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State of Hawaii
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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 WAYS & MEANS

**FEBRUARY 23, 2018
11:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2572 SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2572 SD1 that requests two separate appropriations for FY 2018-19 to be expended by the Department of Agriculture to conduct import substitution projects to encourage Hawaii's farmers and growers to identify and grow food and non-food alternative products to phase out imports of high-risk pathway food and commodities by 2027; and to produce outreach materials to encourage Hawaii residents to buy local products and foster a sense of pride and self-responsibility in protecting Hawaii's agriculture, environment, and lifestyle. The Department of Agriculture supports this measure provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

The Department may direct some of the funding for import substitution projects to the development or updating of cost-of-production, disease/pest vector risk, and agronomic information for food and non-food import replacement products that are targeted. This information will allow farmers to have as much information to help them with their decision-making on what food and non-food import replacement products to grow. Without this information, decisions may result in suboptimal outcomes.



Regarding the enhanced “buy local” outreach proposal, the existing buy local program in the Department has resulted in media campaigns via television and at the retail level. We believe our in-house buy local program is both effective and efficient and SD1 allows us the flexibility to determine the manner in which to best accomplish encouraging Hawaii residents to buy local products and foster a sense of pride and self-responsibility in protecting Hawaii’s agriculture, environment, and lifestyle.

As a general practice, the Department works with entities that impact the agricultural farm-to-table pathway such as the University of Hawaii’s College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources – Extension Services, Hawaii Farm Bureau, Pacific Gateway Center, Kapiolani Culinary Program and the Hawaii Farmers Union United.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 1:30:38 PM

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

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

Comments:



Email: communications@ulupono.com

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

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 2572 SD 1, Relating to Agriculture

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 2572 SD 1, which encourages local farmers to identify and grow food to phase out imports, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

In an effort to increase local food production and consumption as quickly as possible, Ulupono prefers investing in local food production that reduces heavily imported foods. Similarly, it would help the State's mission of being more food self-sufficient if the Department of Agriculture would obtain funding to help local farmers identify and grow food products that are imported. In addition, local farms have a smaller scale than on the mainland, therefore, any research on more successful food types would be beneficial for them to have.

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 this committee's 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.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

General Partner

SB-2572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:21:08 AM

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

SB-2572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 3:40:32 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noa Lincoln	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is an important step to increasing food security and the agricultural economy of Hawaii

SB-2572-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 3:54:32 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: