

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

HOUSE BILL NO. 2181 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2181, HD1. This measure appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program and requires a report to the Legislature. The Department offers comments on this measure.

The Department does not have the staffing or expertise to implement this program. The proposed program would require researching the equipment to purchase, identifying and acquiring land to house the equipment, hiring on site staff, developing a lending and tracking program, developing a repair and maintenance program, developing a training program (including train the trainer for department staff), and collecting information regarding the equipment's utility and adaptability to local agricultural practices. Within six months after adoption of this measure, the data would need to be compiled and analyzed and a report would need to be drafted. The Department does not believe that the proposed timeframe is sufficient for compiling the pertinent data and producing a report that will meaningfully benefit the intended program participants. The Department believes that the University of Hawaii, Community Colleges and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts are best suited to



effectively provide the benefits sought by this measure and the respectfully requests that the Department be replaced by either of those entities as the agency designated to implement the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-2181-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/5/2020 6:34:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Testifying for Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Ruderman, Vice Chair

HB2181

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 1:15 p.m.

Conference Room 312, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB2181.**

Technology, like small equipment tractors, are necessary alternatives as the demand for agriculture labor continues to increase and the availability of labor decreases. A limited number of weed management solutions and the increase in labor cost have made weed management a major challenge for many small farmers and ranchers in Hawaii. Countries such as Japan have small equipment that is suitable for Hawaii's small farmers and ranchers, however, the engines that are attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations. This pilot program would help identify desired small equipment as well as finding solutions that would allow Hawaii farmers to import foreign equipment that complies with EPA standards. We support HB2181 and appreciate the chance to comment on this matter.

HCC is committed to supporting our civic leaders promote a coherent state-wide policy for sustainable development. Using the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, we advocate policy that; increases local food production to promote food security, protects agricultural lands, promotes carbon neutrality, models sustainable land use, protects our watersheds, supports long-term stable employment that embraces technology and innovation, contributes to the health and well-being of the community, and encourages public, private and civic partnerships.

Nicole Galase
Managing Director



HB-2181-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 2:35:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Testifying for Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Wednesday, March 11, 2020 — 1:15 p.m. — Room 224

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 2181 HD 1, Relating to Agriculture.

Dear Chair Gabbard 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 2181 HD 1, which establishes a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program within the Department of Agriculture.

According to the 2017 USDA NASS Census of Agriculture, 66% of Hawai'i's 7,328 farms statewide, or 4,868 farms, are between 1–9 acres. In addition, 78%, or 5,701 farms, produce less than \$25,000 in sales. Since the average farmer in Hawai'i is a small farmer with limited land, it is critical for local growers to identify smaller farming equipment suitable for Hawai'i. Right-sized equipment can better help smaller farms develop into future medium and large-sized farms that can grow more local food.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become increasingly complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

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

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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March 11, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 2181, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 224
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 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 HB 2181, HD1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program.

As the demand for agriculture labor continues to increase, while the availability of labor decreases, farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. A limited number of weed management solutions and the increase in labor cost have made weed management a major challenge for many small farmers in Hawaii. Many small farmers also have a need for smaller harvesting and field prep equipment that is not readily available in Hawaii. These growers include vegetable crops, wetland crops, and livestock forage crops. There is a need to identify high technology small equipment and evaluate its applicability for Hawaii's diverse agriculture systems.

Countries such as Japan have small equipment that is suitable for Hawaii's small farmers, however, the engines that are attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations. This pilot program would help identify desired small equipment as well as finding solutions that would allow Hawaii farmers to import foreign equipment that complies with EPA standards.

We recommend that the pilot project include, among other things, the following:

- Establish contact with manufacturers of small equipment in Japan and other countries.
- Work with EPA to identify EPA standard and compliance requirements for small foreign ag equipment.
- Collaborate with Agriculture and Ag Professionals from foreign countries on management practices.
- Bring harvesting, weed management, and field prep machinery into the State of Hawaii for evaluation.
- Conduct on-farm trials to evaluate the efficacy and applicability to multiple growing systems (wetland, conventional, organic, forage crops, etc.) statewide.
- Conduct education and training workshops statewide to update agriculture producers on available technology.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 224
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020 AT 1:15 P.M.**

To The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair;
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Environment;

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2181 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap and I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, with approximately 650 members. We appreciate the opportunity to support of HB2181 on a pilot program relating to ag equipment.

Historically, agriculture has been very important to our community, but it is a difficult industry to successfully start and operate. Use of technology and modernization is key. We support efforts that seek to sustain and support agriculture as the industry is currently struggling with a labor shortage, in addition to other factors. We appreciate that this bill takes a new approach to supporting the industry by establishing a pilot program to look for more efficient equipment and ensuring it is compliant with EPA regulations.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony and we hope you will move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

From: [Robert Paull](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Monday, March 9, 2020 12:20:26 PM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I do not support SB2711 SD2, this is the companion to HB2181 HD1. The Senate Bill states that this "agriculture small equipment pilot program at a community college selected by the university of Hawaii". I know of no program at the Community College that has the experience in agricultural machinery needs for Hawaii's farmers. The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa should take the lead on this evaluation. I can see a possible involvement of someone from the Honolulu Community College Automotive Mechanics Tech program to assist in selecting engine conversions to meet EPA requirements that might be necessary.

I fully support the House Bill HB2181 as the intent is to evaluate different sources of agricultural machinery and to identify and work with local companies who can carry out any conversion that might be necessary to meet EPA emission requirements.

This measure supports the demand for agriculture labor, which continues to increase. Farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors.

This is a pilot program that is only going to explore retrofitting foreign equipment to comply with EPA standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Robert Paull
Professor/researcher
5393 Poola St
Honolulu, HI 96821
robertepaull@gmail.com

HB-2181-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 8:54:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2181-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 12:00:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2181-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 12:11:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Multiple Testifier List HB 2181

Alan Gottlieb – Ponoholo Ranch
Kylie Matsuda-Lum – Kahuku Farms, Inc
Alvin Tsuruda – Waihale Products
Ray Nakamura – M Nakamura Nursery LLC
Randy Cabral – KHK Ranch LLC
Robert Main – Main Family Farm
Melvin Matsuda – Kahuku Farmers Inc
Phil Becker – Aikane Plantation
David Makaiwi - Bayer
Justin Cadiz
Sandi Kato-Klutke
Susan Cabral
Frederick Mencher
Megan Kono
Marlene Jarvis
Richard Ogoshi
Luana Beck
Tyler Yonemori

From: [Alan Gottlieb](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Monday, March 9, 2020 9:30:06 AM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support HB2181 HD1, appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program.

This measure supports the demand for agriculture labor, which continues to increase. Farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. Although engines attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations, this pilot program would explore retrofitting foreign equipment to comply with those standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Alan Gottlieb
Vice President
Ponoholo Ranch
PO Box 700489
Kapolei, HI 96709
alan@prloffice.com