

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
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State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND HIGHER
EDUCATION**

**MARCH 15, 2018
2:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 309**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2894 SD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Creagan, Chairperson McKelvey and Members of the Committees:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2894 SD2, 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.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
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JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND HIGHER EDUCATION
Thursday, March 15, 2018
2:30 p.m.

SENATE BILL NO. 2894 SD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairpersons Creagan and McKelvey and Members of the Committees:

My name is James Nakatani, Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation ("ADC"). The ADC supports Senate Bill No. 2894 SD2 that requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Agribusiness Development Corporation and University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; to conduct crop performance testing trials on state agricultural lands of Hawaii's most highly imported food crops. Makes an appropriation.

The ADC believes that crop selection is a crucial component for agriculture success. Matching the suitable crop to the environmental characteristics of the farm parcel will position the farmer to be profitable. A standardized program for crop testing will provide the agriculture industry the much-needed information about appropriate crops and will be a resource to farmers for decision-making.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and for your consideration of this bill.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND HIGHER EDUCATION
Thursday, March 15, 2018 — 2:30 p.m. — Room 309

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 2894 SD 2, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committees:

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 2, 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 these committees' 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



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
And

House Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 2:30 p.m.

By

Nicholas Comerford

Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Vice Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2894 SD2 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Creagan and McKelvey, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Hashem, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of the intent of SB 2894 SD2.

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 SD2 with the caveat that it does not affect, and is in addition to, the UH budget request.



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March 15, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SB 2894, SD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 309
2:30 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawai'i 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 of SB 2894, SD2, which requires the department of agriculture, in coordination with the agribusiness development corporation and University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources, to conduct crop performance testing trials on state agricultural lands of Hawaii's most highly imported food crops.

Hawaii's agricultural industry has undergone a great change. Hawaii's agriculture industry once dominated by sugarcane and pineapple, has transitioned to a more diversified agricultural model. With much of the food consumed in Hawaii produced elsewhere, there is growing concern about the state's high dependency upon outside sources. Hawaii is located approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States. As the most geographically isolated state in the country, Hawaii imports approximately ninety-two per cent of its food. While interest in local food production is growing, Hawaii farmers face keen competition from imports abroad. Today, the vast majority of the food consumed in the Islands is supplied by the U.S. Mainland, which is Hawaii's chief source of competition.

Currently, Hawaii has an inventory of fresh produce that would supply consumers for no more than ten days. Ninety per cent of the beef, sixty-seven per cent of the fresh vegetables, sixty-five per cent of the fresh fruits, and eighty per cent of all milk purchased in the State are imported.

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. We need to focus on import replacement. What do people buy every day? Can we grow it? More importantly, can we grow it competitively and profitably? Trials by HDOA, ADC and CTAHR on Hawaii's most highly imported food crops can help identify the best crops for Hawaii's farmers to produce.

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

SB-2894-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 2:23:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments: