

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**APRIL 5, 2018
10:15 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 891 HD1 Proposed SD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 891 HD1 Proposed SD2, which appropriates funds for the Department, in collaboration with the Agribusiness Development Corporation and the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) at the University of Hawaii, to conduct crop test trials on State agricultural lands of the top imported foods crops. 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 this measure as it looks to increase local food production and reduce the imported crops coming into the State. Hawaii's top 10 imported commodities include potato, onion, berries, carrot, orange, grapes, spinach, melon, mango, and cucumber (HDOA/NASS Hawaii, 2016). With State land resources and CTAHR's expertise, there is potential to perform crop trials to determine the suitability to crop each of these top imported commodities. Because this bill has not defined the parameters of the test trials, collaboration efforts to fill in the specifics of such a project are necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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Governor

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JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

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AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
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TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Thursday, April 5, 2018
10:15 a.m.

HOUSE BILL NO. 891 HD1 SD1
PROPOSED SD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Nakatani, Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation ("ADC"). The ADC supports House Bill No. 891 HD1 SD1 Proposed SD2 that requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Agribusiness Development Corporation and University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; to conduct crop performance testing trials on state agricultural lands of Hawaii's most highly imported food crops. Makes an appropriation.

The ADC believes that crop selection is a crucial component for agriculture success. Matching the suitable crop to the environmental characteristics of the farm parcel will position the farmer to be profitable. A standardized program for crop testing will provide the agriculture industry the much-needed information about appropriate crops and will be a resource to farmers for decision-making.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and for your consideration of this bill.



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April 5, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 891, HD1, PROPOSED SD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211
10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 supports of HB 891, HD1, PROPOSED SD2, which requires the department of agriculture, in coordination with the agribusiness development corporation and University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources, to conduct crop performance testing trials on state agricultural lands of Hawaii's most highly imported food crops.

Hawaii's agricultural industry has undergone a great change. Hawaii's agriculture industry once dominated by sugarcane and pineapple, has transitioned to a more diversified agricultural model. With much of the food consumed in Hawaii produced elsewhere, there is growing concern about the state's high dependency upon outside sources. Hawaii is located approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States. As the most geographically isolated state in the country, Hawaii imports approximately ninety-two per cent of its food. While interest in local food production is growing, Hawaii farmers face keen competition from imports abroad. Today, the vast majority of the food consumed in the Islands is supplied by the U.S. Mainland, which is Hawaii's chief source of competition.

Currently, Hawaii has an inventory of fresh produce that would supply consumers for no more than ten days. Ninety per cent of the beef, sixty-seven per cent of the fresh vegetables, sixty-five per cent of the fresh fruits, and eighty per cent of all milk purchased in the State are imported.

Import replacement is a huge opportunity for our farmers. In a global market place, new products give our local farmers an edge. In turn, replacing high risk imports will mean less risk for invasive species introduction. The high rate of new pests into the islands is a challenge to not only agriculture but the environment. We need to focus on import replacement. What do people buy every day? Can we grow it? More importantly, can we grow it competitively and profitably? Trials by HDOA, ADC and CTAHR on Hawaii's most highly imported food crops can help identify the best crops for Hawaii's farmers to produce.

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



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Thursday, April 5, 2018 — 10:15 a.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 891 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 891 HD 1 SD 1, which conducts crop performance test trials on State agricultural lands for Hawai'i's most imported food crops, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

In agriculture, a farmer's financial viability is heavily dependent upon how productive his/her crops are. For Hawai'i to meet its ambitious local food production goals, it needs to focus heavily on imported foods and begin to grow them on our islands. Yet, for this to work, there needs to be more available science and data to provide insight on optimal growing needs. If relevant State departments and educational institutions come together to work on providing this critical information, it would take Hawai'i one step closer to food self-sufficiency.

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

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

General Partner

HB-891-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 4:36:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning. 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 **HB891 HD1 SD2** relating to Agriculture; Local Food Production; Imported Food Crops; Crop Performance Testing Trials; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB891 HD1 SD2** and supports its passage.

HB891 HD1 SD2, is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), as it requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Agribusiness Development Corporation and University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, to conduct crop performance testing trials on state agricultural lands of Hawaii's most highly imported food crops and makes an appropriation.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "[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. We encourage the responsible development of ocean resources in order to achieve sustainability of our marine resources, and ensure and improve the health of our reef and marine life.

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 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.

We will promote ethical and safe production of livestock, dairy products, poultry and eggs. (Platform of DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-88 (2016)).

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.

We recognize the essential link between the availability of adequate and affordable water and low-cost electrical power as essential components of viable agricultural businesses.

We support land use planning and infrastructure development to support sustainable diversified agriculture, including low cost inter-island transportation of agricultural products. We likewise support publicly funded research and development for agricultural diversification and value-added products.

We support the designation of Important Agricultural Lands as a step towards preserving high-grade productive lands for current and future needs. (Platform of DPH, P. 2, Lines 97-110 (2016)).

Given that **HB891 HD1 SD2** requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Agribusiness Development Corporation and University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, to conduct crop performance testing trials on state agricultural lands of Hawaii's most highly imported food crops and makes an appropriation, 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 on Legislative Priorities

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