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February 23, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2111
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211
9:55 AM

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

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 SB 2111, which establishes a two-year agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project to examine the effectiveness of prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the county of Hawaii.

Agricultural theft and vandalism are persistent problems facing agriculture. Weather, drought, pests, weeds, disease, unstable markets, transportation and labor issues, and a changing climate all contribute to uncertainty for farmers and ranchers. Few businesses face such challenges, yet we are charged with producing food, fiber, fuel and flowers for the 99% of non-farmers. Add in the constant threat and impacts of trespass, theft and vandalism, and it's a wonder farms and ranches remain viable.

In working with our members, HDOA, and law enforcement, we have collectively concluded that dedicated enforcement officers housed in the county prosecutor's office would be a giant step forward in minimizing agricultural crimes and enhancing public safety. Too often a farmer or rancher has sweated, worried, and worked to the bone to produce a crop, only to wake up one morning to find that an opportunistic criminal has helped himself to the harvest. Farmers and ranchers are fed up with this activity and frankly, deserve better. We understand that law enforcement resources are often prioritized for public health and safety. Is the health, safety and livelihood of a farmer and his family any less important? We think not.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

SB-2111

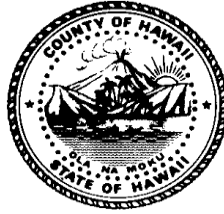
Submitted on: 2/21/2018 1:02:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/23/2018 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4



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Chair: Environmental
Management Committee

Vice Chair: Planning Committee and
Agriculture, Water & Energy
Sustainability Committee

County of Hawaii

Hawaii County Council

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Senate

February 20, 2018

**Re: In Support of Senate Bill 2111, from Hawai'i County Council District 4
To be heard by JDC on 02-23-18 9:55AM in conference room 211**

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

I'm writing to express my support of Senate Bill 2111, which establishes a two-year agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project to examine the effectiveness of prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the County of Hawaii.

Agricultural theft and vandalism has become a serious problem on the Big Island, not only for large scale farms and ranches, but also for smaller, part-time or even household operations that also produce their own crops and livestock. Though the Big Island should be contributing a significant portion of our agricultural output, food production is crippled by theft, vandalism, and a lack of support from an understaffed police force. Depending solely on our Hawai'i Police Department has not been an effective strategy in combating this problem.

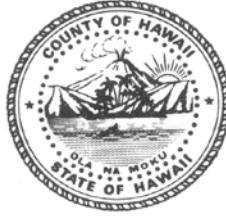
The loss in food production has also negatively impacted the income of agriculturalists and subsistence farmers. The widespread affect these crimes have on the state are harmful and discouraging. I strongly support the intent of this bill and hope you do as well, so that we can develop appropriate strategies to combat this problem. Please contact me if you have any questions about my support or knowledge of the subject.

Sincerely,

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

MITCHELL D. ROTH
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DALE A. ROSS
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2111

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Sen. Brian T. Tanaguchi, Chair

Sen. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Friday, February 23, 2018, 9:55 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Honorable Chairs Tanaguchi & Dela Cruz, Vice-Chairs Rhoads & Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Committee on Ways & Means, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai‘i submits the following testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Senate Bill No. 2111.

This measure establishes a two-year agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project to examine the effectiveness of prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the county of Hawaii and appropriation of funds.

Agricultural theft and vandalism in the county of Hawai‘i is not only an impediment to running a successful and profitable farming operation, but can also prove harmful to consumers. In 2011, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) halted the importation of all Mexican-sourced papayas into the United States. The FDA found salmonella in about 16% of imported papayas from Mexico and the finding of this human pathogen in papayas caused the FDA to stop the importation of a food-source from the entire country of Mexico. We cannot allow this to happen here. At the time, 65% of all U.S. imported papayas came from Mexico.

An example of recent instances of agriculture vandalism/theft in Hawai‘i County have included a total loss of papaya trees numbering into the thousands. These actions resulted in tremendous economic hardships for the farmers and their families. These actions have created an ever-growing a sense of uncertainty for Hawai‘i County farmers that they might fall victim to vandals.

