

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN
ADMINISTRATOR
BONNIE KAHAKUI
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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**TESTIMONY
OF
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
February 4, 2020; 9:10 a.m.**

**HB1894
RELATING TO BEGINNING FARMER TRAINING**

Chair Johanson, Vice-Chair Eli, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB1894. The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports any efforts for training opportunities and provides the following comments and recommendations:

Comments. HB1894, Section 2 (d) on page 4 provides that the department of agriculture may enter into contracts with qualified training providers in accordance with HRS 103D-304."

This language appears to imply that the department of agriculture use the professional services method of procurement, pursuant to HRS 103D-304, to enter into contracts with qualified trainers. Pursuant to HRS 103D-304, "Professional services" means those services within the scope of the practice of architecture, landscape architecture, professional engineering, land surveying, real property appraisal, law, medicine, accounting, dentistry, public finance bond underwriting, public finance bond investment banking, or any other practice defined as professional by the laws of this State or the professional and scientific occupation series contained in the United States Office of Personnel Management's Qualifications Standards Handbook. Qualified farming trainers do not fall under this definition, and thus the use of professional services to obtain agricultural training should not be used as a procurement method for this requirement. A best-value competitive request for proposal is always recommended for services procurements.

However, in this case, the department may use the exemption, pursuant to section 3-120-4, HAR, that has determined specialized training to be exempt from chapter 103D, HRS:

Exemption No. 3. Services of lecturers, speakers, trainers, facilitators and scriptwriters, when the provider possess specialized training methods, techniques or expertise in the subject matter, if applicable.

Recommendation:

The SPO recommends removing the language referencing HRS 103D-304, giving the department the ability to choose the procurement method most suitable. Also suggest removing the criteria language on page 5, lines 1 to 11. Criteria for any solicitation should be determined after the department conducts market research and develops an acquisition strategy.

Amend Section 2(d), page 5, line 12 to read: accordance with section 103D-304 to effectuate the purpose

Remove Section 2(d)(4) in its entirety.

Thank you.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment
Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 9:10 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 – RELATING TO BEGINNING FARMER TRAINING

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Eli and members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition with comments on HB 1894.

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 oppose is the process for the reasons 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 farmer training program. This leaves the credentials of programs too open, and can encourage training that includes farming alternatives that are not science-based.
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. Using GoFarm as an example, graduates may spend as much as 2 years or more learning the trade.
4. The measure of success of a training program is the number of graduates that successfully farm, which requires access to farm land. Could that be addressed in the bill for graduates of the training programs?
5. We do not understand the limit of \$100,000 per year limit per provider, and how that was derived. If the program is successful, would the state not want to fund it more fully?
6. If a training program is successful, why would it be limited to seek funding only 3 out of 5 years if it received the full \$100,000 each time it was awarded funding?

To summarize, we support the intent of the bill because new farmers are needed in the state. However, we feel that the bill is insufficient in the funding specifics and the openness of what may be considered farmer training programs. If this were to go through and the HDOA is capable of handling the program, then the department should be given the authority to define what are criteria for a fundable training program.

Based on the above we oppose HB 1894 as written.



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 4, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 1894
RELATING TO BEGINNING FARMER TRAINING

Room 312
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Eli, 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, 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 or funding the GoFarm Program. GoFarm Hawaii's farmer-training program has been training new farmers since 2012. They have grown to become one of the largest and most successful beginning farmer development programs in the Nation. The GoFarm Hawaii program is helping to address Hawaii's agriculture labor shortage by recruiting and training new farmers

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



January 31, 2020

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Comments in Support of HB 1894 Relating to Agriculture (Establishes a 5-year beginning farmer training program to be administered by the Department of Agriculture [DOA].)

Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 9:10 a.m., in Conference Room 309

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** 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. The purpose of this bill is to establish the 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**.

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

HB-1894

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:32:36 AM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Farmer in Training with FAM Farm, under HI Farmer Union at UHMC	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill because I recognize that 90% of our food and supplies arrives on a barge and Hawai'i has the perfect conditions to represent the standard for ample food growth. I also recognize that most of our farmers are in the ages of 60 or older. I am far younger and I farm with my teenage children and many of their friends. I teach the next generation in my own backyard spaces [other people's farms that we volunteer at, for experience].

Previously unable to afford to start my own farm, as well as unfamiliar with how to go about making it official and operable as a business, I turned to the FAM Farm Program offered at UHMC. Through this program, I am learning how to make this dream a reality. I want to open my farm on Moloka'i to build jobs and productivity to boost the local economy, while offering my farm to extend FAM Farm training on Molokai, to interested individuals. I'd like to build a small education area in the front of my farm to facilitate workshops as well as serve the community as a resource. I've spoken to many local leaders about this and am thankful that there was a program to teach me how to do it.

Once upon a time, Hawai'i was an archipelago that fed well over a million people. The ahupua'a system model well presents the potential that we could build in sustainable productivity. I'd like to model that in the ways that I know how, by cultivating a native nursery, by growing crops that will create new local products while providing garden items to the food bank or community service programs. I'd also like to explore how to provide local organic choices to our daycares and schools.

These farmer training programs teach our young farmers how to achieve this level of sustainability and how to make a profitable business plan to become a part of a larger solution that combats climate change while producing food, lightening the costs or effects of dependency upon social welfare to survive, bring essential skills to our aspiring farmers and create a holistic and family friendly atmosphere that increases our local economy, thus helping our residents to remain residents in Hawai'i. We've got to stop sending our families away, due to lack of sustainability in a place called home. It is time we built our community together, not apart.

Vincent Mina
President
HFUU-HFUF



Anny Bruch
VP HFUU-HFUF
&
Kaua'i Chapter
Pres.

P.O. Box 99, Wailuku, HI 96793-0099, (808) 800-3974
February, 3rd, 2020

David Case
Secretary

Testimony in strong support of HB1894 before the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment, Chair Aaron Ling Johanson. Scheduled hearing: Tuesday 2/4 at 9:10am in House conference rm. 309.

Annie Alvarado
Treasurer

Aloha Chairman Johanson and Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment,

~~~~>~~~~

Christian  
Zuckerman  
Wai'anae,  
O'ahu

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.

Vincent Kimura  
Waimanalo,  
O'ahu

Brynn Foster  
North Shore,  
O'ahu

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.

Kaipo Kekona  
Lahaina, Maui

Bobby Pahia  
Kahalawai,  
Maui

John Dobovan  
Haleakala, Maui

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 Hawai'i's skilled agricultural workforce and contributing to increased local food production on small family farms through a hands-on farm immersion component.

Matthew  
Van Paepeghem  
Hana, Maui

Dash Kuhr  
Kohala, Hawai'i

Maureen Datta  
Kona, Hawai'i

HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED



Steve Lund  
Puna, Hawai'i

Drake Weinert  
East Hawai'i

Vincent Mina, President

Matt Drayer  
Ka'u, Hawai'i

*The Hawai'i Farmers Union United and its Chapters are a nonprofit corporation formed under Hawai'i law and Section 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code. HFUU advocates for the sovereign right of farmers to create and sustain vibrant and prosperous agricultural communities for the benefit of all Hawai'i through cooperation, education and legislation. Because HFUU is an agricultural advocacy organization, donations to it are not tax deductible*

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 12:56:46 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>  | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Karen Winslow       | Hawaii Farmers Union | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**HB-1894**

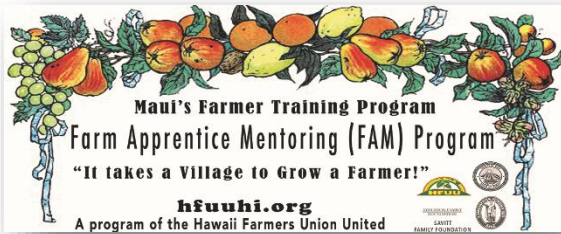
Submitted on: 2/3/2020 12:25:18 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Helmut Klauer       | A'a Li'i Farm       | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Phyllis Robinson and I come here today from the island of Maui as the Program Director of the Hawaii Farmers Union United, Farm Apprentice Mentoring (FAM). I come in support of HB1894 the Beginning Farmer Training bill.



As of June of last year, our Maui based Beginning Farmer Program has graduated 62 farmer apprentices with Certificates of Professional Development from the University of Hawaii, Maui College, Office of Continuing Education and Training.

A recent survey of the 4 years of our FAM program indicate that 78% of our graduates are still farming – growing locally grown food for their families and their community. There is something about our program that is working. It could be that we operate as a cohort and apprentices feel the support not only of their fellow apprentices, but the support of a huge network including the Hawaii Farmers Union United that has 4 chapters on our island and is also responsible for the founding of FAM in 2015. In the last 2 years we expanded our program to Hana with the help of the HFUU chapter there. Hana former apprentices and the Hana Chapter are teaming together to launch their first farmers market with the support of Hana Ranch this coming Friday.

Our program motto is “It takes a village to grow a farmer”. Well our village consists of a huge network of support that includes not only the college, but also:

- GoFarm who provide our apprentices with farm marketing and business training including a 2 day intensive during our 9<sup>th</sup> module and one on one coaching as well
- the Maui Food Innovation Center at UH-MC who teach our apprentices about value added product development,
- the Kohala Center for Cooperative Business Development who teach our apprentices about how to participate in a Food Hub, building a successful farming cooperative, lowering operational costs.

Our FAM program consists of a UH-MC approved 10 module curriculum that takes place over 7 months, followed by an additional 5 months of learning the business and marketing side of farming. Part of my job is to teach our apprentices how to make use of this network of support. Now in our 5<sup>th</sup> cohort of 33 apprentices, we seek to widen our circle of support by duplicating FAM on Moloka'i and Lana'i and eventually statewide. We would seek the support of the funding provided from this bill to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture for this expansion.

We love that our Governor has made food self-sufficiency an imperative for our islands. We need to grow a new generation of farmers and funding the Hawaii Department of Agriculture with the funds proposed in this bill will help not only our FAM program, but all the beginning farmer programs across our island chain. Mahalo for your consideration. It takes a village to grow a farmer and it also takes a farmer to feed the people of our state.



Aloha,

My name is Grace, I own a property in the Moku of Hana, in the Ahupua'a of Kaeleku and I am starting a farm. Luckily a friend told me about the FAM program, which I totally love, as it is exactly what I need.

I am learning about the soil, the crops, the business aspect of farming, as well as so much inspiring coaching from various experts. Visiting the various farms, meeting the farmers and hearing their stories, learning about their systems and seeing what is possible has been truly amazing, I am so grateful for all that I've already learned.

I am also finding out about various organizations like the farm service agency & NRCS, who provide a lot of guidance and some financial support for beginning farmers like me, this is such a blessing.

I am realizing that our islands need to have more food security, as we cannot continue to import 90% of our food. We are blessed with a year round growing season and so much fertile land. Some day, the barges may not come and then what? We need our islands to be more sustainable in general, but certainly with food.

My vision is for my farm to contribute to the food supply for our community, to grow lots of fruit trees, as well as Ulu & Kalo & Uala. I'm also including native plants, veggies and various medicinal plants, as I want to support the native habitat and am a big fan of herbal medicine. I envision an educational center on my farm, a place of learning for the next generation of farmers. My farm needs to sustain my family in every way, so our time & energy can go into the stewardship of the land. We are planning to have a farm shop as one of our outlets to sell what we grow.

We farmers need each other, we need support and this FAM program is truly a brilliant idea. I've only just started and yet, what I have seen & learned so far is very inspiring. I have already been able to implement some of it on my farm and to teach my son about it.

I believe that our islands can lead the way in sustainability and we can start to have more eco tourism, more farm to table restaurant experiences and start to export more of what we create, which would improve our economy. Whatever is made on Maui, made in Hawaii, is already desirable to many around the world. We have a huge potential to inspire the younger generations to grow food and care for the earth. We can make our island's economy thrive and provide more meaningful & educational visits for the many tourists. More programs like FAM are needed across the islands and need to be funded by the State & the Counties. Farming is hard work and it's costly, and we need some help to get started... we need connections, we need to learn from the more experienced farmers and receive some mentoring, which FAM provides in a beautiful way. It's time for more collaboration, and for working together to create food security for our islands. We can do this:-)

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 7:13:09 AM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am Rena Blumberg. I live in Honuaula moku and Paeahu ahupua'a. I have lived on Maui 48 years, including Hana where I was a cub scout mother in the 70's. I worked as a substitute teacher grades 6-12.

The FAM program is so necessary in this day and age. Fortunes come and go. Clearly food in the ground is worth more than money in the bank. The FAM program teaches organic farming methods and provides many different kinds of organic mentors. All of a sudden the dream of a food forest on my half acre is becoming a reality.

I have many friends with children who are food insecure. My vision is to create abundance of organic produce both to sell and to give away. In addition, this vision includes community building and education as children and friends learn how to farm sustainably.

I am only an alternate in the FAM program, wishing I were in the full program. We desperately need more funding so all those who want this knowledge have access to it. Others didn't even get their foot in the door due to limited funding. Just like Hawaiian Immersion school programs which have only recently become available to every student who wants to participate, this sacred knowledge of growing our own food organically and sustainably should be available to all who seek it.

As an elder on a limited income, learning the skills to feed myself and my extended family offer me true security/

Thank you.

1/29/2020

Steven Sanborn

1114 Upper Kimo Dr

Kula, Hawaii, 96790

stevensanborn@gmail.com

Dear Honorable Elected Official,

I am writing to you today in support of SB 2702

As an ongoing student of the Farm Apprentice Mentoring (FAM) Program (cohort 5), I am extremely grateful for the education that has been made available to me. Currently I live on 2.5 acres in Kula, Maui, owned by my family. The land is a great responsibility and also holds much possibility. The FAM program is showing me how to unlock these possibilities by providing the knowledge and wisdom of mentors who are deeply experienced in their fields. I have a deep passion and vision to grow food for my family. I also have an interest in growing mushrooms using substrates obtained from invasives and other natural byproducts. Growing food and supporting farmers are important for many reasons. The food produced from farmers can help improve health by providing healthy and fresh produce. Locally grown food reduces imports and thus helps local economies thrive and benefits the environment. As an individual looking to embark on these missions, the challenges are vast: climate, erosion, invasives, pests, and financials are just some. To tackle all these on alone would not only require many years of study, but result in losses of time and money. By connecting with a passionate network in conjunction with knowledge gained from classes and mentors, I have redefined my vision of what is possible now and for the future.

Sincerely,

Steven Sanborn

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Sanborn", written in a cursive style.



**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 10:47:45 AM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

on v

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 11:37:04 AM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Joseph Mella | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

**Aloha to those concerned,**

**My name is Joseph Mella and I am currently renting a home with land in Kula. I am currently enrolled as a student in Cohort 5 of the FAM program. We are starting to build our ideal farm vision. It is through Farm Education programs like the one I am in that foster creativity and learning on multiple levels. It is through knowledge and exposure to different farming styles that I personally find inspiration. The multitude of different ways of caring for the land is inspiring. At the moment my humble goal is to grow food for my family, friends, and neighbors. Through this action I wish to give love and support into the land, regenerating it as best I can. I wish to pay respect to the history held by the land and its peoples. I wish to honor our teachers by supporting an ever growing encouragement for farming literacy. We all need to do our part in however small a plot of land. We need to give back, especially in lands with a history of neglect. Again I have found great inspiration from the program I am attending and I want to make sure that programs like mine thrive throughout the Hawaiian islands.**

**In addition to the thoroughly thought provoking and inspiring aspects of agricultural education I am personally invested into helping to develop food security on our islands. I believe that if each family does it's part to grow food then we build resilience together. The knowledge opens the door for learning and its the collective action which strengthens our food safety. Also some training programs may inspire more people to perhaps build their farm visions into something that can even greater support both economic and food security needs. Although I have not fully realized my farming dream, I often think about what it would take to grow for example large scale acreage of sweet potatoes or rice here on Maui. It is visions like the one I have that I can see again as inspiring and worth supporting. Please support the allocation of funds to develop a host of farming training programs.**

**With love,**

**Joseph Mella**



**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 12:32:30 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Adrienne. I live on the island of Maui. Hamakualoa, Pauwela. I am a current FAM program and since I started this journey, I have already learned so incredibly much. I realize how lucky I, and my children are that I have been able to malama the aina, to feed my ohana, and someday soon to feed my community. The knowledge that I need to sustainably grow food is fortunate enough to be raised, would not be available to me if it weren't for the FAM program. Before now, I was not a member of the farming community on Maui. I'm a renting, backyard gardener with dreams of living off my own land. When the weather permitting, we had a garden.

Since moving to the islands almost a decade ago, I have started a family and gotten a sense of the importance of our impact on the land. I have watched so many people come and go. I have heard recounted time and time again that people leave to the mainland because living here is too expensive. In particular, groceries are too expensive. For average families to grow food year-round, our produce is largely brought from seemingly everywhere else in the world, instead of growing it locally. I believe that the lack of sustainable farming on our islands is because of a lack of knowledge and not believe the lack of knowledge stems from a lack of interest in this instance. I believe that the individuals on our islands sustainably don't have the knowledge they need to feel confident in their abilities to farm sustainably in a financially sound way. I know that passing the Beginning Farmer Training Program Bill and its appropriate monies is a great investment in knowledge. Knowledge is power. Such a powerful thing; to grow your own food. I can go to the store and buy something shipped here from who knows where, or I can learn how to grow that pepper and provide it for a fraction of the cost. If we grow it and then we can all afford to live here, healthily. To keep families here in Hawaii we must educate ourselves. It would be nice if products that are currently being marketed as "Made on Maui" were actually made of things that are "made on Maui" and every ingredient in it was shipped to Costco from somewhere else and a lot of these missteps, we still have a great opportunity here in our islands to change this legacy and to show the rest of the world together to affect positive change for the health of our land, our people, and our visitors. By passing bills for farm support to allow our community to empower ourselves towards a greener, sustainable Hawaii.

We need to implement sustainable values and practices to enrich our community, and the only way to do that is to be like our ancestors. As our ancestors said that in traditional Hawaiian culture, 'the life of the community was predicated on the health of the land.' In our current community how to make the land healthy again, so we can sustain ourselves and keep ourselves from crisis. We have a reasonable assessment that we will be able to sustain our families through farming. So we ask you now to pass bills for proper stewardship of the land to make Hawaii as bountiful and healthy as it ever has been. Mahalo for your knowledge.

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 12:45:53 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 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**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 12:55:36 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:26:20 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:



**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:39:12 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:50:53 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:54:25 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 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**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 2:18:46 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

The Following  
Testimony is  
Marked Late

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 LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

FEBRUARY 4, 2020  
9:10 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 309

HOUSE BILL NO. 1894  
RELATING TO BEGINNING FARMER TRAINING

Chairperson Johanson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1894. 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. However, we have not provided any agricultural education or training of the nature contemplated in the measure. Consequently, the Department believes that 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.





**LATE**

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
Tuesday, February 4, 2020 — 9:10 a.m. — Room 309

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

Dear Chair Johanson 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**, 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*



**LATE**

2/3/2020

Testimony in strong support of HB1894 before the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment, Chair Aaron Ling Johanson. Scheduled hearing: Tuesday 2/4 at 9:10 am in House conference rm. 309.

Aloha Chairman Johanson and Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment,

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,

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



**LATE**

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 3:10:34 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 6:35:53 PM  
Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| DONNIE BECKER       | Individual          | Support                   | Yes                       |

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 7:36:18 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 7:52:17 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 8:19:44 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Antoinette M Davis  | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair Stacelynn K.M. Eli and Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment,

As a member of HFUU, gardener (wannabe farmer), and resident of Maui, **I urge you to support HB1894**. As an island state we must become more self-reliant regarding food. It amazes me that with the ideal growing conditions we are so blessed with in Hawaii, that we don't eat the freshest, most nutritious, homegrown produce and export as opposed to importing.

Increasing the number of farmers is the key way to get this started! This Bill will help fund the training of future farmers. It is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for your time and dedication to Hawaii's people and this place,

Sincerely,  
Antoinette M Davis.

**LATE**

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:38:12 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| A Kathleen Lee      | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Annable Hawaii State House Members,

I live amongst many struggling small farmers. I think it's very important that we add to the network of farmers so they can support one another and also supply educated workers for these small farms. It behooves us to encourage our food self-sufficiency and so many ways to pass this bill.

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 & Ag workers 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 statewide strategic plan. Our need to increase 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 protects us all. —•

Mahalo nui for your support,

A. Kathleen Lee

Hawi, HI

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



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

February 03, 2020

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1894 BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

As a student of Hawaii Pacific University, I am writing in support of bill SB1894, 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

**LATE**

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:29:25 AM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a small beginning farmer on the Big Island. I am in my first year of but business as a market Farmer and I could not imagine starting this endeavor without having taken part in a training program for beginning farmers and ranchers on the Big Island. The one I took part in not only gave me a lot of practical knowledge but also gave me invaluable connections to other local farmers, local scientists, CTAHR staff, and markets that I might have eventually made but would have taken years to connect with.

If the state of Hawaii is serious about supporting and developing local agriculture and increased food security on our islands, then supporting beginning farmer and rancher training programs and ensuring their sustainability is key.

Mahalo



**LATE**

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:19:43 AM  
Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lee Mackessy        | FAM                 | Support                   | Yes                       |

Comments:

As a current student in the Maui FAM farm apprentice program, I know that I could not and would not be pursuing farming without the basic knowledge I've already acquired in the first two months of the FAM program. The program provides comprehensive and relevant information necessary to undertaking farming in an ever dynamic community and interdependent global business market.

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:06:56 AM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

**LATE**

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 11:31:42 AM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization             | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Kyle Clarkin | The Collective Cycle LLC | Support            | Yes                |

Comments:

One of the most significant challenges facing our great State of Hawaii is food security. This issue is currently being addressed both by local people and by investment groups abroad. They see the impressive opportunities these islands present. Hawaii's GDP ranks as the 39th state economy in the nation. This results from our tourism and military industries with agriculture coming in as the third largest contributor. Back in the days agriculture was in the number one spot, and since that time many innovations have been made in farming and people are looking to traditional methods Hawaii has been utilizing for centuries. Currently the state produces roughly 15% of its own food. I believe that as this number continues to rise by utilizing brilliant and fun ideas and methods, we will provide our people with healthier and inevitably more affordable food options. Indeed, we would be boosting our top two economic branches by self sufficiently supplying the food needs of the military and increasing the already successful agritourism market. Food security, in order to sustain rising populations, is also a matter of our state's security. This is why it is absolutely critical to put bill HB1894 forward. Because the love, the passion, dedication, and craft skills that residents of Hawaii offer to the world is something that can not be achieved anywhere else. Having Mahi Pono, Costco and other large agricultural producers can help us to be where we need to be. However, It may not be special and it won't be even a miniscule amount of what you can insure by choosing to support our local farmers. I have personally gone through two Farming Trade Schools here. These are UH's Gofarm Hawaii and the Farming Apprenticeship mentorship Program. This crucial Bill would support these and other groups that are making effective impacts. The experiences I've gained have shaped and changed my life in astounding ways. I will spend the rest of my life in Hawaii and I will continue to support and engage in my community through farming. The confidence and skill sets that I gained in order to do so, have been catalyzed by programs this bill will support. I want to leave you with this understanding. My classmates and I have experienced life changing knowledge and motivations from these programs. I recently was accepted into the first round of farmers who will be leasing community farm lots from Mahi Pono. Large numbers of people have applied to these schools, yet lacking available funding and therefore space in this class, those seekers have not yet been fortunate enough to experience the same opportunity. The ripple effect that each responsible, well educated local farmer has improves countless lives . Bill HB1894 will increase this great momentum. Please Vote Yes! Thank you! Aloha!



**LATE**

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:59:57 AM

Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am a graduate student from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in the CTAHR department and I have been studying local food production in Hawaii for the past couple years. Farming in Hawaii is very difficult because we have the highest land and labor prices in the world. There is no way to become efficient enough to compete with global markets. Anything that can help improve yields, efficiency, and finances for local farmers will lower prices for consumers and increase support for local food production. There are so many benefits to increasing local food production. It can increase our food security, put money into our local economy, and provide access to fresher, tastier, healthier foods to ALL people of Hawaii. Therefore, appropriating money to help farmers understand and get their foot in the door is crucial.

A beginner training program would be beneficial to those who want/have the means to start farming. Everything from the soil science to the business side of farming should be discussed in this training.

**LATE**

**HB-1894**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 12:16:55 PM  
Testimony for LAB on 2/4/2020 9:10:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ashley Clark | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ashley Clark. I live on the fertile island of Maui, in the Ahupua'a of Hamakualoa and the Moku of Huelo. I am a current FAM (Farm Apprenticeship Mentorship) apprentice in cohort 5.

I relocated to Maui just over a year ago to immerse myself in small-scale regenerative agriculture. Nowhere else in the United States have I found such a rich community of land stewards and earth caretakers as here within the farming culture of the Hawaiian islands. This unique climate allows for the cultivation of a broad spectrum of tropical, cultural, and common western fruits and vegetables. As a result, the Hawaiian islands provide ideal growing conditions for the education of current and future farmers.

Throughout my years of education in the public school systems, it was never highlighted to me that agriculture could be a career choice. I grew up feeling very separate from the food systems that provided sustenance to me. As I became an adult and took up a love of gardening I began to see a growing community of small-scale farmers rising up around me. It was still unclear to me how I could earn a living doing what I loved: providing food for my family and my community. Since beginning my apprenticeship with the FAM program I have visited over 20 successful, small-scale family farms operating on Maui. I am amazed at the depth of knowledge my mentors have shared with me, and now more than ever before I can see my path in agriculture more clearly. This would not have been possible without the support and leadership of the FAM program facilitators and mentors.

I wonder how many others share my same story? With most of the federal budget for agriculture going towards the benefit of large industrial farming operations, it is no wonder that it can sometimes seem impossible to create a thriving business, as a farmer. The national average age of farmers is around 60 years old. Who will grow the

food for the next generation if we don't educate young farmers? If it weren't for the FAM program and other agricultural education opportunities, I would have never believed that I could have a successful career, doing what I love. I urge you to consider providing opportunities for young farmers through education and resources. It is we who will inherit this world and we who must feed it! As they say in the USDA, 'Hungry people revolt.

Mahalo nui loa,

Ashley Clark

FAM Cohort 5