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

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 2575 SD 1, Relating to Agricultural Food Production

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 2575 SD 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu to expand its existing programs and develop new means to increase food security in the state, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

Ulupono recognizes the vital importance of this program that educates and trains the future farmers of our community. With the average age of a Hawai'i farmer being approximately 60 years old, Hawai'i's local agriculture sector needs to bring new future farmers. Supporting this program will help revitalize local agriculture by providing the experience and skills needed to take on the rigorous but rewarding work faced by our local farmers.

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,

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Kyle Datta
General Partner

LATE

SB-2575-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 6:22:49 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: