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Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**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. 2894 SD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2894 SD1, which appropriates funds for the Department, in collaboration with the Agribusiness Development Corporation and the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) at the University of Hawaii, to conduct crop test trials on State agricultural lands of the top imported foods crops. The Department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

The Department supports this measure as it looks to increase local food production and reduce the imported crops coming into the State. Hawaii's top 10 imported commodities include potato, onion, berries, carrot, orange, grapes, spinach, melon, mango, and cucumber (HDOA/NASS Hawaii, 2016). With State land resources and CTAHR's expertise, there is potential to perform crop trials to determine the suitability to crop each of these top imported commodities. Because this bill has not defined the parameters of the test trials, collaboration efforts to fill in the specifics of such a project are necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Friday, February 23, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

By  
Nicholas Comerford  
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
And  
Michael Bruno  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 2894 SD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of the intent of SB 2894 SD1.

Crop performance testing trials are a necessary component of sustainable agriculture in order to (1) identify the currently available cultivars that grow best under the diverse soil and weather conditions presented by Hawai'i; (2) provide current information that can assist farmers to make relevant decisions in their farming operations; and (3) identify cultivars that have a degree of disease resistance/tolerance and can be included in breeding programs.

We feel that a clarification is necessary based on how crop performance trials are accomplished. Trials must be done in multiple years and on multiple sites due to annual weather and soil variability. For example, weather conditions in one year may promote the expression of disease, while the result in another year could be better due to different weather conditions. Multiple site trials of the same cultivar are necessary to refine the site conditions on which a particular cultivar does best.

The multiple year requirement for trials is in conflict with one year of funding. This bill will help move crop performance trials forward, but it should be recognized it will take multiple years of funding to accomplish the ultimate goal.

CTAHR edible food crop Extension agents, as well as Extension Specialists and Researchers are knowledgeable and experienced in crop performance trials. They have the ability to accomplish these trials at CTAHR research stations and as on-farm trials with collaborating farmers.

We support the intent of SB 2894 SD1 with the caveat that it does not affect, and is in addition to, the UH budget request.



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

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 2894 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 2894 SD 1**, which conducts crop performance test trials on State agricultural lands for Hawai'i's most imported food crops, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

In agriculture, a farmer's financial viability is heavily dependent upon how productive his/her crops are. For Hawai'i to meet its ambitious local food production goals, it needs to focus heavily on imported foods and begin to grow them on our islands. Yet, for this to work, there needs to be more available science and data to provide insight on optimal growing needs. If relevant State departments and educational institutions come together to work on providing this critical information, it would take Hawai'i one step closer to food self-sufficiency.

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-2894-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:23:20 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2894-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 3:41:51 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noa Lincoln	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2894-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 3:57:14 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: