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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Tuesday, March 27, 2018 — 11:05 a.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SCR 37 SD 1, Requesting the Department of Agriculture to Establish the Agriculture 2030 Investment Program and a Farm to Plate Program in Hawaii

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 SCR 37 SD 1, which request the Department of Agriculture to establish an investment and farm to plate program, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

Agriculture is one of Hawai'i's most important and yet most challenging industries. A critical challenge for our local farmers and ranchers is to obtain adequate funding and data.

With agricultural statistics showing a pronounced decrease in local farming and ranching, there will be an increasing need to find new investment to support a diversified agricultural base and to find meaningful employment for the many farm workers.

This resolution would urge additional public and private sector support for agricultural challenges. Ultimately, this will lead to more local food on our plates.

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