

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LAUREL A. JOHNSTON
DIRECTOR

KEN N. KITAMURA
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LAUREL A. JOHNSTON
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 1208, S.D. 2

March 14, 2018
8:30 A.M.
Room 312

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Senate Bill No. 1208, S.D. 2, authorizes the issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds (SPRB) to assist Twin Bridge Farms, Inc. to purchase certain lands pursuant to Part X, Chapter 39A, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Department is providing comments only to advise the Legislature and prospective SPRB parties that should the legislation be approved, approval of the SPRB issuance and conduit loan will require further review of the financing proposal to ensure compliance with all federal, state and credit underwriting requirements. For additional information, please consult our FAQ located at the following link:

<http://budget.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/SPRB-FAQ.pdf>.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, March 14, 2018
8:30 a.m.

SENATE BILL NO. 1208 SD2
RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Nakatani, Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”). The ADC strongly supports Senate Bill No. 1208 SD2, which authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Twin Bridge Farms, Inc., to purchase certain lands.

Twin Bridge Farms is an established, experienced farm operation that produces high quality products, which meet the current good agriculture practices and food safety standards. For over 20 years, Milton Agader, Twin Bridge owner, has been active in the farming community and remains committed to land stewardship and food security for Hawaii. By expanding their operation, Twin Bridge will be positioned for continued contribution to the State’s food production goals and will remain an excellent example of a good agriculture operation.

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

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**MARCH 14, 2018
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1208 SD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1208 SD2, which authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Twin Bridge Farms, Inc. to purchase certain lands that would be in the public interest and for the public health, safety, and general welfare. The Department supports this bill.

SB1208 SD2 will keep the identified agricultural lands in crop production. The Department supports preserving agricultural lands and supports increasing agricultural production for the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, March 14, 2018 — 8:30 a.m. — Room 312

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 1208 SD 2, Relating to Agriculture

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

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing 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 SB 1208 SD 2, which provides a \$9 million special purpose revenue bond to Twin Bridge Farms Inc. to purchase land, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

Quality agricultural land is one of the main prerequisites for local food production. This funding would help Twin Bridge Farms Inc. to acquire farmland for its operations. Twin Bridge Farms Inc. specializes in asparagus, sweet potatoes, potatoes, sweet onions, vine ripened tomatoes, grape tomatoes, and organic produce. To encourage increased local food production in Hawai'i, we need to continuously support our local farmers and ranchers.

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,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

SB-1208-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 9:34:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Milton J Agader	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chairperson Rep. Richard P Creagan and Members of Committee on Agriculture

My name is Milton J Agader, co-owner of Twin Bridge Farms, Inc. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on Senate Bill 1208.

Twin Bridge Farms is a 300 acre farm on the north shore of Oahu with 20 full time employees. Our signature crop is asparagus but we do a lot more than grow asparagus for restaurants and markets. We have a contract with a Japan based company that makes sweet potato products. Our sweet potatoes are grown here, cooked, frozen, sent back to Japan, made into packaged products and sold as Hawaiian grown. We have contracts with several mainland universities and Western Canada to do potato seed winter growouts for disease screening for seed certification. 85% of potato seed sold in North America is tested on our farm. After screening the potatoes are sold in markets. The potential is 125 acres harvested and sold locally per year.

A major portion of our farm will be on sale later this year. SB1208 will help us purchase this piece of property which will be listed later this year. The north shore of Oahu has become a very popular tourist destination and a very desirable place to live. Real estate developers know this. SB1208 will keep our farm in crop production and is consistent with what the State and our community would like to happen.

SB-1208-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 10:45:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

PRESENTATION OF THE

OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 312

RE: Testimony in Support of SB1208 SD2, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

To the Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair; the Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on

Agriculture:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SB1208 SD2**, relating Twin Bridge Farms; Special Purpose Revenue Bonds; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SB1208 SD2** and support its passage.

SB1208 SD2, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Twin Bridge Farms, Inc., to purchase certain lands.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "[a]griculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. We likewise support publicly funding research and development for agricultural diversification and value-added products." (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-77, 106-107, (2016)).

Given that **SB1208 SD2** authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Twin Bridge Farms, Inc., to purchase certain lands, it is the position of the OCC Legislative 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



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March 14, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 1208, SD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312
8:30 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 strongly supports SD 1208, SD2, which authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Twin Bridge Farms, Inc., to purchase certain lands.

Twin Bridge Farms has shown a commitment to Hawaii agriculture and has demonstrated their capacity to grow and expand their business. This operation is a good example of agriculture acting as an economic engine to grow Hawaii's economy.

We believe this is an opportunity to further support and expand the state's ability to provide agricultural lands for farmers, which is consistent with the State's goal of increasing self-sufficiency and sustainability.

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

SB-1208-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 7:25:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel S. Nakasone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There are farms hanging in the balance on this bill. I know of least two farms with substantial food production that are at risk. These farms have the next generation in place and one farm has 15 employees and are in need for more.

I urge that you support this bill and allow Hawaii to have more resiliency in one of our basic needs, food.