



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

**LATE**

February 23, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 3030**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211  
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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.

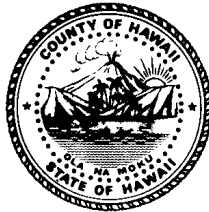
The Hawaii Farm Bureau agrees with the intent of SB 3030, which establishes a farmer mentoring program.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are aging. The average age exceeds 60 years old and if they were in other professions would be retired. Yet many of these farmers are those that provide to Safeway, Times, Costco and truly make a difference in reducing imports. Unfortunately for many, succession plans do not exist and as they retire, the lands go out of agricultural production. There is an urgent need for interns or apprentices that are willing to not only work on these farms but take over their operations.

Soil health is only one aspect of being a successful farmer. Knowledge of regulations, finances, and marketing are just a few of the areas that are required to ensure that farmers are viable. We respectfully request that the **mentorship include other areas of training so the intern or apprentice will be provided a well-rounded experience of what it takes to be a successful farmer in Hawaii.**

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

County of Hawai'i  
Council District 9 -  
North and South Kohala



Phone: (808) 961-8564  
(808) 887-2069

Email: [tim.richards@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:tim.richards@hawaiicounty.gov)

**Chair:** Committee on Agriculture,  
Water & Energy

**Vice Chair:** Committee on  
Environmental Management

**HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III**  
**HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL**

**District 9**

25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

**LATE**

February 22, 2018

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Email: [sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Email: [senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**RE: Support of SB3030**

Hearing Date/Time: February 23, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

Dear Senators:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB3030**, which establishes a farmer apprentice mentoring program to teach and train farmers to utilize a whole farm system approach to agriculture.

The passing of and the implementation of this bill is significant to the agriculture industry of Hawai'i in growing farmers for our future. I therefore strongly urge the enactment of SB3030.

Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss my position and knowledge of this matter further.

Sincerely,

TIM RICHARDS

Hawai'i County Council, District 9

**SB-3030**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:00:25 PM

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

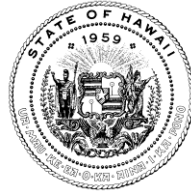
**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LEONARD HOSHIJO  
DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

[www.labor.hawaii.gov](http://www.labor.hawaii.gov)  
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099  
Email: [dlir.director@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlir.director@hawaii.gov)

**LATE**

February 23, 2018

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair;  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Friday, February 23, 2018  
Time: 11:00am  
Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Leonard Hoshijo, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: S.B. No. 3030 Relating to Agriculture**

SB3030 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for a farmer apprenticeship mentoring program that shall teach farmers about methods to improve soil health by using whole farm systems.

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, through funding provided by the Legislature, has supported the development of curriculum using whole farm systems in our public schools as part of an effort to increase the workforce pipeline in the agriculture industry.

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations supports the intent of this measure but defers to the Department of Agriculture for any administrative or budgetary implementation concerns.