

DAVID Y. IGE
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State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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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 FINANCE

**FEBRUARY 16, 2018
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2306 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2306 HD1. This bill deposits Act 183, SLH 2017 funds into the food safety certification costs grant program special fund and allows the department to expend funds from this special fund. The Department strongly supports this bill.

Act 183, SLH 2017 appropriated \$500,000 for fiscal year 2017-2018 and created the food safety certification costs grant program special fund, but did not specify the deposit of the appropriation into the special fund.

In addition, the bill required the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules to carry out the purposes of the grant program. The Board of Agriculture recently granted preliminary approval of these rules and the department will need to continue with the rulemaking process until the rules are adopted. Currently, the Department anticipates that when the rules are adopted, the appropriation will lapse and the funds will not be available for the intended purpose. By placing the funds in the appropriate special fund, the Department will have ample time to expend the allotted funding from the 2017 legislative session to support local farmers and ranchers with food safety costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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February 16, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2306, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 308
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports HB 2306, HD1, which clarifies that the amount appropriated in Act 183, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, shall be deposited into the food safety certification costs grant program special fund and that the same amount shall be appropriated out of the special fund for fiscal year 2018-2019. This program will provide grants to farmers to assist them in paying for the costs of compliance with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act and state food safety laws.

HFB appreciates the support by the legislature in our past efforts to help Hawaii's farmers achieve compliance with the FDA Food Safety and Modernization Act. As the actual rule has been rolled out by FDA the immensity of the task is becoming evident.

Foodborne illnesses can be serious, and we should seek ways to reduce the risk. This bill will provide that assistance to our farmers for the costs they will incur to become food safety compliant.

The many criteria associated with FSMA to be compliant should not be an impediment for safe food. Hawaii cannot afford to further lose farmers as we strive to increase local food production. We want to incentivize our farmers' ability to continue their operations and provide Hawaii with abundant safe food.

Hawaii Farm Bureau respectfully requests your **strong support of HB 2306, HD1**, which will assist farmers with expenses to become compliant with the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Friday, February 16, 2018 — 2:00 p.m. — Room 308

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2306 HD 1, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 2306 HD 1, which appropriates funding for the food safety certification costs grant program, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

One of the greatest challenges facing agricultural enterprises over the next few years is getting into compliance with new federal food safety regulations. These new rules are expected to protect public health by providing more information about food production. However, the new regulations are expected to be significantly more strict than the current guidelines, which requires more time and cost for compliance. It is a challenge for our farmers and ranchers to navigate the nuances of the law, track new data requirements, and implement best practices for food safety. Without this funding, farmers and ranchers, particularly smaller scale operations, may be in violation of the law or be forced to shut down, which will jeopardize the future of local agriculture in 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,

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Kyle Datta
General Partner

HB-2306-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 3:15:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Friday, February 16, 2018
2:00 a.m.**

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2306 HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

Good afternoon, 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.2306 HD1 relating to Food Safety Certification Costs Grant Program.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No 2306 HD1 and supports its passage.

House Bill No.2306 HD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it clarifies that the amount appropriated in Act 183, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, shall be deposited into the Food Safety Certification Costs Grant Program Special Fund and makes an appropriation out of the special fund for the fiscal year 2018-2019.

The DPH Platform states that "[a]s an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy, sustainable, and 98 diversified local food production, and "Buy Local" strategies to assure greater food security and food 99 safety. (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 97-99 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No.2306 HD1 clarifies that the amount appropriated in Act 183, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, will be deposited into the Food Safety Certification Costs Grant Program Special Fund and makes an appropriation out of the special fund for the fiscal year 2018-2019, 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

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