

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
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 AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**JANUARY 29, 2018
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

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

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 2396. 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.





Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, January 29, 2018
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 224

SB 2396 – RELATING TO LOAN PROGRAMS.

Sets a budget ceiling of \$2,500,000 for the water infrastructure special fund. Appropriates funds for the agriculture loan revolving fund and water infrastructure special fund.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, 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 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 SB 2396 and we appreciate the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



SB-2396

Submitted on: 1/26/2018 7:08:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/29/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:



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January 29, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2396
RELATING TO LOAN PROGRAMS

Room 224
1:15 pm

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB is in strong support of SB 2396, which sets a budget ceiling of \$2,500,000 for the water infrastructure special fund. It also appropriates funds for the agriculture loan revolving fund and 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.

SB-2396

Submitted on: 1/26/2018 4:10:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/29/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
THE HAWAII STATE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Monday, January 29, 2018
1:15 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2396 RELATING TO LOAN PROGRAMS

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; the Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

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 Senate Bill No. 2396, 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 and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. 2396, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it provides for the Agriculture Loan Revolving Fund and 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 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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