments for farming and ranching equipment and operations. This will also help the agriculture industry grow and provide more products for both local consumption and export.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 — 8:45 a.m. — Room 224

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2105, Relating to Agriculture

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 2105, 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

HB-2105

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 4:23:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2018 8:45:00 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

8:45 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 312

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2105, 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. 2105, regarding an Agriculture Grant Program.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 2105 and support its passage.

House Bill No. 2105, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production 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 House Bill No. 2105 provides for and funds an Agriculture Grant Program, 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

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:25:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2018 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	Yes

Comments:



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 7, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2105
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312
8:45 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB is in strong support of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State

A major impediment for agriculture in Hawaii is the lack of technology. Many of our operations continue to be done as during our parents' generation despite technology advancing by leaps and bounds. A good example is Food Safety. Our farms are small. Food Safety requires recordkeeping and traceability. Due to the size of our farms, traceability recordkeeping has turned to be a major issue and consultants say they don't know how to make it work for our farmers. We know RFID technology is advanced and used in all places. For example, when you return your car rental, the agent scans the barcode to get your data. It seems these technologies could be adapted to our farms. We need entrepreneurs such as those in the SBIR program to help us address these issues.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

HB-2105

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:37:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2018 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Phil Becker <sales@aikaneplantation.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 12:42 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105

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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Mark Phillipson <reelrelaxed@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 12:41 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105

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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Stephanie Mock <stephanie.k.mock@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 12:30 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105

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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Randy Cabral <kaiwiki.1970@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 2:54 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105

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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Rodney Haraguchi <rodney@haraguchiricemill.org>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 2:53 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105

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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite2 - Amanda

From: John Gordines <gordines@kauaiflowers.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 1:21 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105

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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Kylie Matsuda-Lum <kylie@kahukufarms.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 2:01 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105

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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite2 - Amanda

From: scot willson <aloha@planthawaii.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 1:10 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105

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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite2 - Amanda

From: steve Stefanko <steveakakafallsfarm@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 1:24 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105

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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Susan Mulken <susan@mulkernlandscaping.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 3:09 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105

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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Yawadee Srimake-Yadao <yawadee@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 3:25 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105

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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite3 - Richard

From: Frederick Mencher <fmencher@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 10:51 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105

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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite3 - Richard

From: Joni Kamiya <Jonikamiya@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 9:32 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105

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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite3 - Richard

From: Jeffrey McCall <mccalljeffreyw@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 8:14 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105

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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Richard Ogoshi <ogoshi@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:54 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105



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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Jerry Ornellas <jerryo@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:58 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105



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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite2 - Amanda

From: ROGER ROBELLO <rrobello@hcsugar.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 10:33 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105



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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Young Tarring <Young@applebananas.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 4:48 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105

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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this measure.

Mahalo!

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Luly Unemori <luly.unemori2@hawaiiintel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:48 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 2105

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

I stand in strong SUPPORT of HB 2105, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to agriculture grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

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Mahalo!