

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**FEBRUARY 12, 2020
8:45 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1894 HD1 (HSCR 149-20)
RELATING TO BEGINNING FARMER TRAINING**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1894 HD1 (HSCR 149-20). This measure establishes a 5-year beginning farmer training program to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and appropriates funds. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure but offers the following comments.

The Department wholeheartedly agrees that support for new farmers is critical to ensuring that Hawaii's agricultural future is sustainable. The bill establishes the beginning farmer training program to be administered by the Department in conjunction with qualified farmer training providers. Recognizing that we have not provided any agricultural education or training of the nature contemplated in the measure, believe that the qualified farmer training providers such as the University of Hawaii, West Oahu and the Community College system may be better suited to oversee and provide the agriculture education and vocational training to support beginning farmers. The Department lacks the expertise to assess and evaluate the qualifications of qualified farmer training providers to select them for the program. While occasionally, we previously served as a pass through for funding GoFarm and farm mentoring workshops, the Department has not qualified or certified any farm training programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 8:45 a.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1894 HD1 – RELATING TO BEGINNING FARMER TRAINING

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the intent with comments on HB 1894 HD1.

We strongly agree that new farmers are needed in Hawai'i to assure that the state has an agricultural future. Therefore, we do not oppose the intent of the bill, but support it. What we are concerned about is listed below:

1. We defer to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) as to whether they have the ability to handle such a program.
2. The bill does not set up any basic criteria or definition for what is a qualified farmer training provider. This leaves the credentials of programs too open, and can encourage training that includes farming alternatives that are not science-based. This can be remedied by having HDOA or other agency set a definition.
3. A maximum of a one-year training program is a relatively short time that we feel will limit the effectiveness of a successful training program.
4. The measure of success of a training program is the number of graduates that successfully farm, which requires access to farm land. The training program provided should be required to have a path to farmland.
5. The training program should be directed to commercial farming, with the expectation that graduates will be in the business of increasing the supply of local food to more than family and neighbors.
6. We do not understand the limit of \$100,000 per year limit per provider, and how that was derived. If the program is successful, the state will want to fund it more fully and preferentially. The purpose is not to provide jobs for providers, but to provide training/mentoring to new farmers that ultimately has a pathway

to farmland for the new farmer. If we train farmers, but they are not eligible to rent farm land, the program will not be successful.

7. If a training program is successful, then being limited to seek funding only 3 out of 5 years if it received the full \$100,000 each time it was awarded appears contrary to the intent of the bill.

To summarize, we support the intent of the bill because new farmers are needed in the state. However, we feel that the bill does not meet its objective.

Based on the above we support the intent of HB 1894 HD1, but feel the specifics do not meet the objective.



February 7, 2020

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Comments in Support of HB 1894, H.D.1 Relating to Beginning Farmer Training (Establishes a five-year beginning farmer training program to be administered by the Department of Agriculture [DOA]; appropriates moneys; sunsets the training program on 06/30/2025.)

Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at 8:45 a.m., in Conference Room 312

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 1894, H.D.1** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii. The bill exemplifies the need to support the efforts of beginning farmers and ranchers attempting to start operations in order to improve the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry.

HB 1894, H.D.1. The purpose of this bill is to establish a five-year beginning farmer training program to be administered by the DOA to increase farming in the State; ensure the continued use of well-developed farming methods; and provide for the cultivation of new farming methods.

LURF's Position. LURF believes that the proposed training program is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes [HRS], Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution, "to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands." As noted in HRS Section 205-41, the intent of Act 183 (2005) was to develop agricultural incentive programs to promote

agricultural viability, sustained growth of the agricultural industry, and the long-term use and protection of important agricultural lands for agricultural use.

Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be pointless without implementation of these programs, incentives and inducements which require the cooperation and support of agricultural, business, and educational organizations, as well as government agencies, which this bill is intended to cultivate and promote.

LURF members include property owners, farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider programs such as the subject training program significant to the establishment and continued conduct of their operations and to help sustain and preserve their businesses into the future. The average age of Hawaii farmers is now 60 years old. Regrettably, interest in agriculture continues to decline due to misguided assumptions of the trade as entailing hard work for low pay, and requiring little, if any appreciable skills.

LURF believes efforts like this training program and the appropriation of funds therefor would greatly assist in the perpetuation of the State's agricultural industry by assisting with efforts to help farmers and ranchers start businesses and comply with onerous regulatory requirements; by providing invaluable knowledge, skills, resources and tools; and by inspiring interest in agriculture, which will promote agricultural viability and improve Hawaii's long-term resilience and sustainability.

As the establishment of the proposed training program significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii, LURF is in **support of HB 1894, H.D.1.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this measure.



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Josh Frost - President • Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Kristin Hamada
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Monday, February 10, 2020

Relating to Beginning Farmer Training
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports HB 1894 HD1 Relating to Beginning Farmer Training**, which establishes a 5-year beginning farmer training program to be administered by the Department of Agriculture. This program will help give new farmers skills regarding cultivation along with production and business knowledge to help them develop achievable farming and business plans.

By creating a training program, the State can support future food sustainability goals and help bolster the local agriculture industry, creating jobs and diversifying Hawaii's economy.

For all these reasons, we urge you to move this bill forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity,
Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

HB-1894-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 12:11:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helmut Klauer	A'a Li'i Farm	Support	No

Comments:



MA`O ORGANIC FARMS

a non-profit `aina-based project of the Wai'anae Community Re-Development Corporation

P.O. Box 441, Wai'anae, Hawai'i 96792 • Tel/Fax. 808-696-5569

info@maoorganicfarms.org • www.maoorganicfarms.org

February 10, 2020

Representative Richard Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

RE: Support for HB1894

Hearing: House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday 2/12/20
Room 312

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and Members of the House on Agriculture:

In 2001, Wai'anae Community Re-Development Corporation (WCRC) established the social enterprise MA'O Organic Farms (MA'O), an experiential learning environment that uses real-world work to reconnect the primary assets of the Wai'anae community - youth, land, and rural heritage - and engage them in restoring abundance to the moku (region).

Over the past 20 years, MA'O has scaled and refined this culturally rooted organization to become a nationally and internationally recognized leader in youth leadership, entrepreneurial and workforce training, and has grown into one of the state's largest diversified organic farms. MA'O currently produces over 80 tons of organic produce per year, and is actively expanding from its 24 acre core campus, onto 257 newly purchased acres in Lualualei, Wai'anae.

We strongly support the proposed beginning farmer training bill. With the recent expansion of our farm and the ever growing demand for local and organic foods, we foresee a continued substantial need for skilled employees in agriculture and food systems work at our operation and beyond. We anticipate that MA'O would serve as an experienced partner for the proposed farmer training, providing a venue for hands-on training in local agriculture and food systems work to supplement the formal agricultural education that students receive at college.

We urge the committee to pass HB1894 HD1. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



67-332 Kaiea Pl.
Waiialua, HI 96791-
9501
808-383-4481
www.NSEVP.org

January 30, 2020

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

SUBJECT: Support for HB1894 – Beginning Farmer Training

(Date/Time of Hearing: 2/12/2020 at 8:45 a.m.)

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the committee,

On behalf of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (North Shore EVP), I submit this testimony in opposition of SB2709, which will establish a five-year beginning farmer training program within the Department of Agriculture.

For the past three years North Shore EVP has run Hawaii GroupGAP, the state's only food safety training and certification program for farmers. In December 2019 two more farms were USDA Harmonized GAP certified through this program and earlier this month our program passed its USDA external audit with flying colors. Our continued success is due in part to our collaborations across the state, including CTAHR Extension Services and Go Farm, their beginning farmer training program.

