

DAVID Y. IGE
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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 AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

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

**SENATE BILL NO. 2562
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill No. 2562. This bill establishes the agriculture grant program to support local food production in the State and provides an appropriation. The Department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget and offers comments.

This bill seeks to provide farmers and ranchers with a subsidized grant program to increase local food production in the State of Hawaii. The Department supports these efforts, but would like to know what standards are considered in offering such grants. Article VII, section 4 of the Hawaii Constitution provides, "no grant of public money or property shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law."

The committee should note that the Department strongly supports agricultural and aqua-cultural industry expansion and preservation through its agricultural loan program. This program is extremely important in moving the State toward increased food production. The Department's executive budget request provides for a cash infusion for this program and SB 2396 provides similar funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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January 29, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2562
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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 2562, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State

A major impediment for agriculture in Hawaii is the lack of technology. Many of our operations continue to be done as during our parents' generation despite technology advancing by leaps and bounds. A good example is Food Safety. Our farms are small. Food Safety requires recordkeeping and traceability. Due to the size of our farms, traceability recordkeeping has turned to be a major issue and consultants say they don't know how to make it work for our farmers. We know RFID technology is advanced and used in all places. For example, when you return your car rental, the agent scans the barcode to get your data. It seems these technologies could be adapted to our farms. We need entrepreneurs such as those in the SBIR program to help us address these issues.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

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

SB-2562

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 2:26:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-2562

Submitted on: 1/26/2018 4:57:22 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 2562 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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. 2562, relating to the Agriculture Grant Program. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 2562 and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. 2562, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it provides for an Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State. Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "Agriculture in

our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. . . . We likewise support publicly funding research and development for agricultural diversification and value-added products.” (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-77, 106-107, (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 2562 provides for the establishment and administration of the Agriculture Grant Program to support local food production in the State thereby adding to agricultural diversification and value-added products, 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, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

SB-2562

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 10:11:40 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	Yes

Comments: