

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
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 COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND
HIGHER EDUCATION**

**FEBRUARY 6, 2018
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2575
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION**

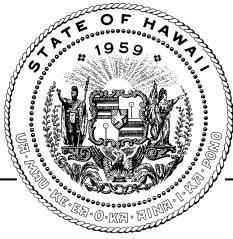
Chairperson Gabbard, Chairperson Kahele and Members of the Committees:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2575, which appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii, West Oahu, to expand its existing programs and develop new means to increase food security and self-sufficiency in the State. The Department supports this bill.

The Department supports this measure as it looks to increase agricultural education at the University of Hawaii. Recent numbers from the 2012 US Agricultural Census has found the average age of farmers in Hawaii is over 63 years old. It is the Department's goal to reverse this trend by continuing to work with our state partners to encourage a new generation of agriculturalists dedicated to improving Hawaii's food security and self-sufficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





**OFFICE OF PLANNING
STATE OF HAWAII**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

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Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Director, Office of Planning
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT, AND HIGHER
EDUCATION**

Tuesday, February 6, 2018
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
SB 2575
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION.

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Kim, and Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment, and Higher Education.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports SB 2575 which appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii West Oahu to expand its existing programs and develop new means to increase food security and self-sufficiency in the State. OP agrees in the importance of food security and self-sufficiency by encouraging the development and expansion of higher education focused on sustainable food systems and support SB 2575 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Higher Education
February 6, 2018 at 1:15 p.m.

By
Maenette K. P. Ah Nee-Benham, Chancellor
University of Hawai'i West O'ahu

SB 2575 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Kim, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu (UHWO) supports SB 2575, which would appropriate funds to expand the existing educational programming in Sustainable Community Food Systems at UHWO in order to increase food security, self-sufficiency, economic development and food system resiliency in the State of Hawai'i.

The pressing social and ecological issues facing food systems today are complex and interrelated, defying single disciplinary solutions. Systematically advancing the goals of food security, resiliency and equity in Hawai'i will require educating new generations of food system professionals to think across traditional disciplinary boundaries to actively engage real-world challenges. The Sustainable Community Food System Program at UHWO provides a rich experiential, applied and multi-disciplinary undergraduate education that develops student comprehension of interrelated ecological and social issues in agriculture such that they may begin formulating meaningful responses to these challenges. Through a holistic study of the food system, the SCFS degree aims to develop highly skilled and civic-minded graduates prepared to advance the sustainable food and agriculture sector through new businesses and social enterprises, and preparing students for graduate-level training in disciplines such as Education, Hawaiian Studies, Natural Resource Management, Political Science or Urban and Regional Planning at UH Mānoa.

UHWO supports the following provisions of Section 2 of SB 2575:

- 1. Establishing scholarships for students to enroll in the Sustainable Community Food Systems program at the University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu.** The BAS-SCFS at UHWO will provide a world-class education to the historically underserved Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) population of West O'ahu. The SCFS program is designed to serve the NHPI population through the integrative study of traditional ecological knowledge and modern science with the objective of stewarding the agricultural resources of Hawai'i over the long-term. A scholarship program for SCFS will help assist adult learners in West O'ahu to access culturally relevant options in higher education while meeting state priorities.

- 2. Creating job opportunities and on-site training by creating positions for a full-time garden manager and part-time student assistants for the Student Organic Garden at the University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu.** The Student Organic Garden has grown to be a popular and dynamic living laboratory for the entire UHWO campus. Classes in SCFS, Mathematics, Political Science, Education and Hawaiian and Pacific Studies now regularly use the garden for experiential and hands-on learning. The garden serves hundreds of undergraduate and public school students each year. A permanent full-time garden manager position and part-time student employee positions for the garden will enable UHWO to continue to offer a wide range of high quality educational programming in sustainable horticulture, home gardening, cooking and nutrition.

- 3. Creating a Hawaiian Center for Sustainable Community Food Systems, a two hundred-acre education, training, outreach, food processing, and applied research center; provided that prior to creating and implementing the center the University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu, shall conduct and submit to the legislature a study that determines the feasibility and benefits of creating a center.** UHWO will conduct and submit to the legislature a study that determines the feasibility and benefits of creating a Hawaiian Center for Sustainable Community Food Systems (HCSCFS), a 200-acre multi-disciplinary and applied education center dedicated to advancing food security and sustainable economic development of the food system of Hawai'i and the Pacific. Through multiple program areas including certified organic production, youth leadership training, undergraduate and graduate education, organic farmer training, K-12 education, public workshops, food processing and applied agro-ecology research, the HCSCFS will provide the necessary educational and physical infrastructure to achieve a more sustainable, resilient and secure food system for the state of Hawai'i.

- 4. Implementing research projects, hosting conferences, and employing additional staff and faculty as the director of the program deems necessary.** To build upon prior success, the SCFS program is seeking additional funding to support applied agro-ecology and food system research, promote popular understanding of critical agriculture and food issues through public education, and build the SCFS program curriculum in the fields of ecology, indigenous natural resources management, epidemiology, and public health and nutrition through the hiring of additional faculty members.

UHWO supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Supplemental Budget.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2575.

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Higher Education
February 6, 2018 at 1:15 p.m.

By
Michael Wahl
State Historic Preservation Division, GIS Specialist

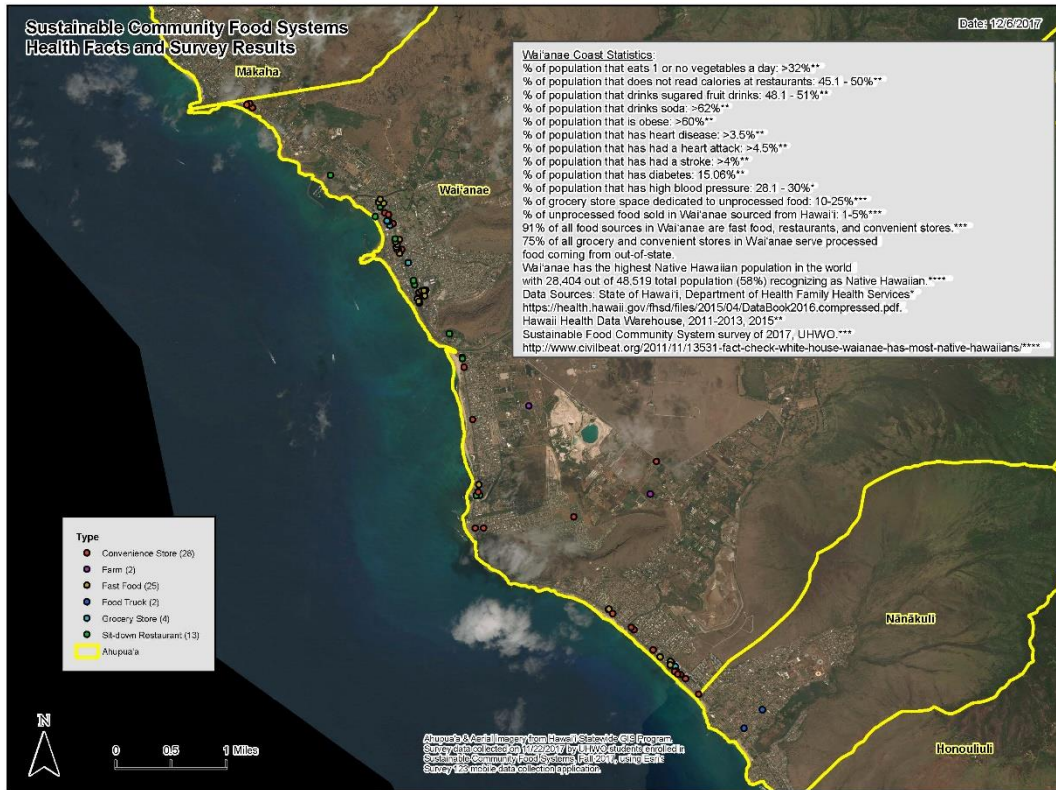
SB 2575 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Mercado Kim, and members of the committees:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB 2575 because of its importance to educating the community about local food sources, local agricultural systems, and the necessity of sustainable agriculture and food supply throughout Hawai'i. I participated in a UHWO SCFS program class in Fall 2017 to assist with mapping the food sources in the Wai'anae moku where the majority of Native Hawaiians live in Hawai'i. The results of that study in comparison with Department of Health statistics show that many of the health related issues of Native Hawaiians (diabetes, stroke, heart disease, etc.) are related to the overwhelming fact that there is a lack of healthy, local whole foods being sold in Wai'anae. We need to educate and encourage the community to fight for sustainable, healthy, local food sources for the sake of their health, their families, and their livelihoods. The SCFS program is vital to disseminating this information and for encouraging students to make the necessary changes in their communities.

Below is a map the class produced showing the disparing conditions of food distribution in Wai'anae and the statistics that are related to those conditions. There are 4 grocery stores with less than 5-10% of their food being unprocessed, whole food. And less than 10% of those whole foods are sourced in Hawai'i. Out of 74 commercial food vendors in Wai'anae, the majority are convenience stores (28) and fast food (25).



Please consider the health and prosperity of Native Hawaiians when reviewing this bill and how the UHWO SCFS is fighting an uphill battle to make the positive changes that are needed to solve this problem. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this extremely important measure.

GARY MAUNAKEA-FORTH

89-134 Haleakala Ave • Wai`anae HI 96792 • 808-478-0316
gary@maoorganicfarms.org

TESTIMONY OF GARY MAUNAKEA-FORTH
House Committee on Higher Education
SB2575 – Relating to Agricultural Food Production
Hawai`i State Legislature

February 5, 2017

Aloha

My name is Gary Maunakea-Forth, I live and work in the Wai`anae moku, I am a co-founder of MA`O Organic Farms, where I currently serve as Managing Director.

MA`O is a social enterprise, structured as a non-profit 501(c)3. Working on 24-acres in Lualualei Valley our mission is to we grow food and youth. We produce over 40 different varieties of fruits and vegetables, distributing food in “co-producer” relationships to local natural foods stores and grocery’s, restaurants, farmer’s markets and through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program with over 100 members. Youth manage the farm within an **‘educpreneurial’ `auwai (or education pathway)**, their sweat equity is an investment in college and career success.

Over the past 12-years we have provided comprehensive leadership training and paid internships to over 350 youth, with 97 receiving an Associates of Arts degree from Leeward Community College. Eighteen of these interns have attained bachelor’s degrees. The YLT has a junior college focus, and now offers a direct pathway to 4-year college; five of our current interns are enrolled in the newly-developed Bachelor of Applied Science in Sustainable Community Food Systems (SCFS) degree program at the University of Hawai`i West O`ahu (UHWO) campus. In addition to the internship programs, over 2,500 younger kids visit the farm in our experiential learning farm-to-fork program. Each week we produce over 3,000 pounds of food, and we’re working to purchase more land to grow more food.

I am writing to support SB2575, which would appropriate funds to expand the University of Hawai`i at West O`ahu Bachelor of Applied Science in Sustainable Community Food Systems program.

The State’s own studies show we grow less than 15% of our own food and have less than 14-days supply of food on island at any one time. The Office of Planning, in an EDA funded 2012 report, stated that: “Replacing just 10% of the food we currently import would amount to approximately \$313 million. Assuming a 30% farm share, \$94 million would be realized at the farm-gate, which would generate an economy-wide impact of an additional \$188 million in sales, \$47 million in earnings, \$6 million in state tax revenues, and more than 2,300 jobs.” So it seems clear there is a large economic opportunity here.

Many other reports highlight the potential problems we face if hit with a shipping crisis or natural disaster. The post Hurricane Marie situation in Puerto Rico, which is now 95% dependent on outside food sources, along with the worrying trends in climate change and ocean acidification, provide enough motivation to show that productive local food systems can help to make us more ecologically resilient and adaptable.

There are many valiant attempts to increase Hawai'i's food security. For example the UH Go Farm program provides new farmers with expertise and entry level opportunities; the Kokua Hawai'i Foundation supports funding for school garden initiatives; and there are many organizations weaving taro cultivation and Hawaiian foods systems into unique place-based experiential learning programs.

Yet the aggregated work of all the programs, whether its institutional or community-based, has not been enough to shift our food dependency; still much more needs to be done.

I've been farming for 20-years in Lualualei Valley, and believe that to create a food secure future for Hawai'i we need to focus on three things:

1. Scaling sustainable agriculture to levels not seen for over 200-years when in pre-contact native Hawaiians feed their entire population;
2. Mobilizing land, water, and financial investments, and directing those resources toward agro-ecological projects that put into action local responses to global problems like changing climate; and
3. Building educated/empowered local leadership and a skilled workforce that will embrace these challenges with generative, creative, and innovative solutions.

It's clear that the Bachelor of Applied Science in Sustainable Community Food Systems at UH West O`ahu provides a comprehensive institutional response to building educated and empowered local leadership; I encourage you to provide the program with funding to grow their role in this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Gary Maunakea-Forth

Gary Maunakea-Forth

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 4:53:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jornal Maunakea-Forth	WCRC	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou Distinguished Committee Members,

I am writing in support of SB2575.

I am a founder and director of the Wai'anae Community Re-Development Corporation, dba MA'O Organic Farms, a community based, federally recognized non-profit, whose mission is to empower youth leadership through culturally and communally relevant educational and entrepreneurial opportunity.

Since 2001, we have worked diligently to develop, implement and expand the MA'O Community Food Systems Initiative and over that time, we have:

- grown our farm from a 5 acre farm to a 23 acre farm;
- increase our production of organically certified produce;
- increase the throughput of youth in college;
- graduate over a 100 youth with an undergraduate degree;
- co-develop two degree seeking programs in organic/sustainable ag.

We support SB2575 because we have seen firsthand that student interest has grown in community food systems and enrollment continues to grow at feeder high schools in our region, at Leeward Community College, Leeward Moku and at the University of Hawaii West Oahu.

In our own programming, we have seen youth matriculation from our edu-preneurial programs directly into higher internships, externships, apprenticeships and paid positions both at MA'O and in the broader community. Our graduates are a part of an ever-growing ag/food system professional workforce.

We are also witnessing greater collaboration within the sector. Private, public and non profit interest and actions in collectivizing our efforts to create a sustainable community food system is leading to growth in the sector. Regionalizing efforts with the University of Hawaii West O'ahu as a catalyst for education, training, outreach, food processing, and applied research is a timely and important endeavor.

We are also beginning to collaborate with the University of Hawaii West O'ahu on a number of events, activities and projects that include research, education and community/academic engagement that advance sustainable agriculture and food systems in Hawaii, nationally and internationally. This is important- no one agency or approach can solve our food security challenge. Collaboration and partnership is key.

We ask for support of SB2575 as a key step because it supports the University of Hawaii West O'ahu to leverage their already prominent influence to further catalyze their vested stakeholders to action that increases demand and access to locally grown foods, that increases the production of locally grown foods, and that provides policy and organizational support to meet the projected food self-sufficiency needs of our state.

With the threat of peak oil, of advancing climate change, and an aging farming/ag production community- we need to invest now into educational strategies and pathways to create new leadership for this important sector. I am happy to answer any questions that the committee members might have. My contacts are enclosed below.

Mahalo nui!

J. Kukui Maunakea-Forth

Executive Director, WCRC & MA'O

808-696-5569

kukui@maoorganicfarms.org



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Committee on Agriculture and Environment;
Committee on Higher Education

Time: 1:15 PM

Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Where: Conference Room 224

TESTIMONY

By: Nalani Kealaiki
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of AEN
Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Mercado-Kim, and Members of HRE

RE: **SB 2575 Relating to Agricultural Food Production**

E nā Luna Ho‘omalū Gabbard a me Kahele, nā Hope Luna Ho‘omalū Riviere a me Mercado-Kim, a me nā Lālā Lunamaka‘āinana o kēia Kōmike, aloha! My name is Nalani Kealaiki and I serve as the ‘Ewa Regional Director of the Community Engagement & Resources Group of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing in **support of Senate Bill 2575** (“**SB 2575**”), relating to agricultural food production, as it aligns with Kamehameha’s sustainability efforts and Hawai‘i’s statewide sustainability goals. We offer the following comments:

As the bill cites, a staggering amount of wealth and opportunity leaves Hawai‘i when families buy food produced outside of our pae‘āina. Hawai‘i’s dependence on imported food products also threatens the security of our food system and, ultimately, the wellbeing of the Native Hawaiian people. Combatting food-insecurity, therefore, requires strategies that increase our self-sufficiency and the resilience of our food system.

We believe education, training, and research are critical components of a successful strategy. Our ability to confront the threats to our food system depend on educating and training our keiki and the rising generation of leaders. SB 2575 sets the framework to build that needed capacity by investing in higher education, expanding academic and vocational training opportunities in Hawai‘i, and advancing research in sustainable food systems.

As a private charitable educational trust founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is striving to support advancement toward a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success, and local leadership drives global leadership.

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.



Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

Board of Directors:

Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) strongly supports: SB2575

Gary L. Hooser
President

February 2, 2018

Andrea N. Brower
Ikaika M. Hussey
Co-Vice Presidents

My name is Koohan Paik and I am the Development Director for the Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA). HAPA is a statewide environmental, social and economic justice organization. HAPA's fair and sustainable food systems work focuses on promoting regenerative food systems that ensure food security, social equity and self-sufficiency. HAPA engages over 10,000 local residents annually through its work.

Kim Coco Iwamoto
Treasurer

I am writing to submit testimony in strong support of HB 2575 to appropriate funds for the University of Hawaii West Oahu to expand its existing programs and develop new means to increase food security and self-sufficiency in the State.

Bart E. Dame
Secretary

I have lived in the agricultural district of Hamakua on Hawaii Island for six years, and before that, on Kauai, for two decades. I operated a citrus farm there.

Paul Achitoff

On both Hawaii and Kauai, I noticed that, whenever government programs made land available to local residents for farming, the success rate was very low. The reason for this chronic failure was simple: people who wanted to farm had no experience whatsoever in the many aspects of what it takes to succeed as a farmer in Hawaii. One must be versed in science, systems thinking, practical manual skills, communication skills, economic realities, etc. To give an eager young person land to farm without the skills and experience, is like giving an eager young person an operating table and encouraging her or him to perform surgery. It's just not realistic.

Malia K. Chun

Laura Harrelson

Katie McMillan

Walter Ritte Jr.

Karen Shishido

The UH West Oahu program in Sustainable Community Food Systems fills in the gap between theory and forging a practical livelihood in regenerative farming. Its proven track record has earned the program international renown. It recognizes and maximizes the potential of our vibrant local population in a way that is a far cry from its legacy of plantation exploitation. And because it is linked with a university degree, it allows for maximum personal and community evolution -- there is nothing else like it in the State. It must be encouraged to expand its amazing work!

Leslie Malu Shizue Miki

Kekaulike Prosper Tomich

Cade Watanabe

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Koohan Paik, Development Director

SB-2575

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:33:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:49:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ulla Hasager	ACCESS Engagement	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Senate Committee on Higher Education

(February 6, 2018 at 1:15 p.m.)

By

Dr. Ulla Hasager

Director of Civic Engagement for the University of Hawai'i College of Social Sciences;

Co-Director for Science Education for New Civic Engagement and Responsibilities (SENCER) Center for Innovation West, home-based at Santa Clara University, CA;

Coordinator of SENCER Hawai'i, home-based in the University of Hawai'i System;

and Co-PI on grants administered through the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement, home-based at Stoney Brook, New York

SB 2575 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Mercado Kim,

and members of the committees:

This testimony is in support of SB 2575, which secures financial support for the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems (UHWO SCFS) Program -- an innovative, unique, and nationally recognized strong academic program of critical importance to the future of food production in Hawai'i.

The UHWO SCFS Program is regularly featured nationally and has served as an important part of making our local SENCER Hawai'i a national model for integrating natural, social, and indigenous sciences in education and focused work to solve current capacious, contested issues for our human survival.

The work of SCFS is also of key importance to the community it is located in. As UH is a land-, sea- and space grant university, we have a key responsibility to work closely with our communities, and SCFS has in a remarkable short time developed a host of community relations and is partnering with entities that have great needs but are difficult to reach. For the health and survival the Wai'anae Coast communities – as well as the state overall – please make sure that the program can continue to exist and grow.

For my work with MĀ• noa students – and through the systemwide MĀ• lama I NĀ• Ahupua'a service-learning program, SCFS is both a model, and an active partner.

Mahalo for introducing this important bill and for this opportunity to testify in support of it.

Aloha, Ulla Hasager, PhD

ulla@hawaii.edu, 808 330 1276

ACCESS Engagement, University of Hawai'i at MĀ• noa, 2450 Campus Rd., Dean 5-7; Honolulu, HI 96822

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 9:27:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

UH West Oahu's Program, "Sustainable Community Food Systems" is an exemplary program in the classroom, in the student garden, and in the community and is significantly helping Hawai'i achieve greater awareness, knowledge, and skills in that area. We will never reach greater food production and diverse and healthy farms and families, without building the base and foundation in education. Mahalo to Dr. Albie Miles and all his Staff for the amazing work they have done in such a short time. They are helping us all to believe that these systems are possible for Hawaii's future!

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 8:47:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Ricardo C. Custodio	UH West Oahu Health Science Program	Support	Yes

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2575

February 6th, 2018

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Chair Kahele,

I have practiced medicine for over 35 years. In that time, I have realized that wellness is more than the absence of disease. Wellness comes from the interplay of health, food and culture. We understand this at UH West Oahu and it serves as a motivation for our interdisciplinary partnership between the departments of Sustainable Community & Food Systems, Health Science and Native Hawaiian & Indigenous Health & Healing.

In order to proceed with the work we need to do, resources must be given to Sustainable Community & Food Systems. We need to lessen our dependence on imported food. This became clear for most of us in Hawaii during the Missile Alert mistake.

Fortunately, my students were prepared. Since September of 2016 (before Trump was elected) I have run a scenario where Trump is President, Kim Jong-un is unstable and Putin continues to be aggressive. An all out nuclear war breaks out and Hawaii is spared by our Kauai missile defense system. The students in the scenario are asked to plan the next three days. The very first task they all come up with is to find food.

In the debriefings the students all recommend we address the lack of locally grown food.

For these reasons I support SB2575.

Mahalo,

Ricardo C. Custodio, M.D., M.P.H.

Associate Professor & Chair of Health Science, UH West Oahu

Pediatrician, Kalihi-Palama Health Center

Reede Scholar, Harvard University

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 8:13:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monique Mironesco		Support	No

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Senate Committee on Higher Education

February 6, 2018 at 1:15 p.m.

By Dr. Monique Mironesco

SB 2575 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Mercado Kim, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 2575.

I have been teaching a core requirement course called Politics of Food in the Sustainable Community Food Systems (SCFS) program since its inception in 2014. In fact, I have taught the class since 2007. In 2011, along with folks from MA'O Farms, and with the support of former UHWO Chancellor Gene Awakuni, we worked to design a program to meet the needs of the UHWO service area to matriculate students who understand the systems thinking necessary to fix our broken food system in Hawai'i. We received a multi-year grant from Kamehameha Schools with which to hire Dr. Albie Miles in 2013-4. He has taken over the program and shaped it into a top notch educational opportunity for young people both on the Leeward Coast and the 'Ewa plain.

Every time I teach this required course for the program, students tell me that the class has changed their lives. It has improved their health; enabled them to understand how food systems work (currently not very well); as well as ways that they can be agents of change in their own communities regarding food and agriculture. Similar comments are directed toward Dr. Miles and his colleagues on a regular basis when they teach all of the other classes students take throughout the years in the SCFS program.

The SCFS program at UHWO is changing the way students understand their respective roles in their own communities. It is inherently different than any other program in the

University of Hawaii system because it focuses on economic, political, environmental, public health, and social justice aspects of the food system, not just agriculture, or even some small very specialized piece of agriculture in Hawai'i. It enables students to understand connections among these various strands, as well as encourages them to focus on solutions through service learning and extended practica in both policymaking organizations, and on-farm experiential work.

The creation of a Center for Sustainable Community Food Systems can only benefit the surrounding community and help Hawai'i work towards its ambitious sustainability goals to feed its residents. I hope you will support its creation and appropriate adequate funding for us to be able to do the work that our community needs us to do.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Aloha,

Dr. Monique Mironesco



Board Members

President

Jason Okuhama
Managing Partner,
Commercial & Business Lending

Secretary

Marcus Kawatachi
Deputy Director,
Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

Trina Orimoto
Clinical & Research
Psychologist

Kaipo Kukahiko
Executive Director,
KEY Project

Miwa Tamanaha
Deputy Director,
Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo

HACBED Staff

Brent N. Kakesako
Executive Director

Keoki Noji
Chief Operating Officer

Athena T. Esene
Bookkeeper & Office Manager

Will Simmons
Food Systems Specialist

Foley Pfalzgraf
AmeriCorps VISTA

Alex Narrajos
AmeriCorps VISTA

Date: February 3, 2018

To: Senators Mike Gabbard and Kaiuli'i Kahele, Chairs, Senators Gil Riviere and Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chairs, and members of the Committees on Agriculture & Environment and Higher Education

From: Brent Kakesako, Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED)

Re: Support for SB2575

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice-Chairs Riviere and Kim, and Committee Members,

The Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED) supports SB2575, which would appropriate funds for the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu (UHWO) to expand its existing programs and develop new means to increase food security and self-sufficiency in the State.

HACBED was established in 1992 as a nonprofit statewide intermediary to *address social, economic, and environmental justice concerns through community-based economic development*. It advances its mission with core competencies in the areas of community and organizational capacity building, community and economic development planning, and asset policy development and advocacy. Over time, what has rung true across the different communities HACBED has been blessed to support is the importance of choice and control in the lives of families across the state to achieve their vision for genuine wealth – and within the context of food, this has been no different. HACBED has supported a network of community-based organizations over the past four years to continue the work of restoring ancestral abundance. Under that broader framework, this loose network focused its efforts on shifting our institutions and systems tied to food and knowledge production.

A key part of that work was supporting the burgeoning Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Sustainable Community Food Systems (SCFS) at UHWO, “a multi-disciplinary, experiential and applied education program about key ecological and social issues in food and agricultural systems.”¹ The SCFS degree was born out of community-based organizations, like MA'O Organic Farms, who saw the need for pathways that were relevant to their communities and by extension, their youth. The BAS reflects this desire and need as well as meets existing shifts around workforce development, such as the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act as it “incorporates problem-based and hands-on learning to develop food system professional capable of solving real-world problems and transitioning Hawai'i agriculture toward greater ecological sustainability and social equity.”²

¹ <http://www.uhwo.hawaii.edu/academics/degrees-and-certificates/bachelor-of-applied-sciences/food-systems/>

² Ibid.

In reaching out to teachers and students in the natural resources and agriculture academies within the public high schools in UHWO's service area, including Nānākuli, Wai'anae, Kapolei, Campbell, Leilehua, Wai'anae, and Kahuku, HACBED heard resounding support for the program. The program fits with the interests of the students in those regions and their particular desire to return to their communities to support and improve them. Yet, HACBED also heard about current challenges in terms of time and resource constraints on teachers as well as the lack of support, training, and mentoring to incorporate concepts tied to food security and food self-sufficiency into their courses. A lot of the groundwork we have done would inform and potentially fulfill large parts of the requirement for a feasibility and benefits study by UHWO relating to the proposed center for sustainable community food systems included in SB2575.

As such, passage of SB2575 would support an institution of higher learning within a community that is hungry for these offerings and alleviate broader issues of food security and self-sufficiency by offering the following opportunities that would essentially be a systemic approach to shifting our response and actions:

- *Scholarships* – support for students to enroll at UHWO and further their knowledge of sustainable food systems;
- *Jobs & On-Site Training* – support for students to have paid, hands-on opportunities to apply their knowledge;
- *Center* – 200-acre center that would provide education, training, outreach, food processing, and applied research capabilities and support for the different stakeholders across the food system;
- *Research* – support for staff and faculty to broaden their knowledge and that of UHWO, and by extension the students.

Increasing the ability of families to grow their own food will build their self-sufficiency and by extension the self-sufficiency and food security for the entire state. As such, SB2575 would support programs that build these critical skills within the context of current opportunities to address systemic challenges facing all of our families statewide.

Please let me know if you may have any additional questions at (808)550-2661 or bkakesako@hacbed.org.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

Brent N. Kakesako
Executive Director

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Higher Education
February 6, 2018 at 1:15 p.m.

By
Steven West
UHWO Student and Concerned Citizen

SB 2575 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Mercado Kim, and members of the committees:

I strongly support and encourage legislators to pass and fund SB 2575 because it provides a solution confronting Hawaii in Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency.

Thirty-five years ago, I graduated from the United States Air Force Academy with a commission as an Officer in the United States Air Force. For over 24 years I served with a passion defending the United States of America. The threat ranged from the Cold War to the War Against Terror. My second career continued down the same path. Now, the world has dramatically changed, food self-sufficiency and food security have emerged as a more significant problem facing American citizens. My epiphany occurred last year learning about the purpose and vision of Sustainable Community Food Systems (SCFS) program at the UHWO. It convinced me that this course provides pathways for the community to increase local food production, to improve access to food, and to stimulate community development towards self-sufficiency.

As a full-time student in the program and the same passion I felt thirty-five years ago, I firmly believe that the SCFS program is the critical first step to becoming an operational solution to the challenges the State of Hawaii faces when it comes food self-sufficiency and food security. Currently, I am learning the ecological and economic practicality of Hawaii agriculture. With climate destabilization, severe weather, unpredictable environmental, social, or economic calamities, SB 2575 is a proactive plan and a way forward to replace our dependency on food imports. The risk is too high not to act now.

There is a Chinese proverb that says, "When the wind changes direction, there are those who build walls and those who build windmills." SB 2575 is that windmill that Hawaii needs now for a better future and well-being of its citizens.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2575. Please pass and fund.

Steven West
UHWO Student
Sustainable Community Food System

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:40:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
scott kitamori	SCFS UHWO	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 4:07:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:27:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2575

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:01:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lindsey whitcomb		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 3:10:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tricia Dang		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB 2575 Relating to Agricultural Food Production as it PROACTIVELY addresses a fundamental and core issue to creating sustainable food systems in Hawaii - EDUCATING HAWAII'S YOUNG ADULTS. Our agricultural industry will not create and sustain itself. It requires succession planning, youth, learning, practice and application to understand how our food systems function and increase the potential for success.

I support the creation of jobs that will support, maintain, and sustain higher education agricultural programs and practice, and opportunities for students to receive financial support as they pursue jobs that they are passionate about, jobs that are extremely important for our community - its health and well-being, yet willing to accept the lower-paying salaries to do this work. There is no better place than the ewa plains where commercial farming is present and land is available.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support,

Tricia Dang,

Born, raised, educated, and working in Hawaii

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 11:17:47 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Haylin	Chock	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Senate Committee on Higher Education

February 6, 2018 at 1:15 p.m.

By

Haylin Chock

SB 2575 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Mercado Kim, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2575.