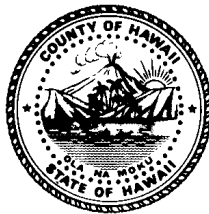
Hawai‘i County is the breadbasket of the State. Having the ability to identify and track the sources of agricultural products from field to table is crucial in the event a contamination is found to exist. This pilot project will provide an enforcement officer within the Hawai‘i County with the ability to focus on investigating and prosecuting these agricultural issues, as our over-tasked police department does not have the ability to provide a permanent officer to investigate agricultural crimes.

If this project were allowed to go forward, we would have the ability to:

1. Protect our agricultural industry – the economic engine of Hawai‘i county;
2. Ensure our products do not go the way of the Mexican papaya; and
3. Allow our farmers and growers to continue to be world-wide competitors with Hawai‘i-grown products.
4. Educating farmers, brokers and retailers about agriculture theft & vandalism prevention techniques.

This pilot project has the capability to increase the safety and sustainability of our farming and agricultural industry by allowing farmers to focus less on the security of their crops and more on high-quality products and safe farming techniques. By having a committed investigator when crime, vandalism, or contamination of our agricultural products occur, we will be able to act swiftly and decisively to tackle the issues. For all of the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai‘i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the passage of Senate Bill No. 2111. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

County of Hawai'i
Council District 9 -
North and South Kohala



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Email: tim.richards@hawaiicounty.gov

Chair: Committee on Agriculture,
Water & Energy

Vice Chair: Committee on
Environmental Management

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
District 9

25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 14, 2018

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Email: sentaniguchi@capitol.hawaii.gov

Email: senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Email: sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov

Email: senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: **Support of SB2111**

Hearing Date/Time: February 23, 2018 at 9:55 a.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2111**, which establishes a two-year agricultural theft and vandalism pilot program to examine the effectiveness of prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism here in the County of Hawai'i.

The passing of and the implementation of this bill is critical to the future of agriculture for the County of Hawai'i, and I therefore strongly urge the enactment of SB2111.

Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss my position and knowledge of this matter further.

Sincerely,

TIM RICHARDS
Hawai'i County Council, District 9



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND WAYS & MEANS
Friday, February 23, 2018 — 9:55 a.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 2111, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran,s and Members of the Committees:

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 2111, which establishes a two-year agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project on Hawai'i Island, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

In our conversations with farmers and ranchers, one issue that keeps coming up is agricultural theft and how there is little enforcement and punishment for offenders. Agricultural lots are a prime target for thieves as there are many open entry points, farms are often located in rural and isolated areas, and punishments are minor relative to other crimes. For farmers that can afford to, they have to spend money on security infrastructure, monitoring, and manpower to defend their agricultural operations. Profit margins for agricultural operations are already tight and if a business loses revenue from theft or vandalism and has to invest heavily in security, this could push more local farmers and ranchers out of the agricultural sector. Ultimately, this underrated issue is one that hurts our ability to increase locally grown food in our state.

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 these committees' 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.

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner

SB-2111

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 9:36:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/23/2018 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall Francisco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2111

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:34:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/23/2018 9:55:00 AM

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

Comments:

OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

AND

THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Friday, February 23, 2018

9:55 AM

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 211

RE: Testimony in Support of SB2111 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

To the Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; the Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

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 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 Senate Bill No. 2111 relating to Agricultural Theft and Vandalism Pilot Project and appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 2111 and supports its passage.

Senate Bill No. 2111 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it establishes a two-year Agricultural Theft and Vandalism Pilot Project to examine the effectiveness of prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the County of Hawaii and appropriates funds.

The DPH Platform states that "[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." (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-78 (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. (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 97-99 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 2111 establishes a two-year Agricultural Theft and Vandalism Pilot Project to examine the effectiveness of prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the County of Hawaii and appropriates funds, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure in order to perpetuate our important agricultural industry.

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

SB-2111

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 3:19:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/23/2018 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqui Hoover	Testifying for Hawaii Island Economic Development Board	Support	No

Comments:

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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Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND WAYS & MEANS

**FEBRUARY 23, 2018
9:55 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2111
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Taniguchi, Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2111, which establishes a two-year agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project to examine the effectiveness of prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the county of Hawaii. The Department supports this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

The Department of Agriculture has entered into a one-year contract with the Hawaii County Prosecutor's Office for one investigator to conduct agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism investigations. This has been a valuable and productive project with the limited staff performing investigations and outreach with farmers, law enforcement, and farmers markets. We encourage the continuation of the joint efforts being done to pursue prosecution of agricultural related crimes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

