



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of **Ford Fuchigami**
Administrative Director, Office of the Governor

Before the
Senate Committee on Government Operations
Senate Committee on Labor
March 15, 2018
3:30 p.m., Conference Room 229

In consideration of
House Bill No. 2671, HD1
RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Chair Kim, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair English and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments supporting the intent of **House Bill 2671, HD1**, provided it does not impact the priorities detailed in the Governor's Executive Budget.

This bill appropriates yet unspecified funds to the Office of the Governor, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, the Department of Human Resources Development, and the Department of Agriculture to collaboratively develop and implement solutions to assist dislocated workers and address the overall continued availability of gainful employment on the island of Molokai.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

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Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR
&
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

Thursday, March 15, 2018
3:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of

**HB 2671, HD1
RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.**

Chairs Tokuda, Kim; Vice Chairs English, Ruderman; and Members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) would like to offer the following comments on HB 2671, HD1, which appropriates monies to DBEDT to collaboratively work with The Office of the Governor, DLIR, DBEDT, DHRD, and DOA to assist dislocated workers and address the overall continued availability and gainful employment of the island of Molokai.

- DBEDT would be pleased to work collaboratively with our sister agencies.
- Suggested appropriated sum is not known at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND
LABOR

MARCH 15, 2018
3:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

HOUSE BILL NO. 2671 HD1
RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Chairperson Kim, Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2671 HD1. This bill provides funds for gainful employment on the island of Molokai due to the closure of Mycogen Seeds. The Department supports this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

This bill provides funding to support the 82 lost jobs on Molokai to various State Departments in an effort to support the employment opportunities for misplaced workers on the island. The Department supports the efforts to provide employment services for these displaced agricultural workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LEONARD HOSHIGO
DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.labor.hawaii.gov
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

March 15, 2018

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair;
The Honorable J. Kalani English, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair;
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Senate Committee on Governmental Operations

Date: Thursday, March 15, 2018
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

From: Leonard Hoshijo, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. No. 2671 HD1 Relating to Employment Opportunity

HB 267 HD1 proposes to appropriate funds to the Office of the Governor, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, the Department of Business Economic Development and tourism, the Department of Human Resources Development, and the Department of Agriculture to collaborate in developing and implementing methods to assist dislocated workers and address the need for gainful employment on the island of Molokai. DLIR supports the intent of this measure provided it does not conflict with the Governor's budget priorities.

With the passing of this legislation and funds appropriated to the department, DLIR would provide assistance with basic educational and vocational training to better prepare affected populations on the island of Molokai for potential job opportunities. Entrepreneurial training may be included if small business opportunities are developed in collaboration with designated agencies.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program
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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Labor

And

Senate Committee on Government Operations
Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 3:30 pm

By

Nicholas Comerford

Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Debora Halbert

Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2671 HD1 – RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Chairs Tokuda and Kim, Vice Chairs English and Ruderman, and members of the Senate Committee on Labor and the Committee on Government Operations:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2671 HD1. With Mycogen leaving Moloka'i, as many as 80-90 temporary agricultural workers will lose their jobs. This further aggravates the economic plight on Moloka'i. The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources believes that with the collaboration of the diverse agencies mentioned some retraining and creative job deliverance is possible that not only will help some portion of the soon to be unemployed, but will also increase the agricultural production of the island.

While the bill is not specific as to the solutions, the immediate need for resources to support economic development is real; and retraining as well as equipment support will certainly be necessary and will not easily wait until next year. For these reasons we support the bill and are available to provide our input to determining what solutions are applicable toward the benefit of the citizens of Moloka'i.

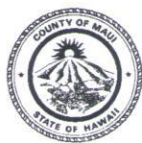
Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2671 HD1.

Council Chair
Mike White

Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Stacy Crivello

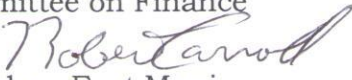
Councilmembers
Alika Atay
Elle Cochran
Don S. Guzman
Riki Hokama
Kelly T. King
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 27, 2018

TO: Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Carroll 
Councilmember, East Maui

DATE: February 27, 2018

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2671, HD1, RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to ensure the availability of gainful employment on the island of Molokai by appropriating funds to various agencies to collaboratively develop and implement agreed upon plans to assist displaced workers and address the continued availability of gainful employment.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Molokai continues to have one of the highest unemployment rates in the State of Hawaii. The island has suffered from tumultuous economic downturns due to the closing of the pineapple plantations, the closing of the Kaluakoi Resort, the relocation of large scale agricultural production to Oahu, the closure of Molokai Ranch, and now the impending shutdown of Mycogen Seeds. Action must be taken to prevent an additional downturn.
2. Approximately 82 displaced workers will now have to find employment due to the impending closure of Mycogen Seeds. These funds will help mitigate impacts by supporting collaboration among multiple entities to provide innovative solutions.
3. It is impractical for many Molokai residents to relocate for employment, and options for inter-island transportation are limited. This bill will assist to create opportunities for residents of the island.

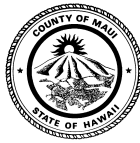
For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.

Council Chair
Mike White

Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Stacy Crivello

Councilmembers
Alika Atay
Elle Cochran
Don S. Guzman
Riki Hokama
Kelly T. King
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



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COUNTY OF MAUI
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www.MauiCounty.us

March 13, 2018

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Labor

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike White", is written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 15, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 2671, HD1, RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to ensure the availability of gainful employment on the island of Molokai by appropriating funds to various agencies to collaboratively develop and implement agreed upon plans to assist displaced workers and address the continued availability of gainful employment.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Molokai continues to have one of the highest unemployment rates in the State of Hawaii. The island has suffered from tumultuous economic downturns due to the closing of the pineapple plantations, Kaluakoi Resort, and Molokai Ranch; the relocation of large scale agricultural production to Oahu; and now the impending shutdown of Mycogen Seeds. Action must be taken to prevent an additional downturn.
2. With the impending closure of Mycogen Seeds, approximately 82 displaced workers will add to the already high unemployment rate. These funds will help mitigate impacts by supporting collaboration among various entities to provide innovative solutions.
3. It is impractical for many Molokai residents to relocate for employment and options for inter-island transportation are limited. This bill will help create opportunities for residents of the island.

For the foregoing reasons, I strongly **support** this measure.

Council Chair
Mike White

Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Stacy Crivello


Councilmembers
Alika Atay
Elle Cochran
Don S. Guzman
Riki Hokama
Kelly T. King
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 13, 2018

TO: Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Labor
Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

FROM: Stacy Helm Crivello
Councilmember 

DATE: Thursday, March 15, 2018

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 2671 H.D. 1, RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

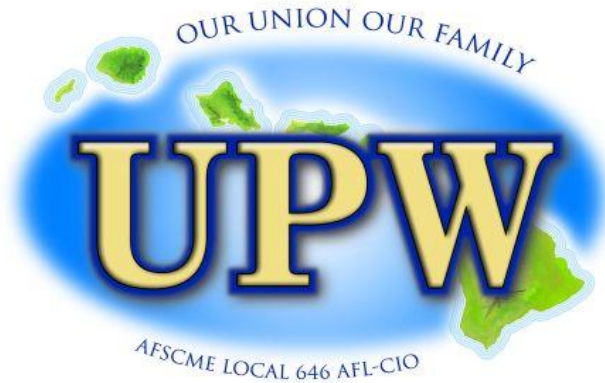
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is appropriates funds to the Office of the Governor; the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; the Department of Human Resources Development; and the Department of Agriculture to collaboratively develop and implement solutions to assist dislocated workers and address the overall continued availability of gainful employment on the island of Molokai. (HB2671 HD1).

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Mycogen will be closing their Molokai operations in March affecting 82 families. This is the latest economic crisis befalling our residents over the years. First the pineapple plantations close and over the years we've endured the closure of the Sheraton Kaluakoi Resort, the loss of large scale farming that pulled up roots and moved to Oahu, then Molokai Ranch shuttered their island operations and now Mycogen.
2. When the pineapple plantations closed, the legislature responded with Act 387 SLH 1988 to provide funding for an agricultural loan program to bolster our economy by providing loans to our residents to stimulate agricultural production.
3. The various agencies of the County of Maui along with the State continue to work collaboratively to determine how best to assist our soon to be displace workers.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.

2018HB2671HD1Support-LAB_GVO



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2018

COMMITTEE ON LABOR

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Thursday, March 15, 2018
TIME OF HEARING: 3:30 p.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: State Capitol, Conference Room 229

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2671, HD1 RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW),
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 12,000 public employees, which include blue collar non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

HB2671, HD1 appropriates funds to several state agencies to collaboratively develop and implement solutions to assist dislocated workers and address the overall continued availability of gainful employment on the island of Molokai. According to the 2018 Molokai Health Center report, "Molokai has an unemployment rate of 15%, more than two times higher than the State average. The "not employed" rate includes those who are unemployed but not receiving unemployment benefits is estimated to exceed 19.5%." It is estimated that about 38% live outside the social service network and depend upon subsistence farming, hunting and fishing. A limited number of state government jobs are advertised for Molokai General Hospital, the Queen's Medical Center and Aloha Care. However, more job opportunities are needed.