I am currently a student enrolled in the Sustainable Community Food Systems Program at UH West Oahu. During my time in this program I have gained so much gratitude for finding an academic pathway that allows me to perpetuate my personal values of Aloha ‘Ā‘Āina. Being an outer island student, I have been fortunate to grow up in a country lifestyle. What makes this program unique is that the content I have learned so far is relevant to the looming self sufficiency questions facing the people of hawaii in the immediate future. This program is more than agriculture courses. It has given me a holistic approach to

understanding the issues surrounding climate change and our states ability to have a disaster resilient food system.

I have attended Hawaii public school for most of my life. A prevalent feeling I have noticed in my community is that there are no career opportunities for the youth besides becoming a cog in the tourism machine. The SCFS program has showed me that there are so many opportunities that allow me to work with my 'Ä• ina and community to better my home. Speaking from my own perspective, outer island youth go through the hoops to come to Oahu and pursue degrees that have incredibly limited work opportunities that allow them to live on their home island. The SCFS pathway is almost designed for the local demographic of people that have a passion for 'Ä• ina we all call home.

As we move forward as a nation and a species the importance of sustainable living becomes more relevant in conversation. The effects of climate change are becoming more apparent with every passing year. Now more than ever, It is imperative that we start thinking about how our community is going to bounce back from the next natural disaster to comes through the pacific. The skills I have gained in this program has made me pa'a (solidified) my knowledge of the importance of community resilience especially here in Hawaii. I hope that the future students of this program will have even more opportunity to connect to professionals in various related fields around the state. I strongly believe that if this program has the opportunity to grow, there will be more outer island students can actively make changes for Hawaii to become a model of self sufficiency for the nation.

I truly believe that programs such as the Sustainable Community Food Systems program here at UH West Oahu is the future for Hawaii. Through programs such as this, we as a community have the opportunity to understand and hopefully solve the complex problems connected to our current food system. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Me Ka 'oia i'o,

Haylin Chock

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Higher Education
February 6, 2018 at 1:15 p.m.

By

Michael Ferreira, MAKAKILO, HI.

Committee Chair, Hawaii Farmers Union United, Waianae Chapter

SENDING AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN, MY OPINIONS DO NOT REFLECT THOSE OF HFUU

SB 2575 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Mercado Kim, and members of the committees:

I strongly support SB2575. We have so much viable farmland just on Oahu let alone all the other islands. Our biggest challenge is getting people to farm, getting educated people to farm and help in the process. It is a needed profession that doesn't seem to be catching on locally. We have Thai and Vietnamese immigrants coming up in farming here because they knew of the importance of growing their food locally and providing for their families in an environment where they didn't have food imports. That is a huge plus but we have less native Hawaiian farming practitioners and that is a staple to our cultural life in perpetuating those methods and sustainment of the Hawaiian people and ultimately the general public.

- The uniqueness of the SCFS Program is that it brings farming into the Mainstream for youth where they see farming as a viable opportunity to make a living in an environment where the unique atmosphere allows for 3- 4 crop turns a year due to our weather. Being able to obtain a degree opens up funding opportunities and venture capital to start a farming operation where a business plan is required.
- The value of the UHWO SCFS Program will help expand other businesses who operate to support farms and farming that are the legs that are formed to support farming operations.
- The importance of the SCFS Program to the community, State of Hawai'i and/or the nation is that we can teach and create a base of new farmers specifically targeted to

how we can sustainably farm here and reduce the amount of food imported here. In this way we increase our food security, create a whole new job sector that employs many people that would may not be conventionally employable otherwise and create a pool of educated farmers that may be able to collaborate and expand our food system together, employing the latest means to maximize crop yields and quality without turning necessarily to bioengineered means..

- I hope in the future that we build a knowledge bank and rebuild our farming community to exceed what it once was. We have so much farm land. Developers want to build more upscale housing and add to number of end users that we have to import food for now. We need to grow produce on that land for if no one plants on it, builders will take it over. We have seen this with the Ho'Opili project and now Koa Ridge. We need to promote this bill any way we can. It is our Kuliana so we may Malama our Ain'a. This effects our future so we need to build the foundation now.
- The positive impact of SB 2575, if passed, beyond UHWO, will to raise awareness and create a base of farmers who will utilize our vacant farmland and enable this island to feed our families and create an abundant reserve that we may market in other places similar to our coffee and chocolate farmers as well as olive oil. Learning several techniques in farming will also lessen our reliance on pesticides and some harmful bioengineering.
- This is a bill that is supported strongly and whose time has come. Won't we invest in ourselves now so that we may reap the dividends in the future?

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Michael Ferreira

Wainae, Oahu, Hawaii

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Higher Education
February 6, 2018 at 1:15 p.m.

By
Cecilia Colesanti
SCFS Student

SB 2575 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Mercado Kim, and members of the committees:

I strongly support SB 2575. The Sustainable Community Food Systems program at UH West Oahu is one of a kind. It has given me the opportunity to learn on a multi-disciplinary level. The SCFS courses are designed with a comprehensive outlook on the food system here in Hawaii. I have only lived on this beautiful island for one year but within the first few weeks of the SCFS program I gained an understanding of the inner-workings of its food system, from the distributors all the way down the food insecure population. In the past I have sought majors that aimed to help society, but failed to incorporate all the necessary components. The SCFS program has succeeded in giving me the knowledge to self-sustain. It has showcased the parts of the food system that need our help. I reflect on food security regularly and work towards improving it for my neighbors across Hawaii. I hope to use my SCFS degree to work on climate change mitigation and adaptation for the security of our agricultural resources. If passed, SB 2575 can widen opportunities for students, enrich community ties and empower future graduate to make real change for food production in Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 7:41:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
DONNIE BECKER		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 5:10:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 11:56:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephany Cecil		Support	No

Comments:

I am in full support of programs that increase the success of sustainable ag development in Hawaii.

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Higher Education
February 6, 2018 at 1:15 p.m.

By
Char'nel Colin

SB 2575 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Mercado Kim, and members of the committees:

I am testifying in support of SB 2575. The UHWO SCFS program provides hands on learning about our Food systems. Through the different class courses students, like myself engage in 'aina based activities at the UHWO Organic Garden along with other farms such as MA'O Organic Farms and Kuhiawaho Lo'i. It is important that we learn how to farm sustainable but also to learn how indigenous knowledge is a key element for developing "knew" farming techniques. The SCFS Program encompasses not just the farming aspect but also the political, community and health aspects that plays a key role in shaping our food systems. The SCFS program has introduced me to many other farmers, organizations and programs all working to improve the health of our 'aina and people. I'm very thankful to be working with people such as Alicia Higa and her team at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center who help to create more available and affordable access to fresh fruits available for low-income families through the EBT double bucks program at the Makeke Farmers Markets. I believe it very important for everyone to be aware of what is in our communities and what we are feeding our families. The SCFS program creates that social space to engage with others, problem solve, discuss ideas and learn. I gratefully appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. Mahalo nui loa.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 7:38:53 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tasia Y		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou-

I am writing in strong support of SB2575.

As the effects of climate change continue to impact communities around the world, especially island communities, we need to put energy, attention, and financial support towards efforts that will help to mitigate its adverse effects. One of these efforts is through sustainable agricultural practices (and having the land and support for small farmers). UH West O'ahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems (SCFS) Bachelor's Degree is educating students to understand our food system, climate change, interconnection between 'āina and community health, and encouraging them to think critically about what types of policies should be in place to make Hawai'i's food system more resilient against inevitable effects of climate change.

This program has already been nationally recognized as one of the top programs in Sustainable Agriculture in terms of affordability (aka accessibility) and quality of education. The interest in this field of study will only continue to grow.

Again, I urge you to support SB 2575. Mahalo nui for considering this testimony in your decision-making. May we work together to create a more sustainable, equitable food system here in Hawai'i.

Tasia Yamamura

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Higher Education
February 6, 2018 at 1:15 p.m.

By
Arielle Zurzolo

SB 2575 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Mercado Kim, and members of the committees:

We strongly support SB 2575.

Fernando Maldonado, my husband, and I have recently started a farm in Puerto Rico, an archipelago with a similar history and food system crises to Hawaii. We visited the UHWO SCFS Program and MA'O Farms in January with the intention to use the SCFS Program as a model to support food systems change in Puerto Rico that is desperately needed after two hurricanes and severe food insecurity.

We were inspired by the uniqueness of the program as it is connected with MA'O, a grassroots non-profit farm in an indigenous Hawaiian community. The program provides pathways for youth to prepare for and receive an AA or BA. Often communities feel disconnected from higher education and visa versa and this program is imagining a new way for meaningful interaction. The curriculum also provides a well-rounded, interdisciplinary approach that appeals to today's students. It touches on all food system components including but not limited to agriculture, hands on application in the student garden, public health, honoring of local culture, policy, and systems thinking.

This program gives us hope as it demonstrates that education can be used to change a broken system. A program in Sustainable Food Systems is now more desired than ever by the next generation of students searching for ways to address the environmental disasters we are facing, especially with access to local, organic and sustainable food. We have already begun to share what we learned with farmers, activists and academics on the ground in Puerto Rico and there is movement to start a similar agroecology program happening now. We strongly encourage the support SB 2575 as programs like this are helping to create the future food systems activists, policy makers, farmers and educators that our planet needs in order to survive and thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:37:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew K Lynch		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:52:53 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
silvan shawe		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Mercado Kim, and members of the committees,

As a graduate of UH West Oahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems Program who now works in the nonprofit sector to increase food access, equity and security I can personally attest to the value of this program. SCFS's curriculum is forward thinking, experiential and provides students with the highest possible quality education. This is a truly exceptional program which deserves the full support of the State of Hawaii, as it trains the next generation of leaders in sustainability, food systems, farming, and social justice.

This kind of education is essential to the food systems of Hawai'i and it's resilience.

Please Support SB2575 and the expansion of the SCFS program at UH West Oahu.

Sincerely

Silvan Shawe

808-419-1016

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:58:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Higher Education
February 6, 2018 at 1:15 p.m.

By
Lynn M. Batten
Farm-to-Fork Extern, MA'O Organic Farms

SB 2575 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Mercado Kim, and members of the committees:

Aloha kākou,

First and foremost I wanted to thank you all for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2575.

As noted above, my name is Lynn Batten. I am a 23 year old community member of Wai'anae and a student studying within the Sustainable Community Food Systems (SCFS) degree at the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu Campus. I joined the SCFS Degree Program after completing my Associates Degree in Liberal Arts and Food Security at Leeward Community College through the MA'O Organic Farms Internship located in Lualualei Valley, Wai'anae.

While completing my position as a Youth Leadership Training (YLT) Intern at MA'O Organic Farms, I was introduced to the SCFS Program to continue my educational pathway at UHWO to attain a Bachelor's degree within food security and sustainable practices within the food system. This program teaches such an intricate and complex food system that a lot of the people in Hawai'i know very little if not many things about. This program touches bases on food systems not only in Hawai'i, but around the world, while focusing on other global issues such as: social, economic, and political injustices and issues that are involved within food and community today. The University of West O'ahu is the only place within the whole island of O'ahu that actually has a degree for students who are interested in working within the food systems and in teaching about the value and importance of access and knowledge of the food industries today.

I currently still work within the field of food systems at MA'O Organic Farms. I started in 2014 in the summer as a Youth Leadership Training (YLT) Intern, completed the two and a half year internship opportunity towards my A.A degree, and further extended my position at the farm to higher positions to continue my educational pursuits in higher education. I have transitioned between being a Ho'owaiwai Youth Leadership Intern (HYLT) at MA'O for an extended internship of a year as a Farm-to-Fork (F2F) Coordinator and later extended my position today as an extern, signed upon yet

another year contract within the F2F Program. The F2F Program is an educational outreach program whose main focus is to teach young children from school's around the islands with the main focus on grades Pre K to 12th grade seniors the importance of knowing where food comes from, how food is grown, distributed, marketed-- from the beginning phases of growth, to the journey it takes to get to one's plate. The program also supports a more local and sustainable outlook on agriculture as the program also touches base on the economic, political, and social barriers that as mentioned before come into play with food systems today. The main focus in the F2F Program just as the SCFC Degree Program is the importance of not only growing food locally and within our communities, but also teaching the many different growing techniques that are available through agriculture such as: organic farming, genetically modified techniques, and the spraying of pesticides and other chemicals. Each of these methods are explained through its practices and the effects it has within the Earth's soil and overall health of the environment and consumers.

