

SB 375

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



DENISE ALBANO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF DENISE ALBANO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**JANUARY 30, 2019
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 375
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

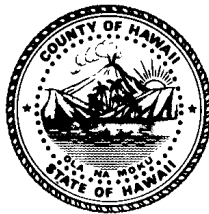
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 375, which requires the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor, to develop a strategic plan to double local food production and increase food exports by 2020. The strategic plan is to have five goals. The progress towards achieving the goals will be gauged by benchmarks that are quantitatively and qualitatively measurable. The Department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget and offers comments.

Strategic planning will allow the State to identify and prioritize resources that will collectively move Hawaii's diverse agricultural industry which is comprised of thousands of individual agricultural operations, wholesalers, and retailers. The Department supports the additional resources that this bill appropriates.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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



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Chair: Committee on Agriculture,
Water, Energy, and Environmental
Management

Vice Chair: Committee on Finance

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 9
25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

January 28, 2019

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Honorable Senator Russel E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Submission via online testimony

RE: **Opposition of SB 375**
Hearing Date/Time: January 30, 2019 at 1:15 p.m.

Dear Senators:

As the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Water, Energy, and Environmental Management for the Hawai'i County Council, I thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in OPPOSITION of SB 375**. Conceptually, I do support this bill as it is a good direction for both the State and the County of Hawai'i, however my concern is that the timeline is too short in order to accomplish such bold goals by 2020.

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

Sincerely,

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
Hawai'i County Council, District 9



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Waialua, HI 96791-9501
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Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture & the Environment
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair, Sen. Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Wednesday January 30, 2019, 1:15p, Conference Room 224

SB375-Relating to Agriculture

Chair Gabbard, Vice-chair Ruderman, 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 development of a strategic plan to double local food production and increase food exports by 2020.

North Shore EVP has initiated a USDA GroupGAP food safety certification training program that currently works with 19 farms on Oahu. USDA GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) is the most common food safety certification standard requested by commercial buyers however the marketplace is a mash-up of different buyer requirements and policies. This makes it very difficult for farmers, especially small farmers, to comply with all buyer requirements.

In working with our GroupGAP farmers and talking to farmers across the state, we have learned that farmers are generally confused about what certifications and endorsements to pursue. Even with the rapidly approaching deadline of January 2020 for compliance with the Food and Drug Administration's Food Safety & Modernization Act (FSMA), there is currently little motivation for farmers to invest in food safety certification when many buyers will often ignore their own policies to obtain high demand local produce.

I believe that the development of a strategic plan is an opportunity to bring farmers, food companies, and organizations up and down the food supply chain together to share ideas and practices that will benefit the agricultural community and its customers. By understanding the challenges facing each link of the supply chain, Hawaii will be well positioned to significantly increase local food production.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Kelly, President

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 6:32:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Walker	Testifying for Bee Kind Apiary, LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My husband and I are beekeepers with a small business here on Kaua'i, selling bee products and organic produce. We strongly support SB 375. It is critical for our state to have a strategic plan to increase food production and reduce our dependence on food shipped from the mainland. Increasing our food output will make fresh food that has a small carbon footprint available to our residents and visitors, and will also support us in the event of disasters or interruptions in shipping. It is vital for strengthening our local economy and supporting our local farmers, and addresses global warming by keeping our import needs to a minimum or removing them entirely.

In the not-too-distant past, our islands grew all the food that people and livestock needed and each resource was sustainably managed; we believe it is possible to go back to this model again. SB 375 would be an important step in the right direction. Here on Kaua'i, we still have expansive ag lands that are lying fallow, and the state's excellent climate is conducive to year-round production. Rather than developing new methods to export our produce, let's work together to make more of what we grow stay right in the state and nourish our people with fresh healthy food grown by our own farmers.

Please support SB 375 and help it to come to a vote, for the sake of both Hawai'i's farmers and residents.

Mahalo for hearing my testimony,

Maria Walker

Bee Kind Apiary, LLC

PO Box 33, Kapa'a, HI 96746

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 11:32:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	Testifying for We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support organic sustainable permaculture to feed ourselves.

There is no rational reason to pollute our own environment or destroy ecosystems.

And stop desecration of Hawaiian Burial Sites.

www.WeAreOne.cc



O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP)

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair

Sen. Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, January 30, 2019

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 224 State Capitol

RE: SB 375 Relating to Agriculture

Aloha mai kakou Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 375 relating to Agriculture.**

SB 375 requires the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor, to develop a strategic plan to double local food production and increase food exports by 2020. SB 375 further requires the Department of Agriculture to submit the strategic plan to the Legislature and it appropriates funds for this project.

Agriculture 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. We encourage the responsible development of ocean resources and aquaculture to achieve sustainability in our State of our marine resources an ensure and improve the health of our reef and marine life.

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 development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, polices to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times.

We need to ensure food safety, strive towards food security and strive to set the highest standards for food quality and nutrition. *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 9, ln. 5-16.*

As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. DPH supports healthy, sustainable, and diversified local food production, and “Buy Local” strategies to assure greater food security and food safety. *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 9, ln. 26-29.*

DPH supports community health initiatives that provide opportunities for overall health of communities through strategic projects and programs focusing in increased interaction and physical activities among all age groups, as well as on better nutrition. *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 13, ln. 22-24.*

For the foregoing reasons, OCCLP supports SB 375 and urges its passage out of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

Mahalo nui loa
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja
Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of
Hawai`i
Ph. (808) 258-8889
Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:44:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Una Greenaway	Testifying for Hawaii Organic Farming Assoc.	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Gabbard and Vice Chair Ruderman;

Please pass this important measure. As you know we are very food insecure in this state. We must grow more food locally. It could also help stem the tide of invasive species into our state.

Mahalo,

Una Greenaway



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Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

January 30, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 375
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 224
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

Hawaii Farm Bureau **strongly supports SB 375**, which requires the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor, to develop a strategic plan to double local food production and increase food exports by 2020. Requires the Department of Agriculture to submit the strategic plan to the Legislature.

Many studies have been conducted (e.g. Increased Food Security and Food Self Sufficiency Strategy, Oct 2012, DBEDT and HDOA) that suggest strategies for increased food production. HFB believes that increased food production requires all types of agriculture. This measure would address ways to double food production and exports.

HFB respectfully requests your strong support of this measure. A roadmap providing a common goal to improve Hawaii's agriculture is needed.

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

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 11:31:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brodie Lockard	Testifying for Organizing for Action	Support	No

Comments:

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 7:18:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

With our over-dependence on shipped-in food, and only a few days' supply of food on supermarket shelves, we are only one hurricane away from food shortages and social unrest.

Mahalo,

Cory Harden

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 8:28:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine Kwan Yuk Chan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is necessary to start the long haul of increasing food security. Without the strategy plan, farmers are just doing what they have done before and emerging farmers have little information to contribute to the great vision. It is about time we do this. DOA work with the agricultural agents/economists in CTAHR to come up with a plan.

Mahalo for this Bill.

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 10:13:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heidi Schemp	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Local food production is so incredibly important to our state! Let's put cash in farmers hands, fresh foods in the bellies of our keiki! What a no brainer. Please do all you can to make our islands as self reliant and as healthy as possible.

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 12:18:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Winningham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB375. Mahalo!

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 7:27:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Gelert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 9:23:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara L Franklin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support development of a strategic plan to double food production and increase food exports. My concern is that we do so safely, without GMO, and as organically as possible. Let's not create unintended consequences at the expense of reaching a target.

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 10:04:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Koerner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Unless this bill is passed, I don't see how the Department of Agriculture will be able to assist the office of the Governor to develop a strategic plan to double Hawaii's food production by 2020. There doesn't seem to be a step-by-step plan in place, and it is sorely needed for food security on our islands and for our economy. Thank you, Diane Koerner, 420 Molo St., Kapaa, HI 96746

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 7:28:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB375. I believe it is a step in the right direction. My only comment to the contrary is that after reading the bill, it seems extremely vague.

David O'Quinn

County of Kauai

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 7:56:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB375 which would develop a strategic plan to achieve the governor's goal of doubling food production. Since it is estimated that 90% of our food is imported, I strongly recommend that the focus be on local food production for local consumption, rather than diverting energy to exports, until our local food production is more self-sustaining. In addition, I strongly recommend that the strategic plan include improved access to land for our local small farmers who are growing food for local consumption. There are many farmers graduating from the GoFarm Hawaii program who are trained and ready, yet they lack access to farm land to grow food on. Ensuring this will be a win:win for all.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this bill.

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 8:28:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Long	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 3:12:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Gonce	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 9:24:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Dean	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I really don't think I have to say anything about this. It should be self evident to everyone. Who wouldn't rather eat locally grown produce? It's fresher, healthier, better for the environment, and more secure. Why should we rely on others for our most basic means of survival when we can easily do it ourselves and yes, even become a net exporter again. All that is required is a little help from our Government and we will be on our way. Thank you. I knew you would see it our way. :)

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 4:30:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
petra zoeller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at 1:15 p.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 375 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 375 relating to agriculture. For several years there has been a goal of doubling food production by 2020. However, the approach of how to accomplish this has been poorly defined. Now is a good time to remedy that situation. Hawai'i agriculture is at a crossroads where it is searching for what agriculture will look like into the future, and how this island state, remote from the rest of world, can do a better job of growing its own food. This becomes particularly important when we look at the disasters that befell agriculture in 2018, and the expectation that climate change will continue to disrupt crop production and the import of food.

The approach is not just how to grow more food, but where to grow, what kind of food and in what quantities. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) has a working committee asking a similar question as part of its longer-range planning process. We believe that one first starts with supplying a defined population with the proper nutrition. Having determined that, what are the crops (including crops that meet cultural demands) that can be grown, and in what quantities to meet the identified nutrition needs. This is a healthy food approach.

Then one must ask, what are the conditions under which these crops can be best grown, can be consistent with food safety regulations, and be productive in the context of biosecurity issues. For example, what is the role of protected agriculture in doubling food production since the state receives approximately one invasive species per day? Low tunnels, high tunnels, shade houses and greenhouses will play a role. One can envision greenhouse ecosystems with highly trained labor producing at unprecedented levels with low, but highly trained, labor inputs. When crops are grown on the

approximately 150,000 acres of quality crop land, we envision a multi-level GIS system that combines soil, water availability, climate parameters, economics, and more, to assist farmers in deciding what crops grow best in that soil, and what will be the best economic return on a cropping system choice given the current market conditions.

CTAHR is ready to collaborate with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture in the development of such a plan and to add our knowledge of soils and crops where needed.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testify in strong support of SB 375.

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 8:41:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie and Thomas Pasquale	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-375

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:11:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angelea Hollander	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a voter in Pa'auilo on the Hamakua coast. Thank you.