

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lieutenant Governor

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director

MARY ALICE EVANS
Deputy Director



LAND USE COMMISSION
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
State of Hawai`i

DANIEL ORODENKER
Executive Officer

Bert K. Saruwatari
Planner

SCOTT A.K. DERRICKSON AICP
Planner

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Chief Clerk/Planner

FRED A. TALON
Drafting Technician

Statement of
Daniel E. Orodenker
Executive Officer
Land Use Commission
Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land,
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, and
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Thursday February 16, 2017
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

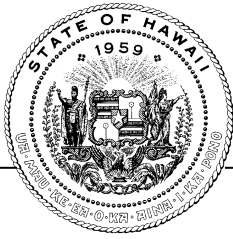
In consideration of
SB 0481
RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Chairs Rhoads, Gabbard, and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Gabbard, Riviere, and Wakai, and members of the Committees on Water and Land; Agriculture and Environment; and Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

The Land Use Commission supports SB 0481 that would provide funds for grants-in-aid to the counties for the identification and mapping of important agricultural lands (IAL).

The IAL identification and mapping process for the counties as set out in Section 205-47, Hawai`i Revised Statutes (HRS) requires significant public involvement to include coordination with a broad range of stakeholders, public meetings, and citizen advisory groups. Adequate funding to complete this process could result in a quality product supported by a broad range of stakeholders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



**OFFICE OF PLANNING
STATE OF HAWAII**

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Director, Office of Planning
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Thursday, February 16, 2017

1:15 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of

SB 481

RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

Chairs Rhoads, Gabbard, and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Gabbard, Riviere, and Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committees on Water and Land, Agriculture and Environment, and Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports SB 481, provided the appropriation does not replace the Administration's priorities requested in the Executive Budget. SB 481 would appropriate funds for grants-in-aid to the counties for the identification and mapping of agricultural lands for designation as important agricultural lands (IAL) by the State Land Use Commission (LUC), pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 205-47. SB 481 appropriates \$250,000 each year for Fiscal Years 2017-18 and 2018-19, to be allocated equally among the four counties.

Funding would facilitate completion of the county IAL mapping process and possibly accelerate the timeframe for submittal of county petitions for IAL to the LUC. However, it is our understanding that the County of Kauai has completed their mapping studies and does not anticipate petitioning for the designation of additional IAL lands beyond what has already been designated under the voluntary petition process. The City and County of Honolulu is also nearing the completion of its identification and mapping process, and maps of proposed IAL are currently undergoing public review and comment.

This raises the question of whether the County of Kauai and the City and County of Honolulu would be allowed to be reimbursed for the work that has been completed. If so, this may need to be clarified in the measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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 WATER & LAND, AGRICULTURE &
ENVIRONMENT, & PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, & MILITARY
AFFAIRS**

**FEBRUARY 16, 2017
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**SENATE BILL NO. 481
RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Chairpersons Rhoads, Gabbard, and Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 481 that appropriates the sum of \$250,000 for FY2017-18 and the same amount for 2018-19 to the Department of Business and Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to be disbursed equally to the counties as grants-in-aid for the identification and mapping of potential Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) pursuant to Section 205-47 and eventual submittal to the Land Use Commission.

The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure which provides an equal share of funding to each county to develop and submit maps of potential IAL to the Land Use Commission for consideration to designate as IAL pursuant to Section 205-47. We note there is another bill moving that includes the same appropriation request but adds conditions including a deadline for submittal of maps to the Land Use Commission. We defer to the counties as to which of the legislative initiatives that they feel will best cause the identification of potential IAL and subsequent designation.

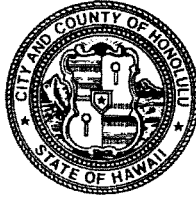
Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 7TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



KATHY K. SOKUGAWA
ACTING DIRECTOR

TIMOTHY F. T. HIU
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 16, 2017

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Water and Land
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture
and Environment
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 481
Relating to Important Agricultural Lands

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **supports, with a recommended amendment**, Senate Bill No. 481, which appropriates funds for grants-in-aid to counties for assistance with identifying and mapping Important Agricultural Lands (IAL).

The proposed grants-in-aid provision will further assist the City and County of Honolulu's efforts to comply with Act 183 (2005), which requires the counties to map and identify IAL. We have been making a good-faith effort to comply with the mandate of this State law, despite having received no State funding.

The City is in the midst of identifying and mapping IAL to ensure that Oahu's best agricultural land is preserved and protected for long-term agricultural use. We have proposed that approximately 50,000 acres on Oahu be designated IAL. We anticipate concluding this project in late 2017, and we ask that you consider our work and associated expenditures, as each county has made different levels of progress.

We recommend that the Bill be amended so that funds can also be used to study and develop IAL incentives at the local level. We feel this amendment would help increase the overall effectiveness of the IAL program as counties move into implementation.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Water and Land
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture
and Environment
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Senate
February 16, 2017
Page 2

We respectfully request that the Committee pass this Bill with the recommended amendment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathy K. Sokugawa', written in a cursive style.

Kathy K. Sokugawa
Acting Director

**SB 481
RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

**PAUL T. OSHIRO
MANAGER – GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
ALEXANDER & BALDWIN, INC.**

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

Chair Rhoads, Chair Gabbard, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Senate Committees on Water & Land, Agriculture & Environment, and Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs:

I am Paul Oshiro, testifying on behalf of Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. (A&B) on SB 481, “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS.”

We support this bill.

After over twenty five years of debate, negotiation, and compromise, the IAL Law and process was finally enacted in July 2008. After years of pursuing a land-use approach to this constitutional mandate, the IAL law that was successfully passed (Act 183 (2005) and Act 233 (2008)) was premised on the principle that the best way to preserve agricultural lands is to preserve agricultural businesses and agricultural viability. As such, the IAL Law not only provides the standards, criteria, and processes to identify and designate important agricultural lands to fulfill the intent and purpose of Article XI, Section 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution, it also provides for a package of incentives designated to support and encourage sustained, viable agricultural activity on IAL.

The IAL Law presently authorizes the identification and designation of IAL in one of two ways --- by voluntary petition to the State Land Use Commission by the landowner or farmer; or subsequently by the Counties filing a petition to designate lands as IAL pursuant to a County identification and mapping process. In either case, the LUC determines whether the petitioned lands qualify for IAL designation pursuant to the standards, criteria, objectives, and policies set forth in the IAL Law. To date, the voluntary petition process has resulted in the designation by the LUC of over 110,000 acres of agricultural lands as IAL from voluntary petitions by Alexander & Baldwin, Parker Ranch, Castle & Cooke, Mahaulepu Farm, Grove Farm, and Kamehameha Schools.

This bill provides grants in aid to the Counties for the identification and mapping of IAL. With the voluntary petition process already providing a significant amount of IAL throughout Hawaii, this appropriation will assist the Counties in fulfilling the second method of IAL designation, which will be initiated by the County identification and mapping of IAL. When completed, these County maps will be forwarded to the LUC which will enable them to designate qualified lands as IAL.

Based on the aforementioned, we respectfully request your favorable consideration on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER & LAND, AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT, AND
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Thursday, February 16, 2017 — 1:15 p.m. — Room 229

Ulupono Initiative Supports SB 481, Relating to Important Agricultural Lands

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, 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 reduce waste. 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 supports SB 481, which provides grants to the counties for identifying and mapping important agricultural lands because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

The Important Agricultural Lands designation is one of the policies that helps to keep agricultural land in agriculture, especially as development grows. This funding will help counties to designate key lands for agriculture. Once designated, agricultural operations on important agricultural lands are eligible for favorable benefits and regulations. Greater clarity on Important Agricultural Lands will help provide expanded opportunities for farmers and ranchers to obtain access to high quality land at affordable rates by protecting such land from development. The cost and availability of high quality land is a critical requirement for the success of local agriculture.

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.



Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i




Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner



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February 16, 2017

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.B. 481, Relating to Important Agricultural Lands

HEARING: Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 1:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Gabbard, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Joint Committees:

I am Myoung Oh, Director of Government Affairs, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 9,000 members. HAR **supports the intent of S.B. 481** which provides grants-in-aids to the counties for the purpose of identifying and mapping important agricultural lands.

In 1978, voter approved article XI, section 3, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, which sets out the framework for state policies to promote agriculture and the conservation of productive agricultural lands in the State.

In 2005, the Legislature passed Act 183, finding that there is a compelling need to provide standards, criteria, and mechanisms to fulfill the intent and purpose of Article XI, section 3 of the Constitution. Additionally, Act 183 tasked the Counties to identify IAL, provide maps, and establish one or more citizens' advisory committees to provide public input. Unfortunately, the lack of funding jeopardized this necessary need.

HAR supports the mapping and identification of IALs in Hawai'i and believes that such mapping and identification will help justify and dictate what uses will be permitted on IAL and other non-IAL lands.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 7:44 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB481 on Feb 16, 2017 13:15PM*

SB481

Submitted on: 2/15/2017

Testimony for WTL/AEN/PSM on Feb 16, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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