Over the past two years we had the opportunity to participate in Go Farm seminars and workshops to bring our on-farm food safety expertise to the trainees. We value the opportunity to get on front of new farmers and providing food safety training. Go Farm Hawaii graduates and clients have been members of our GroupGap program, showing their dedication to quality and food safety, looking to increase production and sales, and seeking access to larger markets and more sales, all in linwe with state goals of doubling local produce production by 2030..

Aside from the lack of any reference to derderla food safety regulations, our concerns around this bill are that the state already has a very capable beginning farmer training program that draws on expertise and resources both at UH-CTAHR and beyond. The GoFarm program is run on soft money; grants and donations. We fully support the appropriation of state funds into beginning farmer training however, given the limited resources available to agriculture in Hawaii, we urge this committee to first and foremost support support HB2568 that directs farmer training funds to the Go Farm program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,

Kevin M Kelly

Kevin Kelly
President & CEO
North Shore EVP



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 12, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1894, HD1
RELATING TO BEGINNING FARMER TRAINING

Room 312
8:45 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports the intent of HB 1894, HD1, which establishes a 5-year beginning farmer training program to be administered by the Department of Agriculture.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are aging. The average age exceeds 60 years old and if they were in other professions would be retired. Yet many of these farmers are those that provide to KTA, Safeway, Times, Costco, restaurants, and hotels and truly make a difference in reducing imports. Unfortunately for many, succession plans do not exist and as they retire, the lands go out of agricultural production. To maintain and expand production levels, it's clear that we need a new generation of farmers and ranchers equipped to assume the task of growing crops and livestock. There is an urgent need for interns or apprentices that are willing to not only work on these farms but take over their operations.

We suggest establishing the beginning farmer training within the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources instead of the Department of Agriculture. The University of Hawaii is better equipped than HDOA to address Hawaii's agriculture labor shortage by training new farmers.

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



2/11/2020

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1894 HD1 - Relating to Beginning Farmer Training

Aloha Chair Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Alternative Structures International (dba Kahumana Organic Farms), a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization operating on 50 acres in Lualualei Valley in Waianae. Since its establishment in 1974, Kahumana has integrated social services with training venues and social ventures that work toward three goals: 1. Ending Local Family Homelessness, 2. Providing Services for People With Developmental Disabilities, and 3. Lowering Hawaii's Dependence on Imported Food.

Kahumana Organic Farms used to rely volunteers but in the last seven years has transitioned away from volunteer non-paid labor and has replaced the labor force with apprentices who often become paid staff members upon conclusion of one-year period of training. Over the years we have been approached by over 100 interns and apprentices seeking to supplement their formal educations with hands-on experience in local agriculture.

By focusing on building a more reliable workforce and paying livable wages, the **HB1894** would help to eliminate close to all volunteer positions at Kahumana and replace them with individuals seeking training who could transition over time to paid staff members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Zuckerman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Christian Zuckerman
Farm Director
Kahumana Organic Farms
86-660 Lualualei Homestead Road
96792, Waianae HI

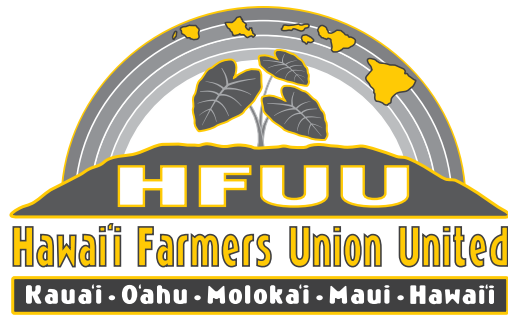
Vincent Mina
President HFUU-HFUF

Anny Bruch
Vice President &
Kaua'i Chapter Pres.

