

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 21, 2018
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2396 SD2
RELATING TO LOAN PROGRAMS**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2396 SD2. This bill seeks to provide funds to expand the Department's Agricultural Loan Program. The Department strongly supports this bill.

The program expansion is intended to assist new and beginning farmers start or expand their operations which is critical both for increased food production. Hawaii's farmers are also faced with increasing regulations, food safety issues, labor issues and competition from imports. Increasing affordable capital for agriculture will create greater food security for all of Hawaii's citizens.

The bill also provides funds for the Water Infrastructure Loan Program. This program provides the necessary funds for upgrades to potable and irrigation water systems increasing safety and efficiency which conserves precious water resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 21, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2396, SD2
RELATING TO LOAN PROGRAMS

Room 312
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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 of SB 2396, S2, which appropriates funds for and out of the agricultural loan revolving fund and Hawaii water infrastructure special fund.

Food security, food self-sufficiency and growing agriculture are popular concepts seen in many of the measures before the legislature this year. This Legislative Session, there have been many bills introduced that support of Hawaii's Agricultural Industry. This year, HFB has introduced a package of measures addressing the real needs of our farmers and ranchers all associated with increasing farm and ranch viability. These include infrastructure needs, agricultural education, Food Safety, invasive species control, and regulatory assistance.

This measure supports the growth of Hawaii's agricultural industry by providing additional funding to HDOA to assist Hawaii in growing its agriculture sector.

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



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, March 21, 2018 — 8:30 a.m. — Room 312

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 2396 SD 2, Relating to Loan Programs

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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 2, 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



March 12, 2018

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Support of SB 2396, S.D. 2, Relating to Loan Programs (Appropriates funds for and out of the agricultural loan revolving fund and Hawaii Water Infrastructure Special Fund.).

Wednesday, March 21, 2018, at 8:30 a.m., in Conference Room 312

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. 2** 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. 2. The purpose of this Act is to appropriate additional funds to the agricultural loan revolving fund and 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. 2, 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. 2**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

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

SB-2396-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:52:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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 **SB2396 SD2** relating to the Agricultural Loan Revolving Fund; Hawaii Water Infrastructure Special Fund; Department of Agriculture; and appropriations.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SB2396 SD2** and supports its passage.

Senate Bill No. **SB2396 SD2** is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriates funds for and out of the agricultural loan revolving fund and Hawaii water infrastructure special fund, effective 7/1/2050.

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. **SB2396 SD2** appropriates funds for and out of the agricultural loan revolving fund and Hawaii water infrastructure special fund, effective 7/1/2050, 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, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

SB-2396-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:53:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chynna Chun | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

March 15, 2018

TESTIMONY ON SB 2396, SD2

RELATING TO LOAN PROGRAMS

Aloha Members of the Committee,

My name is Chynna Chun and I am currently a junior attending Mililani High School. I am an AP Environmental Science student and an FFA member who is testifying in favor of the Senate Bill No. 2396, SD2.

Recently, I have started to notice that in many places such as Kapapahuhi, there seems to be a lack of water infrastructure implementation as well as a lack of funding for agricultural related issues. Because of this, it is important to increase additional funds to support not only more infrastructure to improve our water quality, but also to improve the State's food self-sufficiency. In fact, many local farmers rely on these infrastructure systems to aid them with their agricultural lands. Likewise, they consider them vital to protect the quality of water that is needed to promote/increase local food production in our homelands. Increasing funds and loans are the first step towards better implementations of systems that can definitely improve our waters and local agriculture industry.

Because of this, I fully support the Senate Bill No. 2396, SD2, and respectfully urge your consideration for this growing issue in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2396-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 12:20:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| janice palma-glennie | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2396-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 12:27:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michael Reed Gach | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please support SB 2396 RELATING TO LOAN PROGRAMS.

Mahalo -

Michael Gach, Ph.D.

SB-2396-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 1:32:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michele Nihipali | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Committee members,

As we work toward a more secure food source for Hawaii the amount of funds available for loans on new available agricultural properties is inadequate. We need to insure that we can utilize agricultural lands. I support this bill and urge that you pass it.

Mahalo for reviewing my testimony,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

SB-2396-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 3:28:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| B.A. McClintock | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please support this important bill

SB-2396-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 4:13:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Laura Gray | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2396-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 1:53:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara L. George | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SUPPORT!

SB-2396-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 1:07:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Denise Boisvert | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support SB2396.

Sincerely,

Denise Boisvert

Waikiki

SB-2396-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 2:06:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kim Jorgensen | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support SB2396.

SB-2396-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 2:47:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sandra Fujita | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2396-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 8:42:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary Lacques | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2396-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 4:28:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rebeca Zamora | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair**

LATE

DATE: Wednesday, March 21, 2018
TIME: 8:30 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 312

SB 2396 SD2 – RELATING TO LOAN PROGRAMS.

Appropriates funds for and out of the agricultural loan revolving fund and Hawaii water infrastructure special fund. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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

My name is Dale Sandlin, and I am Managing Director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 150+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports** SB 2396 SD2 as this measure will provide needed support to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's ag loan revolving fund and water infrastructure special fund.

With the renewed focus on doubling food production, the ag loan revolving fund and water infrastructure special fund are critical to the success of Hawaii agriculture. The ag loan revolving fund provides funding for agricultural production inputs which can be very costly. The water infrastructure special fund provides agricultural producers access to funding for the most critical input needed in agricultural production, water.

We respectfully ask this committee to pass this measure and we appreciate the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

