

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

FEBRUARY 19, 2019
9:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 491 SD1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill 491 SD1. This bill appropriates funds for operating expenses of the Department of Agriculture. The Department supports this bill.

The budget items contained in the bill represent the Department's needs that are above the current budget base. These additions address matters such as the implementation of the biosecurity program, supplementing the agricultural loan revolving fund, and providing funds for food safety grants. We would like to request an amendment to AGR171:

Page 5, Line 36, FY 2020-2021 should reflect the amount of "\$59,616."

We realize the budget will undergo further iterations before reaching its final form and look forward to working with the committees to craft a budget that is amenable to all of those involved.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



County of Hawai'i
Council District 4 -
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ASHLEY L. KIERKIEWICZ

HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL – DISTRICT 4

Chair: Committee on Planning, and Committee on Government Relations & Economic Development
25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 17, 2019

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair

**RE: Support for SB491, SD1
relating to Operating Expenses for the Department of Agriculture**

Aloha, Senators:

As Chair of the Committee on Planning, and Chair of the Committee on Government Relations & Economic Development for the County of Hawai'i, I write in strong support of SB491, SD1, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture.

The programs and positions listed in this measure are critical to the state's work to increase food sustainability and security. Of particular interest to me is the agricultural revolving loan fund, food safety grants, and specialist positions to support the pesticides branch as well as the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan.

Thank you for supporting and growing Hawai'i's agricultural industry.

Mahalo nui loa,

Ashley Lehualani Kierkiewicz
Hawai'i County Council, District 4



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February 19, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 491, SD1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Room 211
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 491, SD1**, which appropriates funds for operating expenses of the department of agriculture DOA.

The success of the agriculture industry is dependent on the resources provided to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. The department provides resources to agriculture loans, grants, and certification programs, just the name a few. This bill would enable the department to continue their efforts in supporting and growing the agriculture industry.

HFB respectfully requests your strong support of this measure.

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