

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

MARCH 14, 2018
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

SENATE BILL NO. 2572 SD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2572 SD2 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 data 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 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.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, March 14, 2018 — 8:30 a.m. — Room 312

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 2572 SD 2, Relating to Agriculture

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 2572 SD 2, 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-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 7:14:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 14, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2572, SD 2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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 supports SB 2572, SD2, which appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to conduct import substitution projects to encourage Hawaii farmers and growers to identify and grow food and nonfood alternative products to phase out imports of high-risk pathway food and commodities by 2027. Appropriates funds for 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.

Import replacement is a huge opportunity for our farmers. In a global market place, new products give our local farmers an edge. In turn, replacing high risk imports will mean less risk for invasive species introduction. The high rate of new pests into the islands is a challenge to not only agriculture but the environment.

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.

HFB has been active in promoting "Buy Local" campaigns such as HDOA's "Buy Local, It Matters!" a call-to-action campaign to help encourage local residents to buy local farm products, the "Hawaii Seals of Quality" program which was developed to distinguish quality Hawaii grown crops and value-added products, the "Made in Hawaii" branding the "Kauai Grown", and "Grown on Maui". Campaigns such as these, which seek to promote

locally grown agricultural products and recognizes the farmers, ranchers, retailers, and restaurants that bring these products to the consumer create increased demand and economic viability for Hawaii's agriculture industry.

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

SB-2572-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 3:33:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

PRESENTATION OF

THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES HAWAII

OAHU COUNTY

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 312

RE: Testimony in Support of SB2572 SD2, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

Agriculture:

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 **SB2572 SD2**, relating to Hawaii Agriculture; Import Substitution Projects; Outreach Materials; DOA; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SB2572 SD2** and support its passage.

SB2572 SD2 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to conduct import substitution projects to encourage Hawaii farmers and growers to identify and grow food and nonfood alternative products to phase out imports of high-risk pathway food and commodities by 2027; and appropriates funds for 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.

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. We encourage the responsible development of ocean resources in order to achieve sustainability of our marine resources, and ensure and improve the health of our reef and marine life.

This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the native Hawaiian concept of ahupua'a, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times.

We will promote ethical and safe production of livestock, dairy products, poultry and eggs.

Recognizing the importance of the ocean as a life-sustaining resource, we must protect its ecological balance while promoting the cultivation of ocean resources as a step toward greater self-sufficiency.

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.

We support land use planning and infrastructure development to support sustainable diversified agriculture, including low cost inter-island transportation of agricultural products. We likewise support publicly funded research and development for agricultural diversification and value-added products. (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-107 (2016)).

Given that **SB2572 SD2** appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to conduct import substitution projects to encourage Hawaii farmers and growers to identify and grow food and nonfood alternative products to phase out imports of high-risk pathway food and commodities by 2027; and appropriates funds for 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, 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-2572-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2018 10:37:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2572-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 9:25:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, March 14th, 2018 8:30AM Conference Room 312

In SUPPORT of SB 2572 HD2 Relating to Agriculture

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **supports SB 2572 HD2**, which seeks to appropriate funds for the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to conduct import substitution projects to encourage Hawai'i farmers and growers to identify and grow food and nonfood alternative products to phase out imports of high-risk pathway food and commodities by 2027. It will also appropriate funds for outreach materials to encourage Hawai'i residents to buy local products and foster a sense of pride and self-responsibility in protecting Hawai'i's agriculture, environment, and lifestyle.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, dedicated to exploring, enjoying, and protecting these unique and beautiful islands we call home, have engaged in decades-long efforts to protect agricultural lands and promote local product support. We are at an utmost reliance on the mainland, with 90% of our foods being imported¹. On the contrary, 80% of local food production is exported. *These statistics need to be addressed and acted on this legislative season*, beginning with the support of our local farmers.

Our local farmers are the backbone of sustainability throughout the islands, and the foundation of a stronger local economy. To increase environmental and economic resiliency in the State, farmers need residents to purchase and support the production of local foods, even amongst the competitive mainland food pricing. We need the State residents to see the investment of local dollars to local foods, not hard earned local dollars to off island, mainland producers. Increased education and outreach will jump start the necessary support farmers need, as well as for the State economy to thrive off increased local circulation in local investments. **We must protect our State from global food and economy disruptions by reducing the off island dependency and supporting sustainable agriculture measures.**

¹ <https://mauimagazine.net/empty-isles/>

We need policy to encourage, support, and protect our local farmers and residents. It is time for us to move forward with a sense of self responsibility and take political action. DOA needs funding for the continuity of this movement. We are committed to supporting efforts in food sustainability across the islands. SB 2572 SD2 contributes to these efforts. The Sierra Club of Hawai'i fully supports this necessary, common sense measure.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

SB-2572-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 8:00:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments:

BIISC strongly supports this measure, which is a specific 2018 Task in the Hawaii Biosecurity Plan. As the bill states, any product successfully grown here in Hawaii is one less high-risk product imported to the state. Over time, replacing a single product means that thousands of shipments to Hawaii, thousands of chances for a devastating invasive pest or disease to arrive in Hawaii, simply never happen. What a wonderful way to promote our local farmers, reduce our carbon footprint, and reduce our exposure to invasive species!