David Case
Secretary

Annie Alvarado
Treasurer

~~~~~>~~~~~



February 10th, 2020

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Testimony In Strong Support of HB 1894 HD1 - Relating to Beginning Farmer Training

Aloha Chair Creagan and Members of the Committee:

**Christian Zuckerman**

Wai'anae, O'ahu

**Vincent Kimura**

Waimanalo, O'ahu

**Brynn Foster**

North Shore, O'ahu

**Kaipo Kekona**

Lahaina, Maui

**Bobby Pahia**

Kahalawai, Maui

**John Dobovan**

Haleakala, Maui

**Matthew**

**Van Paepghem**

Hana, Maui

**Dash Kuhr**

Kohala, Hawai'i

**Maureen Datta**

Kona, Hawai'i

**Steve Lund**

Puna, Hawai'i

**Drake Weinert**

East Hawai'i

**Matt Drayer**

Ka'u, Hawai'i

HFUU is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy, nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters organized as 13 Chapters in the four Hawai'i Counties. HFUU's Haleakala Chapter originated the very successful Farmer Apprentice Mentoring (FAM) program in 2015-2016 serving Maui County. Now funded with grants through our affiliated 501(c)(3), Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation, the FAM program has mentored and graduated 38 apprentice farmers on Maui. The FAM program has been a success on Maui and HB1894, modelled in part by the FAM program, provides support for beginning farmers training to all of Hawaii's counties through hands-on training on-farms by farmers. As explained in HB1894 legislation, the Beginning Farmer Training program immerses beginning farmers in a "whole farm system" approach to agriculture under the guidance of experienced farmer mentors.

As a division of the National Farmers Union (NFU), HFUU supported, at a national level in 2019, a more focused approach to educating interns and apprentices on locally-oriented farms as these educational opportunities results in improved farm viability, a larger pool of skilled agricultural labor, and more beginning farmers. In 2019, NFU established an on-farm labor priority urging Congress to take action to attract U.S. citizens to jobs as agricultural workers and acknowledge the importance of educating interns and apprentices on farms as a pathway to increased availability of skilled agricultural labor.

HB1894 notes that the future of the State's farming industry, food supply, and agriculture is reliant upon increasing and diversifying the number of new farmers in the state and introducing regenerative farming methods, statewide. Increasing the number of farmers who grow food is a key component of the long-term solution to the Hawai'i local food production deficit. Growing new farmers is also a key facet of the HFUU statewide strategic plan. Our planning goals are simultaneously aligned with the shared vision of increased food security and agricultural self-sufficiency for all counties and the State of Hawai'i. HB1894 responds to three major priorities for the State's food security needs including growing more farmers, increasing the supply of Hawaii's skilled agricultural workforce and contributing to increased local food production on small family farms through a hands-on farm immersion component.

HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED

Vincent Mina, President

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 12:19:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                                   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Harriet Witt        | Hawaii Farmers Union<br>United - Haleakala<br>Chapter | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Our dependence on mainland food is dangerous. If we want to grow our own food, we first need to train people to do it!

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 4:04:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                                              | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary                | Slow Money Hawaii, sponsored by NS Economic Vitality Partnership | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support HB1894 HD1.

I facilitate microloans made to small and startup farmers by members of their communities. During the three years that Slow Money Hawaii has been in existence, farmer training programs such as Go Farm and the Farmer Apprentice Membership (FAM) programs have been developing a pipeline of beginner farmers who are proving to be highly committed to Hawaii's future food sovereignty and sustainability. These small enterprises are making a living for the families that own and run them.

Slow Money Hawaii is usually their first interface for borrowing funds because they would not qualify for institutional loans or the amounts are too small for larger lenders. This early stage interface gives me a first hand look at the way Go Farm and FAM or preparing the individuals who go through the programs to be capable of successfully growing food, as well as giving them basic skills for running a small business.

If we are serious about Hawaii's goal to produce significantly more food here on the islands, we must support these farmer training programs. They are farming in ways that large Hawaii corporations cannot because of the scale at which they work.

Please pass HB1894 HD1

Respectfully,

Mary Spadaro



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Wednesday, February 12, 2020 — 8:45 a.m. — Room 312

**Ulupono Initiative supports HB 1894 HD 1, Relating to Beginning Farmer Training.**

Dear Chair Creagan and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Hennessey, and I am the Senior Vice President of Communications & External Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve our community's quality of life by creating more locally produced food; increasing affordable clean renewable energy and transportation options; and better managing waste and fresh water resources.

**Ulupono supports HB 1894 HD 1**, which establishes a 5-year beginning farmer training program to be administered by the Department of Agriculture.

Ulupono supports the training of the next generation of local producers in Hawai'i. With the proper tools and knowledge, a well-trained agriculturalist is best situated to succeed and provide a positive impact on the State's economy and local food production goals.

We would like to note that there are various organizations and groups that exist across the state, seeking to accomplish this very goal. Ulupono continues to support such programs like the GoFarm Hawai'i Program (GFH) at the University of Hawai'i. GFH offers the most comprehensive new farmer training program in Hawai'i, including classroom education, hands-on training, business planning, and incubation opportunities. Over the past 3 years, GFH touts a 58% success rate of graduates engaging in agricultural employment in the State. Supporting programs such as this will continue to move the needle toward food security and self-sufficiency.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Amy Hennessey, APR  
Senior Vice President, Communications & External Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 12:14:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>       | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Regina Gregory      | EcoTipping Points Project | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please do not teach "modern agriculture" as promoted by Bayer.



**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 11:58:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Havilah Mills       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Food security is a major issue for the state of Hawaii and this program, which will help train and educate future farmers for our islands, is an integral part of bringing our food production back, aiding in the growth of our local economy and our overall health and well-being.

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 12:06:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Karen Reid          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support **HB1894 HD1** bill to establish a 5-year beginning farmer training program. It's important to train farmers so that Hawaii can become more sustainable.

Mahalo,

Karen Reid

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 12:23:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Linda Hastings      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 1:35:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ming Wei Koh        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support HB1894 HD1. As the state wants to double local food production in the next 20 years, we need more young/new farmers. We need to prioritize local food production.

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 12:27:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John NAYLOR         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 1:04:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rexann Dubiel       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Yes!

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 1:06:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jamie Sabatini      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support this measure since it is key to supporting a more sustainable food security system and provide agricultural self sufficiency for the State of Hawaii in the future. It aidesin promoting a long term solution to Hawaii's local food deficit.

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 2:06:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Thomas Craig        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:



**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 2:12:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ken Stover          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 2:50:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dianna Wilcox       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 3:53:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David S. Case       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture--

I've testified in the hearing before the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment ("LAB") in support HB1894 as a measured way to enable qualified, non-profit organizations to efficiently expand the number of Hawaii farmers through a program to be administered by the Department of Agriculture or any other appropriate state agency. Funding a five-year program to demonstrate the ability of qualified nonprofits to increase the number of Hawaii farmers is a cost-effective way to expand the State's outreach to effect this goal and to increase Hawaii's food supply and food security.

LAB amended HB1894 to incorporate the helpful suggestions from the Procurement Office, but the Hawaii Department of Agriculture testified before LAB that it could not administer the proposed grants to implement this program. HDOA administers numerous grant programs, so it is not exactly clear why they could not administer the one proposed here. HDOA nonetheless agrees this is a valuable training program, so hopefully there is a way to overcome the Department's reluctance to perform the important public service of administering the proposed Farmer Training Grants.

One solution might be to administer the program through the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. CTAHR's testimony before LAB offered several helpful suggestions for administering the program, so perhaps they should. In any event: "Where there's the will there's a way." Hopefully that will prove true here. From all the testimony it appears that a program of organized farmer training tailored to Hawaii's unique conditions is a concept whose time has come.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB1894 HD1

Mahalo,

David S. Case

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 4:21:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Toni Withington     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Say YES to this great program. The best thing we can do to support agriculture and growing more food for our people is to train new farmers. In our rural areas it is clear that we need a steady influx of local young people to get involved in farming and learn how to make a sustainable farm on their own.

Toni Withington Hawi, North Kohala

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 5:20:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara Best        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

strong support for HB1894 HD1

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 7:44:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Suellen Barton      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 9:20:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dennis F Lokmer     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 10:08:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Keith Ranney        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:



2/11/2020

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1894 HD1 - Relating to Beginning Farmer Training

Aloha Chair Creagan and Members of the Committee:

I am a member of Hawaii Farmers Union United in full support of HB1894.

HFUU is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy, nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters organized as 13 Chapters in the four Hawai'i Counties. HFUU's Haleakala Chapter originated the very successful Farmer Apprentice Mentoring (FAM) program in 2015- 2016 serving Maui County. Now funded with grants through our affiliated 501(c)(3), Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation, the FAM program has mentored and graduated 38 apprentice farmers on Maui. The FAM program has been a success on Maui and HB1894, modelled in part by the FAM program, provides support for beginning farmers training to all of Hawaii's counties through hands-on training on-farms by farmers. As explained in HB1894 legislation, the Beginning Farmer Training program immerses beginning farmers in a "whole farm system" approach to agriculture under the guidance of experienced farmer mentors.

HB1894 notes that the future of the State's farming industry, food supply, and agriculture is reliant upon increasing and diversifying the number of new farmers in the state and introducing regenerative farming methods, statewide. Increasing the number of farmers who grow food is a key component of the long-term solution to the Hawai'i local food production deficit. Growing new farmers is also a key facet of the HFUU statewide strategic plan. Our planning goals are simultaneously aligned with the shared vision of increased food security and agricultural self-sufficiency for all counties and the State of Hawai'i.

HB1894 responds to three major priorities for the State's food security needs including growing more farmers, increasing the supply of Hawaii's skilled agricultural workforce and contributing to increased local food production on small family farms through a hands-on farm immersion component.

Saleh Azizi Fardkhales, PhD

808-383 5224

[azizi@hawaii.edu](mailto:azizi@hawaii.edu)

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 11:26:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anna Barbeau        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

This will allow for greater EMPLOYMENT and this bill will be helpful as we strive to feed Maui.

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 12:57:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Paul Marshall       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 3:05:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hunter Heavilin     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**HB-1894-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 3:07:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2020 8:45:00 AM

**LATE**

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cindy Evans         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Andre de Almeida  
86-660 Lualualei Homestead RD  
Waianae, HI 96792

Hawaii State Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania ST  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**LATE**

February 12, 2020

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1894 HD1 BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

As a student of Hawaii Pacific University, I am writing in support of bill HB1894 HD1, relating to beginning farmer training. During my academic studies I was drawn to the Waianae region for its agricultural resourcefulness. I was introduced to the Kahumana Organic Farms operation where I saw an opportunity to supplement my higher education degree with hands-on training on sustainable and regenerative agriculture as well as agroforestry. Kahumana's program gave me a chance to access not only land, but tools and expert advice from professionals already working there. The experience of learning about organic food production at Kahumana could not be gained in the classroom, only directly on a commercial farm. Therefore I commend this Bill because it will support programs such as Kahumana Organic Farm's apprenticeship program.

I grew up living a very urban lifestyle and discovered a passion for food in my early 20's. Having no knowledge of working with the land and running my own business I knew there was a big gap before I could start my own farm. After much research of all the possible organizations islandwide I decided it would be best to join Kahumana Organic Farms where a successful organic production operation was already in place and my values were aligned with their mission.

Working and living at Kahumana has allowed me to live the reality of the day to day of a farm. Preparing the land, using the equipment, exchanging with customers and co-workers has been a very valuable experience in my life. Without this opportunity I believe that not only myself but many others would feel lost and make many mistakes along the journey that can be avoided by having experiences such as the one provided by Kahumana Organic Farms.

Sincerely,

Andre de Almeida  
808-670-4804