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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. 2396 SD1  
RELATING TO LOAN PROGRAMS**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2396 SD1. This bill provides vital resources to the Department's agricultural loan programs. The Department strongly supports this bill.

This bill seeks to provide funds to expand the Department's Agricultural Loan and Water Infrastructure Loan Program. The increased funding will support new farmers, increase the State's food self-sufficiency and increase efficient use of water resources.

The Department would request that the proposed increase in budget ceilings for the water infrastructure special fund be included in the State budget to create permanent ceiling for the fund. Having a permanent ceiling would allow for efficient management of the program and ensure greater stability for the program's applicants.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





February 20, 2018

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

**Support of SB 2396, S.D. 1, Relating to Loan Programs (Sets a budget ceiling of \$2,500,000 for the Hawaii Water Infrastructure Special Fund; Appropriates funds for and out of the agricultural loan revolving fund and Hawaii Water Infrastructure Special Fund.).**

**Friday, February 23, 2018, at 11:00 a.m., in Conference Room 211**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of SB 2396, S.D. 1** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii.

**SB 2396, S.D. 1.** The purpose of this Act is to appropriate additional funds to the agricultural loan revolving fund and Hawaii water infrastructure special fund, and to set a budget ceiling for the Hawaii water infrastructure special fund.

**LURF's Position.** LURF members include farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider such assistance very helpful, if not critical to the agriculture industry and conduct of their operations, to help sustain their businesses, promote local food production, and increase the State's ability to achieve its food sustainability goals.

LURF appreciates the objective of SB 2396, S.D. 1, which is to support the agriculture industry and aid agriculture-related businesses, and believes that this bill is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes [HRS], Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution, "to conserve and protect agricultural lands,

promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands.”

Local farmers and ranchers also rely on water infrastructure systems to service their agricultural lands and consider such resources critical to conduct their agricultural operations and to sustain their businesses. These agricultural stakeholders believe measures enacted to provide funding alternatives necessary to make improvements to water infrastructure systems are vital to the long-term betterment of the State’s agricultural industry and rely on legislation such as this to help them work toward the expansion of diversified agriculture; promote the agricultural self-sufficiency of the State; and protect water as an important resource.

By recognizing the significance of, and need to assist the local agriculture industry, and implement incentives which help to support the growth and maintenance of agriculture in the State, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

For the reasons set forth above, LURF is **in support of SB 2396, S.D. 1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this measure.



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

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 2396 SD 1, Relating to Loan Programs**

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 2396 SD 1**, which provides funds for the Hawai'i water infrastructure special fund, because it aligns with our goal of preserving Hawai'i's water resources.

This bill recognizes that all agriculture needs a reliable water supply for consistent production, especially considering recent prolonged drought conditions and their devastating effects.

Hawai'i's agricultural industry relies on a constant supply of water as farmers and ranchers often struggle to keep their businesses alive. In recent years, the state has suffered through severe drought conditions including a two to three decade downward trend in rainfall, which heavily impacts our local agricultural communities. As droughts are increasing, it becomes more important for the Legislature to fund drought mitigation measures to protect our island's most valuable natural resource.

As Hawai'i's water issues become more complex and challenging, we appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that protect our water resources.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*

General Partner

**SB-2396-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:27:15 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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**

THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

THE SENATE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Friday, February 23, 2018

11:00 AM

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 211

RE: Testimony in Support of SB2396 SD1 RELATING TO LOAN PROGRAMS

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 Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. 2396 SD1, relating to the Agriculture Loan Revolving Fund and Water Infrastructure Special Fund.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 2396 SD1 and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. 2396 SD1, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it sets a budget ceiling of \$2,500,000 for the Hawaii water infrastructure special fund and appropriates funds for and out of the agricultural loan revolving fund and Hawaii water infrastructure special fund.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "Agriculture 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.

To ensure wise use and equitable distribution of our precious water, we must stress water conservation and alternative patterns of water treatment and consumption such as the use of recycled water for irrigation water storage reservoirs, and the use of catchment systems by the public. 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." (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-78, 93-102, (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 2396 SD1 provides for the agricultural loan revolving fund and water infrastructure fund to encourage new farmers and provide for anticipated disaster funding and water infrastructure development, 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

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**SB-2396-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 3:51:10 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: