

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
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**TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2019
12:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 463 HD1
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 463 HD1 which proposes to require the department to partner with the agricultural community to establish a food safety certification training program to assist small and medium sized farms to be certified by the USDA Good Agricultural Practices certification program. The Department supports the intent of this measure provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

The Department currently works in partnership with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH-CTAHR), who performs coaching and training with farmers to comply with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Produce Safety Rule and the USDA Good Agricultural Practices requirements. Under a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, the Department conducts U.S. Department of Agriculture's Good Agricultural Practices audits at the request of farm businesses and restricts auditors from performing outreach and coaching activity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Tuesday, February 26, 2019 — 12:30 p.m. — Room 308

Ulupono Initiative Supports HB 463 HD 1, Relating to Food Safety

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing 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 manage waste and fresh water resources. 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 HB 463 HD 1, which provides funding for the Department of Agriculture to partner with the agricultural community to establish a food safety certification program for obtaining Good Agricultural Practices certification, because it aligns with our goal to increase local food production.

One of the greatest challenges facing agricultural enterprises over the next few years is getting into compliance with new federal food safety regulations. These new rules are expected to protect public health by providing more information about food production. However, the new regulations are expected to be significantly more strict, which requires more time and cost for compliance. It is a challenge for our farmers and ranchers to navigate the nuances of the law, track new data requirements, and implement best practices for food safety. Without support, farmers and ranchers, particularly smaller scale operations, may be in violation of the law or be forced to shut down, which will jeopardize the future of local agriculture in Hawai'i.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become increasingly 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 through collaboration, 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,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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February 26, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 463, HD 1
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY**

Room 308
12:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director 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.

HFB supports HB 463, HD 1, which requires and appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to partner with the Hawaii agriculture community to establish a food safety certification training program to assist small to medium-sized farms to comply with the United States Department of Agriculture Good Agricultural Practices Certification Program.

HFB appreciates the support by the legislature in our past efforts to help Hawaii's farmers achieve compliance with the FDA Food Safety and Modernization Act. As the actual rule has been rolled out by FDA the immensity of the task is becoming evident.

Foodborne illnesses can be serious, and we should seek ways to reduce risk. This bill will provide that assistance to our farmers for the costs they will incur to become food safety compliant.

The many criteria associated with FSMA to be compliant should not be an impediment for safe food. Hawaii cannot afford to further lose farmers as we strive to increase local food production. We want to incentivize our farmers' ability to continue their operations and provide Hawaii with abundant safe food.

Hawaii Farm Bureau appreciates any effort which will assist farmers with expenses to become compliant with the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important subject.



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Beau Oshiro, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Past Chair*
Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Barry Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:
Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 26, 2019
TIME: 12:30pm
PLACE: Conference Room 308

RE: HB463 HD1 Relating to Food Safety

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Local agriculture is important to HFIA. Small farms in Hawaii face many challenges, including the financial and administrative burden of meeting state and federal regulations. Providing Hawaii farms with the support they need to comply with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Good Agricultural Practices Certification will help to get more local Hawaii produce into the hands of Hawaii consumers. Many of our members require USDA GAP Certification because it confirms that a farm is committed to the highest standard of produce safety and freshness. GAP Certification is also an important first step towards full compliance with the Food Service Modernization Act (FSMA). This bill will help make Hawaii farms and Hawaii agriculture more viable, and help to decrease our reliance on imported food. We encourage you to vote yes on this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In Support of HB463 HD1
Relating to Food Safety

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
February 26, 2019, 12:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308

Chair Luke and members of the committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) supports HB463 HD1, which requires and appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to partner with the Hawaii agriculture community to establish a food safety certification training program to assist small to medium sized farms to comply with the United States Department of Agriculture Good Agricultural Practices Certification Program.

Food safety certification of Hawaii farms is a critical first step toward complying with the 2011 FDA Food Safety Modernization Act to help reduce the risk of foodborne illness originating at the farm level through recommended best practices. By providing direct training and implementation assistance, farmers will be able to secure their certification before the January 2020 compliance deadline without huge costs.

Please vote in support of HB463 HD1. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Bennette Misalucha
Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.

HB-463-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 11:21:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



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LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Tuesday February 26, 2019, 12:30p, Conference Room 308

HB463-Relating to Food Safety

Chair Luke, Vice-chair Cullen, and members of the committee:

My name is Kevin Kelly and I am the President of North Shore EVP, a regional economic development organization located on the North Shore of Oahu. Our organization strongly supports the establishment a food safety certification training program that will provide direct assistance to small and medium sized farms in obtaining their USDA GAP certification.

In response to our community's desire to build a food hub to assist small farms on the North Shore of Oahu, we initiated a USDA GroupGAP program that allows farmers to work together and share the expense of obtaining good agricultural practices training and subsequent certification. In 2018 we became the 15th GroupGAP group in the United States and the only such program in Hawaii.

GAP certification is, in practice, a requirement for small farms that want to comply with the Food Safety & Modernization Act (FSMA) and scale their operations to meet the increasing demand for locally grown fresh produce. When FSMA comes into effect for all farms in January 2020, GAP certification will serve as tangible evidence to produce buyers that a producer is in compliance (or very close to being in compliance) with federal law.

Our work is paying off. It is estimated that there are approximately 50 certified farms in Hawaii. Of the ten farms in our first cohort, 2 have received their certification, one is responding to minor auditor findings and will be re-audited, and one other farm will be audited next month. If these four farms are successful we will have increased the number of certified farms by almost 10%! A second cohort of 9 farms is currently in training.

With your support of this measure, North Shore EVP would look forward to working with the Department of Agriculture to apply what we have learned training farmers on Oahu to help farms statewide with the challenges of compliance with FSMA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Kelly, President

LATE

HB-463-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:53:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments: