

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 FINANCE

**FEBRUARY 24, 2020
11:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2181 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Luke 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 supports the intent of this measure, however, respectfully requests that the responsible agency be changed to the University of Hawaii, Community Colleges or the Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The Department of Agriculture (HDOA) unfortunately does not have the human resources or expertise to implement this program. We would have to research the equipment to purchase, identify and acquire land to house the equipment, hire on site staff, develop a lending and tracking program, develop a repair and maintenance program, training program (including train the trainer for department staff), and collect information as to the usefulness and utility of the item. Then we would have to compile and analyze the data and draft a report, all within six months. Most likely, this would not give the farmer adequate time to effectively learn to use the item and report meaningful data.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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 24, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2181, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 308
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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.

HB-2181-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 4:30:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-2181-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 10:25:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole K Galase	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2181-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2020 9:55:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-2181-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 2:24:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

From: [Randy Cabral](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Friday, February 21, 2020 4:10:08 PM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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,

Randy Cabral
KHK RANCH LLC
PO BOX 337
VOLCANO, HI 96785
kaiwiki.1970@gmail.com

From: [Alan Tada](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Friday, February 21, 2020 4:00:10 PM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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 Tada
Flowers Forever
FLOWERS FOREVER LLC
2979 Kalena St
Lihue, HI 96766
flowersforever@hawaiiantel.biz

From: [Alan Gottlieb](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Friday, February 21, 2020 3:50:08 PM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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

From: [Kylie Matsuda-Lum](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Friday, February 21, 2020 3:50:05 PM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Kylie Matsuda-Lum
KAHUKU FARMS, INC
56-800 Kamehameha Hwy
Kahuku, HI 96731
kylie@kahukufarms.com

From: [Megan Kono](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Friday, February 21, 2020 3:50:05 PM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Megan Kono
2333 Kapiolani Blvd Apt 3102
Honolulu, HI 96826
megankono808@gmail.com

From: [Susan Cabral](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Friday, February 21, 2020 4:20:03 PM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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,

Susan Cabral
PO Box 337
Volcano, HI 96785
s.kronecabral@gmail.com

From: [Jim Bates](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Friday, February 21, 2020 5:30:08 PM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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,

Jim Bates
Managing Member
Triple K Orchards, LLC
PO Box 369
Kapaa, HI 96755
jcbtko@gmail.com

From: [Donald Lau](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Friday, February 21, 2020 5:50:09 PM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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,

Donald Lau
92-1286 Kikaha St Apt 88
Kapolei, HI 96707
whtmzda@yahoo.com

From: [Sandi Kato-Klutke](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Friday, February 21, 2020 7:30:04 PM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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,

Sandi Kato-Klutke
Retired
6266 Kawaihau Rd
Kapaa, HI 96746
skatoklutke@gmail.com

From: [PHIL BECKER](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Friday, February 21, 2020 7:10:05 PM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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,

PHIL BECKER
AIKANE PLANTATION LLC
PO Box 253
Kunia, HI 96759
aikaneplantation@hawaii.rr.com

From: [Robert Paull](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2020 9:00:09 AM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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,

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

From: [Justin Cadiz](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Saturday, February 22, 2020 4:20:05 PM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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,

Justin Cadiz
91-1028 Hokuimo St
Kapolei, HI 96707
justin.cadiz16@gmail.com

From: [Brad Seymour](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Saturday, February 22, 2020 7:40:07 AM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Brad Seymour
Manager
SR Hawaii
390 Hale Pl
Kapaa, HI 96746
brad@seymourresourcehawaii.com

From: [carolyn Lum](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Saturday, February 22, 2020 6:20:08 AM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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,

carolyn Lum
GARDEN ISLAND RC & D INC
2746 Apapane St
Lihue, HI 96766
hawaii96766@yahoo.com

From: [MARIO GAGGERO](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Saturday, February 22, 2020 2:50:04 AM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

MARIO GAGGERO
Hawaii Seed Pro LLC
MONSANTO
147 Hoolapa St
Kihei, HI 96753
mariorgaggero@gmail.com

From: [Frederick Mencher](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Friday, February 21, 2020 10:00:03 PM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the committee,

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Frederick Mencher
2029 Nuuanu Ave Apt 1510
Honolulu, HI 96817
frederickmencher@gmail.com

From: [John Giblin](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Friday, February 21, 2020 9:10:03 PM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the committee,

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

John Giblin
owner
Ohana Farm Orchards
87-2814 Mamalahoa Hwy
Captain Cook, HI 96704
jgiblinjr@aol.com

From: [Richard Ogoshi](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Friday, February 21, 2020 8:50:07 PM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the committee,

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Richard Ogoshi
563 Kaumakani St
Honolulu, HI 96825
ogoshi@hawaiiantel.net

From: [John Gordines](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: I support HB2181 HD1
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2020 12:40:06 PM

Dear Chairwoman Luke,

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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,

John Gordines
TROPICAL FLOWERS EXPRESS
6721 Kawaihau Rd
Kapaa, HI 96746
gordines@kauaiflowers.com



LATE

Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Monday, February 24, 2020 — 11:00 a.m. — Room 308

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

Dear Chair Luke 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