The UPW **strongly supports** HB2671, HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 15, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 2671, HD 1
RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Room 229
3:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Chair Kim, Vice Chair English, Vice Chair Ruderman, 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 2671, HD 1, which appropriates funds to the Office of the Governor; the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; the Department of Human Resources Development; and the Department of Agriculture to collaboratively develop and implement solutions to assist dislocated workers and address the overall continued availability of gainful employment on the island of Molokai.

The announcement by Mycogen Seed's closure of their Molokai operation clearly demonstrates the challenges faced by commercial agriculture. Yet, Hawaii wants to see agriculture as part of their plan for increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

HFB supports this measure which will provide Mycogen Seed employees along with other Molokai residents assistance with job opportunities on the island of Molokai. Employees will need to find other jobs and require training to enhance their skills to become successful in new job opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Board of Directors

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

President

Alan Takemoto

**In Strong Support of HB 2671, HD1
Relating to Employment Opportunity**

Vice-President

Joshua Uyehara

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Thursday, March 15, 2018, 3:30 p.m.

Conference Room 229

Secretary

Dawn Bicoy

Chair Tokuda, Chair Kim, and members of the committees:

Treasurer

Laurie Yoshida

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.

Directors-at-Large

Adolf Helm

Mark Stoutemyer

Dan Clegg

Gene Harrington

HCIA stands in **strong support of HB 2671, HD1**. The appropriation of funds to the Office of the Governor, Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Department of Human Resources Development, and Department of Agriculture will provide displaced workers on Molokai opportunities for gainful employment on the island.

President Emeritus

Kirby Kester

Executive Director

Bennette Misalucha

The appropriation of funds, as well as the collaborative work between various state and county agencies, demonstrates government's understanding to prioritize stimulating Molokai's economy so that residents can continue to live and work on the island they call home.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Bennette Misalucha

Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

TESTIMONY

Adolph Helm, P.O. Box 391, Hoolehua, HI 96729

COMMITTEE ON LBR/GOV

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, March 15, 2018
TIME: 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

HB2671 HD1 (HSCR988-18-18)

Measure Title: RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.

POSITION: Support

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Kim, Vice Chair English and Ruderman and Fellow Committee Members;

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB2671 HD1. My family and I operate and own Anahaki LLC a small farm business on Molokai specializing in the production and sale of specialty teas. I also have a long history working in agriculture and the seed industry.

I have witnessed firsthand on Molokai the demise of pineapple, the Kaluakoi Resorts and Molokai Ranch shutting down and most recently a seed company announcing the closing of their operations. Despite the resiliency of the Molokai people to survive through this the social as well as economic impact continues in many ways to hurt this community.

I strongly support the state leading and providing the necessary resources to collaborate and to create partnership to assist displaced workers, generate workforce development opportunities and to address the overall availability of employment on Molokai. It is my hope that through this process the State and others can help improve Molokai's social and economic wellbeing as well as move the island towards a more sustainable future.

Mahalo plenty,

Adolph Helm

TESTIMONY

Kealopiko Inc. Po Box 698, Kaunakakai, HI 96748

COMMITTEE ON LBR/GOV

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, March 15, 2018
TIME: 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

[HB2671 HD1 \(HSCR988-18-18\)](#)

Measure Title: RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.

POSITION: Support

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Kim, Vice Chair English and Ruderman and Fellow Committee Members;

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB2671 HD1. My two business partners and I operate and own Kealopiko Inc. a small clothing company on Molokai specializing in the production and sale of Hawaiian culturally based clothing, using natural dyes and inks. We have been in business for 12 years and do a majority of our manufacturing on Molokai.

Kealopiko makes the choice to manufacture on Molokai and to provide jobs (3 full time, 2 part-time) to this small, Hawaiian community. It is important for our company to put our investment back into our communities, ones that need it most. It would be a more cost effective model if we did our production overseas or in Honolulu, but we choose to support the Molokai community. Kealopiko would like to bring more of its manufacturing to Molokai (increasing to 7 full time, 5-7 part-time), but need help with workforce development in funding an in-house training program to increase the level of skills needed within the Molokai community.

I strongly support the state leading and providing the necessary resources to collaborate and to create partnership to assist displaced workers, generate workforce development opportunities and to address the overall availability of employment on Molokai. It is my hope that through this process the State and others can help improve Molokai's social and economic wellbeing as well as move the island towards a more sustainable future.

Mahalo nui,

Ane Bakutis

President of Kealopiko Inc.