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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**MARCH 27, 2018
11:05 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37 SD1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH THE
AGRICULTURE 2030 INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND A FARM TO PLATE PROGRAM
IN HAWAII**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 37 SD1 that requests the Department of Agriculture in consultation with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, and members of the agricultural industry to establish the Agricultural 2030 Investment Program to increase agricultural economic development. The Investment Program will achieve this through strategic planning, the creation of an advisory panel charged with establishing program goals, appointment of staff or entering into contracts with the University of Hawaii to undertake various tasks, seeking funding from public and private entities, and assembling and utilizing technical assistance, loans, grants, and other means to advance the goals of the Investment Program. The Department is also requested to create a State farm-to-plate program, seek grant funding to support direct marketing venues such as farmers' markets, community supported agricultural operations, and regional community food hubs. The Department of Agriculture opposes this measure as it does not provide adequate resources to carry out the many comprehensive tasks identified.



The Department is already undertaking much of what is being asked of in this resolution. For instance, the Department already supports “direct marketing” alternatives such as farmers’ markets and community supported agricultural operations via direct or indirect grant funding. The Department is working with the State Enterprise Technology Services to promote local farmers markets through the development of an app for the public’s use, identifying locations and other information for farmers markets statewide and highlighting the local agritourism opportunities on each island.

We recognize the alternative of food hubs, such as the concepts promoted as the core of several agricultural proposals on Oahu that may offer nearby farmers the option of entering into production contracts as an alternative to the traditional wholesale/retail arrangement.

The Farm to Plate program development requires the collaboration of many federal, state, county, and private sector partners. Resources, including manpower, time, and funding, are critical to make this a success. The Department cautions the creation of an informal advisory panel charged with undertaking strategic planning to develop program goals for the investment program and for the Department to develop a Farm to Plate Program without committed State resources. The Department recommends pursuing a bill next session that dedicates resources to this in-depth strategic plan and program development.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



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March 27, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SCR 37, SD1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH THE
AGRICULTURE 2030 INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND A FARM TO PLATE
PROGRAM IN HAWAII

Room 211
11:05 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.

Hawaii Farm Bureau **strongly supports SCR37, SD1, which would begin the process of a Statewide Implementation Plan to increase agricultural production.**

Many studies to identify actions to increase Hawaii's food security have been conducted over the years.

*INCREASED FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY
STRATEGY*



OFFICE OF PLANNING
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

IN COOPERATION WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE OF HAWAII

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However, actual systematic implementation steps have been erratic. Counties face competition within the State rather than flourishing within a Statewide Agricultural Plan with Implementation actions that all Counties participate in moving the needle on agriculture. The Governor has challenged the industry in his proposal to double food production by 2020. Other sustainability initiatives reference increased local food production.

The steps are clear, infrastructure, marketing, regulatory, R&D and the list goes on. How to prioritize these measures, fund and implement them will be the challenge. As HFBF, we are challenged with this task every year as we seek to identify priorities to increase the viability of our farmers and ranchers while increasing Hawaii's agricultural capacity.

During our research we identified a program in Vermont called Farm to Plate. Beginning in 2009, it is a systematic process to increase Vermont's agriculture.
<http://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/>

After discussions with Vermont Farm Bureau and learning about its success, HFBF has proposed a modified version that we believe can work for Hawaii. Vermont is similar to Hawaii with many small farmers and diverse agriculture. We recognize that to bring success to the program, investments will be needed which we propose as Hawaii Ag Investment 2030. We believe we can reach short term goals by 2020 but realistically, significant strides will take time. The Vermont program has annual reports and their efforts have resulted in a steady and measureable increase in production.

We hope the Department can utilize past research, work with industry and other collaborators to increase our agricultural capacity. Food production is not just about growing vegetables, fruits and livestock. It is about all kinds of agriculture. For example, a serious pest for onions entered Hawaii on a cut flower. Increasing local floriculture production will reduce risk to new pests that can attack our food crops and environment. Agriculture also provides conservation services important to the environment and the wellbeing of our people. Hawaii Ag Investment 2030 will provide a roadmap with metrics to guide policymakers at all levels to achieve this goal of increased agricultural

production not only to increase Hawaii's level of self-sufficiency but to increase Hawaii's Agricultural capacity to serve as an economic engine for the State. In its' true capacity, Hawaii Farm to Plate is not just about agriculture. It is about agriculture providing opportunities for entrepreneurs to develop new products to meet consumer demands here and abroad. It is an opportunity for tourists who come to Hawaii go home with product truly grown and made in Hawaii not China. In the process, our keiki of tomorrow will have access to healthy and affordable food, our environment will be protected from harmful invasive pests and our people will have job opportunities, so they can live in the place they love vs. being forced to relocate due to lack of jobs. It is not only a vision but an action plan that will become reality.

HFBF respectfully requests your strong support of SCR37, SD1, to provide an implementation pathway to increase agricultural production capacity in the State.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this important subject.

SCR-37-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2018 7:51:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/27/2018 11:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

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

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SCR37 SD1** which REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH THE AGRICULTURE 2030 INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND A FARM TO PLATE PROGRAM IN HAWAII.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SCR37 SD1** and supports its passage.

SCR37 SD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requests that the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, and members of the agricultural industry, establish the agricultural 2030 investment program to increase agricultural economic development through strategic planning and the creation of programs such as the state farm to plate program.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "[a]griculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability.

This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the native Hawaiian concept of ahupua'a, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include the development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times.

As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy, sustainable, and diversified local food production, and "Buy Local" strategies to

assure greater food security and food safety.” (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-78, 82-86, 97-99 (2016)).

Given that **SCR37 SD1** requests the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, and members of the agricultural industry, establish the agricultural 2030 investment program to increase agricultural economic development through strategic planning and the creation of programs such as the state farm to plate program, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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