With Hawai'i being food dependent with 85-90% of its food being imported from outside sources, this makes the islands of Hawai'i vulnerable and susceptible to a threat in food security if ever shipments of food were to stop coming to our island's shipping ports. It is already a prevalent fact that without the incoming shipments of foods and dependency on the United States, we as a Hawaiian nation would only last around 7 days before fresh food becomes perishable. This highlights the importance and dire need of becoming more of a food secure state by producing more local foods and using more of our island's land for agricultural purposes rather than an increase in developments towards businesses and other food chains that already exist in excess among the island of O'ahu.

Food is such an important role in our everyday lives, as each person who exists in the world today needs food to survive. Food plays a role in bringing people together, in the way we take care of our environment, and can also play a huge part in the overall health of ourselves. It is noted that certain foods can play a factor to chronic-diseases and illnesses within people while other foods can help prevent such circumstances. Therefore making food one of the most powerful medicines, essentials, and needed resources to survive today.

By working on the land, experiencing growing food first hand, and combining skill sets of actually learning what food systems and cultivating land and food is all about, we are creating a larger platform and understanding of existing issues today. Not only does learning about food within the SCFS Degree Program or in general tackle down issues of hunger and food security around the world, but also teaches us how to be better stewards of the land and the Earth. The different methods of growing food not only effects the health of ourselves, but also effects the health of the planet with issues like invasive species, polluted water sources, access to resources, etc.

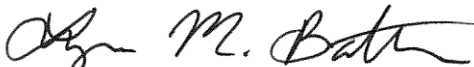
By passing and supporting the **SB 2575**, more opportunities for people around the state of Hawai'i and potentially the world can exist and be created in spreading awareness and importance of the act of growing people through food and growing food through people. The act of learning how to grow food and by doing so in a sustainable way or even just learning about it could help tackle many of the issues in the world we face today. Food should be considered a priority in understanding the best ways to grow it and consume.

By investing more land and resources into studies like this, I feel we are allowing the opportunity for more entrepreneurs and innovative thinkers to help create a healthier world both economically, socially, and politically. No matter what anyone thinks food is an economic factor, as our islands could benefit from our economy flourishing on food rather than just tourism. It is a social issue, considering that everyone in the world needs to eat in order to survive, and politically, growing food in an act of attaining power and maintaining health over nations.

Passing the **SB 2575**, will create more jobs within our state towards agriculture and will be a potential stepping stone in facing and tackling the issues within Hawai'i's Food System today. There is already an immense support group that has invested much of their lives and life-long studies within this degree and area of study. Therefore, by providing the space to do research, and invest lives in to the studies, even more people can become a resourceful candidate in improving these factors. I personally plan on using what I have learned so far in my educational journey within MA'O and the SCFS Program towards the benefit of not only a better Hawai'i but a more sustainable and food secure world. By allowing one place to thrive with resources like the **SB 2575** and by devoting people and importance in situations like these, I feel we could be a huge and powerful factor in influencing positive and healthy change in people and land around the world.

So again, I want to thank you all for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. I along with many young individuals have put in their blood, sweat and tears in fighting for this movement for a more sustainable and just food system for Hawai'i. It is in our Hawaiian history that proves that Hawai'i can be abundant with food and agricultural practices, and if we spend the time restoring resources and highlighting the importance of food systems once again, can move towards becoming a more self-sufficient and sustainable Hawai'i.

Mahalo nunui for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn M. Batten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Lynn M. Batten

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:33:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pauline Sato		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senator Gabbard and Senator Kahele and members of the Agriculture and Environment and Higher Education Committees,

I am writing in strong support of SB2575. I am very familiar with the UH West O'ahu Sustainable Community Food Systems (SCFS) program and impressed with how far it has come since inception just a few years ago. We work with them regularly with students and teachers from Leeward O'ahu communities and find the SCFS program a valuable resource. There is strong interest from students and teachers alike in participating with SCFS and the proposed expansion of services will be essential to the community and partners like the Malama Learning Center. I urge you to pass this bill that supports this valuable program at a critical time where we must increase Hawaii's food self-reliance. One of the important and necessary ways to do that is through the SCFS program.

Mahalo, Pauline Sato

Executive & Program Director of the Malama Learning Center

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Higher Education
February 6, 2018 at 1:15 p.m.

By
Danielle Kapeliela

SB 2575 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Mercado Kim, and members of the committees:

I strongly support SB 2575.

The Sustainable Community Food Systems program at University of Hawaii at West Oahu is the only program in the state that provides students with an in-depth look at the social, economic, and political aspects of issues relating to food production. Students who completed the program have obtained jobs in food politics, farm-to-school programs, and other agricultural occupations. As a student who is currently in the SCFS program, I would greatly benefit from its expansion in terms of knowledge and hands-on experience. With increasing pressures of climate change impacts and possibility of conflict with North Korea, I believe it is crucial to increase Hawaii's food system resiliency in the event of import disruptions. Through the SCFS program, I have learned that the State does not have an official emergency food and water plan to support its 1.5 million residents and guests and that the residents in low-income areas are most at-risk of suffering from very low food security during food price volatility situations. In the future, I plan to work for an organization that specializes in educating Hawaii's youth on agriculture, health, and the importance of food system resiliency. Should SB 2575 pass, I believe the students who graduate from the SCFS program will benefit all of Hawaii by utilizing their experiences in educational, political, and agricultural careers that mitigate the systemic problem of food security through food system resiliency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:49:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Albie Miles		Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:52:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elise Dela Cruz-Talbert		Support	No

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Higher Education
February 6, 2018 at 1:15 p.m.

By
Chelsie Onaga
University of Hawaii - West Oahu Student

SB 2575 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Mercado Kim, and members of the committees:

As a student at the University of Hawaii West Oahu in the Sustainable Community Food Systems (SCFS) program I strongly support SB 2575. It is crucial for this program to progress in order to provide the State of Hawaii their own food. The SCFS Program provides insight to a multi-dimensional relationship that we all have with food. It isn't just something that tastes good or fills your belly when you're hungry. Food has a social, political, and economic relationship with everyone. Through the SCFS program people will learn how to grow food sustainably which will increase the food security as well as providing better food choices for ALL communities.

I envision this program to do more than just train farmers. Graduates of this program will play pivotal roles in changing Hawaii's food system, whether its increasing access to agricultural land to grow food sustainably, changing the curriculum in public education to incorporate nutritional knowledge and growing food, or making the State a model for other states to be resilient as climate disasters increase. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Sincerely,
Chelsie Onaga