

DAVID Y. IGE
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Lt. Governor



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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**FEBRUARY 23, 2018
11:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2073
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2073. 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.





Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Friday, February 23, 2018 — 11:00 a.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 2073, 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 SB 2073, 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

SB-2073

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 3:47:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: