

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**JANUARY 31, 2020  
9:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2568  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committees:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2658, which appropriates funds for the GoFarm Hawaii program. The Department supports this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

The Department supports the efforts of the GoFarm Hawaii program as it seeks to develop farmers to be both not only productive with crop production but also savvy with a business mindset. GoFarm Hawaii provides important opportunities to individuals that are seeking to enter the agricultural workforce. With the right training and education, a GoFarm Hawaii graduate has a high probability of impacting the Hawaii's agricultural workforce as a successful farmer. GoFarm Hawaii runs off of soft money year in and year out and deserves the ability to function with consistent resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 10:02:17 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

Ka Ohana O Na Pua is a Community Agriculture Education non-profit established in 1991 on Hawai'i Island. I am very familiar with the Go Farm Programs on Hawai'i Island and Oahu. These programs have proven to be very effective and I'm sure they will submit metrics on that. They serve our local communities and provide the knowledge and skills not available through programs at CTAHR or HDOA. Helping young and beginning farmers to find suitable land especially land they could live on would go far to increasing the amount of food produced in the state and could be part of HDOA's Strategic Plan for doubling food production by 2030.



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

January 31, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2568**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 2568**, which appropriates funds for the GoFarm Hawaii program. Requires GoFarm Hawaii to provide the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture with an annual report of the program's goals and a semi-annual report outlining program outputs and outcomes.

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.

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. This is critical to achieving Hawaii's goal of doubling food production.

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



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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Friday, January 31, 2020 — 9:00 a.m. — Room 312

### **Ulupono Initiative supports HB 2568, Relating to Agriculture**

Dear Chair Creagan and Members of the Committee:

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

**Ulupono supports HB 2568**, which appropriates funds for the GoFarm Hawai'i Program (GFH).

Since 2013, Ulupono has provided \$250,000 in grant funding to GFH for infrastructure and development of operations on Hawai'i Island, Maui, O'ahu, and Kaua'i. With funding from Ulupono and others, we are excited about the growth of the GFH training program.

According to the USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture, there are 7,300 estimated farms in Hawai'i, of which more than 75% earn less than \$25,000 per year. Additionally, those farms that generate over \$25,000 per year, 65% of the principal farm operators are at least 55 years old. With the high costs of agricultural production here in Hawai'i and the average age of the local farmer climbing, it is of utmost importance to the State to invest in the next generation and provide a financially viable future for those agricultural operations.

We appreciate that GFH has developed a broad spectrum of classes designed for those with an interest in agriculture. GFH offers the most comprehensive new farmer training program in Hawai'i, including classroom education, hands-on training, business planning, and incubation opportunities.

GFH has a well-received reputation with training the next generation of local producers in the State. Over the past 3 years, 58% of the 127 program graduates have either started their own agricultural business (60 graduates) or began working in (14 graduates) the agricultural industry. By training the future agricultural workforce, GFH is directly supporting the State's local food production goals and creating a more sustainable Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

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

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



67-332 Kaiea Pl.  
Waialua, HI 96791-9501  
808-383-4481  
[www.NSEVP.org](http://www.NSEVP.org)

January 30, 2020

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

**SUBJECT:** Support for HB2568 – GoFarm Hawaii Program  
(Date/Time of Hearing: 1/31/2020 at 9:00 a.m.)

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

On behalf of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (EVP), I would like to extend our full support of HB2568, which will appropriate funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program.

The North Shore EVP was formed in 2015 as a result of a comprehensive, community-based economic analysis that identified the need for a regional food hub to fill serious gaps in the food supply chain of the region. Our non-profit organization worked with community leaders to develop realistic strategic plans focused on securing that critical infrastructure and providing new opportunities for business and creation of new jobs in agriculture in the region. Currently, our major projects include 1) statewide expansion of our GroupGAP (Good Agricultural Practices) farmer training program and 2) developing a food hub on the North Shore of Oahu.

In December 2019 two more farms were USDA Harmonized GAP certified through our GroupGAP program and earlier this month our program passed its USDA External audit with flying colors. Our continued success is due in part to our collaborations across the state, including Go Farm.

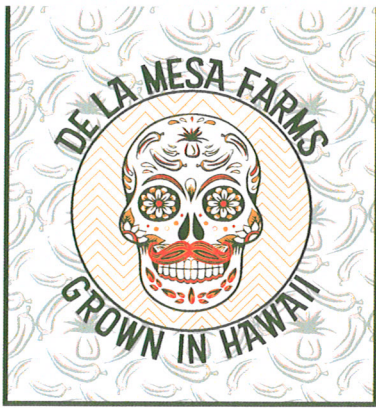
During the past year we have participated in Go Farm seminars and workshops to bring on-farm food safety expertise to the trainees. We value the opportunity to get on front of new farmers and providing food safety training. GoFarm Hawaii graduates and clients have been members of our GroupGap program, showing their dedication to quality and food safety, looking to increase production and sales, and seeking access to larger markets and more sales.

GoFarm Hawaii is developing commercial farmers on the North Shore and across the state that are prepared to supply food for local communities. We look forward to these farmers actively contributing to sustainable agriculture in their communities. We will continue to work together in areas of mutual interest especially in areas where we can leverage each other's expertise in support of Hawai'i agriculture. The North Shore EVP strongly supports this measure that will ensure that the GoFarm Hawaii program continues its work to support local farmers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Kelly", written over a white background.

Kevin Kelly  
President & CEO  
North Shore EVP



# FROM OUR FARM TO YOUR TABLE

EXPOSING OUR ISLAND TO SUSTAINABLE LATIN PRODUCE

TESTIMONY OF DE LA MESA LLC

HEARING DATE/TIME: Friday, January 31, 2020  
9:00 am  
Conference Room 312, State Capitol

TO: House Committee on Agriculture

Re: HB 2568

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and Committee Members:

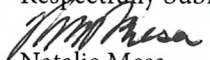
We strongly support HB 2568, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. My husband and I are graduates of the GoFarm Hawaii program and currently participate in the AgIncubator program.

As you know, farming in Hawaii is a tough proposition between the cost of land, labor and the resources needed to provide our communities with fresh and affordable produce. Our farm, known as De La Mesa Farms, has always had a mission to strengthen our communities and environment by applying organic practices to deliver fresh and affordable produce. Without the GoFarm Hawaii program, we would not have been able to deliver on our mission as quickly and as impactfully as we did.

We launched our business in 2017 with a small urban farm in Kailua producing exclusively microgreens. During that first year, we struggled to supply the market with 4 lbs. of microgreens a week and ended the year in the red (like many new businesses). That same year, however, we were admitted into the GoFarm Hawaii program. Through GoFarm Hawaii's courses and fieldwork, mentorship and networking, we were able to apply the lessons learned directly to our farm operations. Over the last 2 years, we have substantially expanded our operations – thanks in large part to GoFarm Hawaii – such that we regularly supply 2 farmers markets' weekly with over 100 lbs. of salad greens, microgreens and specialty crops such as radishes, beets, carrots, broccoli, tomatoes, cucumbers, etc.; sell produce to local restaurants and hotels; and, also sell community-support agricultural (CSA) subscriptions directly to local families. We are able to provide all this produce as a result of the approx. ¼ acre of land that we currently lease via the GoFarm Hawaii program in Waimanalo.

The GoFarm Hawaii program is the most important driver for creating new commercial farmers in the State of Hawaii. If legislators are committed to food security and expanding our local food system, then support of the GoFarm Hawaii program is absolutely necessary. Their ongoing support, educational opportunities, network and mentorship continues to provide a valuable support system for our farm.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Natalie Mesa  
Vice President  
De La Mesa LLC

**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 12:35:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Drew Wilkinson	Growing Together, LLC	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2568. The go farm program has helped create a new generation of younger farmers on Oahu. This program plays a vital role and additional funding will help insure the continuation of its success.

Thank you,

Drew Wilkinson

**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 12:09:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

If we hope to be healthy in the future, we need farmers who know how to grow food without adding chemicals that are toxic to our environment. These farmers must first be trained, so support of GoFarm is essential.



Personal Testimony Presented Before  
the House Committee on Agriculture  
Representative Richard Creagan, Chair  
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Friday, January 31, 2020

by  
Charles Kinoshita

Support for HB 2568, Relating to Agriculture

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

My name is Charles Kinoshita; I retired from the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, one month ago. I am presenting testimony as a private citizen in support of HB 2568, which calls for appropriation of funds to support the GoFarm Hawaii (GFH) Program.

Decades ago, prior to joining the University of Hawaii, I was an engineer and part of the management team in the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association (HSPA) Experiment Station. When I first joined HSPA, sugarcane was being cultivated on four Hawaiian islands, spanning nearly 220,000 acres, and yielding roughly one million tons of sugar per year. Today, no cane is grown in Hawaii for the manufacture of refined sugar.

While sugarcane has disappeared from our landscape, the majority of the lands that supported cane, though now fallow, still are zoned agricultural and remain highly productive. These lands can be brought back into commercial agriculture to create the green landscape that is important to the health of our environment and our visitor industry, and support our local economy and food security, if new farmers are able to cultivate those lands skillfully and profitably. In order to increase the number of farmers in Hawaii's diversified agriculture and ensure their success, we need to provide aspiring farmers with the knowledge and skill sets to grow crops better and to operate their agribusinesses more profitably.

GoFarm Hawaii has assembled infrastructure and professionals to grow new farmers on all four islands that previously grew commercial sugarcane. GFH, which offers training in both crop production and business management quite likely is the largest and most successful new farmer training program in the nation. In the last three years, more than 100 trainees graduated from the GFH training program, approximately 60% of the graduates started farm businesses or are supporting other agribusinesses in Hawaii, and 18 farm businesses were incubated on our own program lands. Complementary to the highly successful new farmer training program, the GoFarm Hawaii AgBusiness consulting arm provides one-on-one support to new and existing farmers statewide, and in 2019 helped more than 60 farmers apply for loans, leases and grants, and develop business plans and value-added products.

Let's be clear... to achieve such high levels of success and positive impacts is costly. GFH has been very successful in competing for contracts and grants at the national, state, and local levels, and has garnered strong support from generous and committed partners in the private sector,

government agencies, and philanthropic organizations, but additional funding, as called for in HB 2568, is needed to continue this successful farmer-training and agribusiness-support program.

In closing, I'd like to point-out that I believe so strongly in GFH that, in retirement, I have volunteered to be an uncompensated part of the GFH team so that I may make my own small contribution to the future of agriculture in Hawaii. I strongly encourage you to support HB 2568 and help GoFarm Hawaii train and provide consulting services to our state's next generation of successful farmers and agripreneurs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my views.

**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 9:18:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ted Radovich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 10:23:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Greg Koch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 10:46:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 11:56:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Suzanne Fields	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Maui participant in GoFarm Hawaii, I cannot stress enough HOW ESSENTIAL THIS PROGRAM is. All of Hawaii is in dire need of workforce development within the agriculture sector if we are EVER to achieve true food safety, security, and sustainability. Without farmers and farmer training programs, we will NEVER be able to reduce our current food importation rate of 85%. We MUST support any and all programs to train farmers and ensure that there is affordable land available and the educational and mentor support needed to ensure success for our farming community; from beginning farmer on up.

Since participating in the program, I expanded my small home-based farm and am currently growing on any/all available space on my 1/2 acre of land. I sell produce on a regular basis at a local food store (Mana Foods) and share any surplus with my ohana and friends. The program taught me production skills, provided business support, and a gave me a network that allows my business to continue growing. I am looking to continue to expand the amount of food I grow on my property and know how critical GoFarm support has been in my transition from a casual grower to a serious farmer.

The GoFarm Hawaii program is a needed and valuable program for the state of Hawaii. Their ongoing support, educational opportunities, and network continues to provide a valuable support system for my farming operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Fields

Ultimate Haikuy, LLC

suzmaui@gmail.com

(808) 866-6347

## decoite2 - Aurielle

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**From:** Janel Yamamoto <janelnoy@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 7:48 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** 'Lauren Adler'  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2568

**Categories:** Blue Category

Submitting on behalf of Lauren Adler for Support for HB2568 – GoFarm Hawaii Program (Date/Time of Hearing: 1/31/2020; 9:00am)

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**From:** Lauren Adler [mailto:laurenadler808@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 6:42 AM  
**To:** Janel Yamamoto <janelnoy@hawaii.edu>  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2568

I fully support HB 2568 which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. My husband and I had the privilege of graduating from this program together. GoFarm instilled unto us the necessary production skills to run a small scale farm in Hawaii and provided the business support we needed to start a value added business. It also gave us an incredible network of likeminded human beings who work so diligently, and at times selflessly, to provide produce for the people of Hawai'i.

There is tremendous value in this program and stable funding would only add more possibilities and opportunities for the participants. GoFarm is so much more than learning to plant seeds into the Earth. This program plants seeds within us. We learn to steward the land, to malama ka aina. We take that with us into our community and into our homes. We compost our waste, we clean up after others, we share this knowledge with our children. We volunteer to teach other people's children. The ripple effect is profound.

The world needs more conscious and capable farmers. For our people and for our planet. Especially here in Hawaii. As a nurse practitioner student centered around holistic care, I understand the value and necessity of locally grown food from regenerated soil. It is not enough to teach farmers how to grow in this unpredictable climate. We must teach them how to thrive in this economic environment, so they can be successful in business. We cannot provide for others if we cannot provide for ourselves and our families first. We need educational programs like GoFarm, on-going support from each other within the community, and bills such as HB 2568 that give tremendous opportunity to learn and grow. Thank you.

Lauren Adler

I will try to be there in person tomorrow

**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 2:40:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Rhoden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GoFarm Hawaii provides an essential service to the state of Hawaii, and in each community on the islands it operates on, with introductory through first year of operation exposure to farming as a business. The state of Hawaii needs more professional farmers, and we will also benefit from communities that are resilient and self sufficient. Promoting agriculture in the state helps to preserve open space, green corridors, and agritourism opportunities, all of which help to maintain our rural heritage and leverage jobs in agriculture and ag support. I submit this testimony in support of HB2568.



**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 3:20:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Megan Blazak	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear chairperson, vice chair, and members of the committee,

I strongly support HB2568, as GoFarm Hawaii is among the highest achieving beginning farmer training programs in the United States and is deserving of state appropriations. The median age of a Hawaii farmer is 60, and GoFarm Hawaii is the most effective program in our state for training the next generation of farmers. GoFarm Hawaii equips students with the skills necessary to pursue commercial farming upon completion of the program. For these reasons, I encourage the committee to support this legislation. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Megan Blazak

Registered voter in Hilo

**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 4:35:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
elizabeth hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Cregan and DeCoite and members of the committee:

Please support HB 2568 so we can continue to fund this GoFund Hawaii Program. We continue to fund this program because students from the Go Farm Program have knowledgeable and realistic goals that make a farm profitable. Unless we continue to support GoFarm Hawaii, this important way to increase agricultural knowledge will be lost.

Thank you for support of this bill.

Elizabeth Hansen

Kua Aina Farm

PO Box 215

Hakalau HI 96710

**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 4:40:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Creagan and DeCoite and members of the committee:

Please support HB2568.

I own and operate a small farm in Hakalau HI which supplements my family income. Over the last five years I have hired several former GoFarm Students to work on our farm because of their diverse and deep agricultural knowledge about farming in Hawaii. All these workers learned these skills from the GoFarm Hawaii Program. I feel that GoFarm Hawaii is a true benefit to the goals of improving agricultural output in Hawaii.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Yours truly,

Rodger Hansen

Kua Aina Farm

PO Box 215

Hakalau HI 96720



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Friday, January 31, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

**LATE**

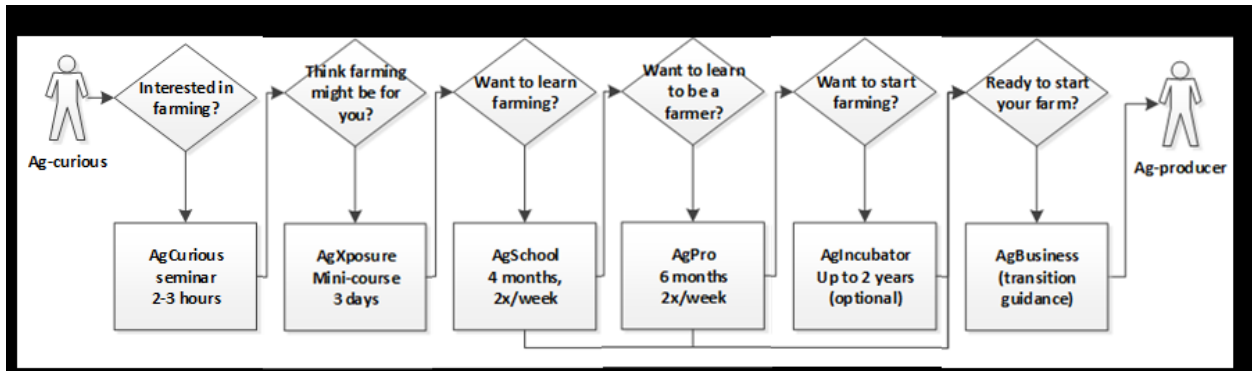
By  
Nicholas Comerford, Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
And  
Michael Bruno, PhD  
Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 2568 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2568 relating to agriculture. The average age of a farmer in Hawai'i is about 60 years, thus, there is a need to train future farmers for Hawai'i, but where the future farmers will come from is unclear. The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) trains students for 4-year degrees in Horticulture, Soil Science, Entomology, Plant Pathology and Animal Science. CTAHR students typically do not go into farming, per se; but are the scientists trained to support agriculture. Of course, they have the skills to farm if they wish, but most do not consider this their future.

The GoFarm program is a fully grant funded, non-degree granting program associated with CTAHR. It is a successful program and its success is based on how the program is organized. The program accepts anyone interested in developing the skills to farm and offers a series of sequential programs that allows participants to proceed through the programs based on their level of interest. Below is a diagram of the series of sequential programs offered by GoFarm, beginning with AgCurious and culminating with AgBusiness.



This bill does an excellent job of outlining the success of this program, which we will not reproduce here. The program has a high rate of success as measured by the number of participants that proceed to farm on their own land, or work on farms. GoFarm has also expanded its program to meet special needs. One example is working with prison inmates to train them to be Agricultural Technicians, with the hope of reducing recidivism.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2568 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 7:24:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

**LATE**

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

Comments:

**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 9:00:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr. Jana Bogs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 9:44:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raine Armstrong	Happy Honu Farms	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs Creagan and DeCoite and members of the committee,

I ask that you, please recognize my strong support for HB 2568, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. Since graduating from the program, I have started my farm on a quarter acre plot in Waimanalo & am currently selling through Farm Link Hawaii, a local aggregator & distributor of locally grown products. While in college at the University of Hawaii, I was disappointed in how little local produce was available at the time & I was encouraged to join GoFarm Hawaii because I felt there was a lack of farmers in Hawaii.

This program has provided me the tools & resources to be successful, as well as the continued support as a business owner. Not only did they teach me how the production side of farming, but also how to understand farming from a business standpoint. They have connected me w/ the network to help grow my operation.

GoFarm made my dreams of farming in Hawaii a reality & I would not be in the position I am without their support from day one. I know I am one of many people that are thankful for the opportunity to farm in Hawaii, but many of us couldn't have done it without GoFarm.

The State of Hawaii needs the GoFarm Hawaii program because, without farmers of the future, it would be challenging to continue the state's efforts to increase the local supply without them.

Mahalo for allowing me to provide my support for this bill,

Raine Armstrong

Happy Honu Farms

happyhonufarms@gmail.com

(760)799-0160



**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 11:40:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Koon-Hui Wang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an individual who serve as an educator on Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Hawaii, I here by testified the great value and curriculum opportunities GoFarm Hawaii had provided for new farmers or individuals who are pursueing interest into farming. As the state of Hawaii as well as the nation is worrying that the average age of farmers are getting too old to foresee a good future of local food crop production, GoFarm Hawaii is setting a stage to reverse this trend. I personally get involved in this program since its inception in 2010, and is watching the program growing more and more popular ever since. There is no short of new interest to enroll in this program throughout the state. Full-filling the need of the intest of new farmers should be met by good quality of training. While the program has been growing self-sustainably, it is well worth the state to fund this growing program to a next level of success that might help Hawaii to come closer to the possibility to achieving food self sufficiency. There are people out there that don't believe in small-scale farming contribute much to food crop production. Providing funding for an enthusiatic group would help them to be more efficient. It is very encouraging to see each cohort of new farmers work together. GoFarm Hawaii could help more of these trainees to pursue a successful farm operation if they could have more resouces. I strongly support this bill.

**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 12:10:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

**LATE**

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

Comments:

**LATE**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2568, which appropriates funds in support of the University of Hawaii GoFarm program. I can say that I am personally and professionally committed to supporting the work of GoFarm by the choices I make at the grocery store, with my paycheck and with my vote.

As a life-long resident of Hawaii and a child of the 1970's, I was raised on Spam and rice, dried ramen, New Zealand apples, South American grapes and Oreo cookies. Not a lot of fresh, local food; not a lot of nutrition. GoFarm's work in training new and beginning farmers begins to move the needle on Hawaii's local food production and food security; contributes to the physical health and well-being of Hawaii's people; and begins to address global and local climate change through the regenerative agriculture practices of small farm entrepreneurs.

As an educator working with and supporting agriculture education and training programs for over twenty years, I recognize the elements of a successful, well-managed program—a team of highly qualified, experienced staff with diverse skill sets and the disposition to collaborate; curriculum designed to support the learning goals and aspirations of their students with a healthy dose of reality and tough-love; and the vision of a sustainable Hawaii with a healthy, informed and engaged citizenry.

Our island in the middle of the Pacific is incredibly vulnerable, but I sense that we are at a crossroads where our environmental, socio-economic and health anxieties and problems can begin to be addressed by a surprisingly simple solution—to support and encourage the availability and access to growing, cooking, experiencing local, whole, unprocessed foods in our homes, while dining out, in our visitor industry and institutional purchases. GoFarm Hawaii and its 32 cohorts of trainees to date are a critical part of that movement and have raised the profile of farming in Hawaii with its services, alumni and innovations—the seven year old program may be the most successful adult farmer training program in Hawaii, and even receives national attention.

But we still have such a long way to go. As enterprising and resourceful as the staff are, GoFarm is funded by grants. It is almost impossible to plan for and sustain long term success when operating on short term funding. Let's figure out how to fund farmer training as public service/a public benefit in Hawaii like clean water, waste management and public transportation.

**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 10:13:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

**LATE**

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

Comments:

**AGRtestimony**

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**LATE**

**From:** Elizabeth Hansen <lizhansen222@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 5:06 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB2568 – GoFarm Hawaii Program/ Hearing 1/31/2020 at 9am

Aloha Chairs Cregan and DeCoite and members of the committee:

Please support HB 2568 so we can continue to fund this GoFund Hawaii Program. We continue to fund this program because students from the Go Farm Program have knowledgeable and realistic goals that make a farm profitable. Unless we continue to support GoFarm Hawaii, this important way to increase agricultural knowledge will be lost.

Thank you for support of this bill.

Elizabeth Hansen  
Kua Aina Farm  
PO Box 215  
Hakalau HI 96710

## **AGRtestimony**

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**From:** Rodger Hansen <rodgerhansen22@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 5:09 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB2568 Go Farm Hawaii Program/ Hearing 1/31/2020 at 9 am

Aloha Chairs Creagan and DeCoite and members of the committee:  
Please support HB2568.

I own and operate a small farm in Hakalau HI which supplements my family income. Over the last five years I have hired several former GoFarm Students to work on our farm because of their diverse and deep agricultural knowledge about farming in Hawaii. All these workers learned these skills from the GoFarm Hawaii Program. I feel that GoFarm Hawaii is a true benefit to the goals of improving agricultural output in Hawaii.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Yours truly,  
Rodger Hansen  
Kua Aina Farm  
PO Box 215  
Hakalau HI 96720



**O'AHU  
RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION &  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

PO Box 209, KUNIA, HAWAII 96759 ♦ 808-622-9026 ♦ [WWW.OAHURCD.ORG](http://WWW.OAHURCD.ORG)

**LATE**

**BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**

January 30, 2020

**Taylor Kellerman**  
President

SUBJECT: Support for HB 2568 – GoFarm Hawaii Program (Jan. 31, 2020/9:00 AM)

**Ethan West**  
Vice President

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

**Mark Phillipson**  
Treasurer

O'ahu RC&D is pleased to submit testimony in full support of HB 2568, which will appropriate funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program.

**Melissa Z. Rhoden**  
Secretary

Our organization, which has a 20 year track record supporting Hawaii's farms, ranches and rural communities, has actively and successfully partnered with GoFarm Hawaii on many initiatives. The GoFarm AgBusiness team recently partnered with us to update the Hawaii Agribusiness Guidebook, a publicly-available online guide featuring important points and tips for operating a farm business in Hawaii. They have been active partners in our Parade of Farms events, the statewide Women Farmers Workshop series, and various training events that support local farmers..

**Yarrow Flower**

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR**

**Dave Elliott**

The GoFarm Hawaii program is an essential part of expanding our local agricultural network. They are educating the next generation of farmers, providing needed support for existing ones, and helping to develop the overall industry. We look forward to our continued partnership with GoFarm Hawaii and strongly encourage your support of this Bill.

Sincerely,

Dave Elliott  
Executive Director  
Oahu Resource Conservation & Development Council



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January 30, 2020

**Emily Emmons**

Executive Director, Ho'ola Veteran Services  
37 Kaikuono St.  
Hilo, HI 96720

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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President

**Lani Weigert**  
Vice President

**John Emmons**  
Secretary

**Lito Arkangel**  
Board Member

SUBJECT: Support for SB2723 - GoFarm Hawaii Program ( Measure HB 2568;  
Date/Time of Hearing: 1/31/2020; 9:00am )

Dear Senate Committees on Agriculture and the Environment,

Ho'ola Veteran Services is pleased to submit testimony in full support of SB 2723, which will appropriate funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program.

Our organization has actively partnered with GoFarm Hawaii to provide agriculture training and business education for transitioning veterans interested in a career in agriculture production. For over two years, we've worked together to support veterans going through GFH program, and are looking forward to the expansion of programs to include Hawaii Island veterans.

The GoFarm Hawaii program is an essential part of expanding our local agricultural network. They are educating the next generation of farmers, providing needed support for existing farmers, and helping to develop the overall industry and food security for our future. We look forward to our continued partnership with GoFarm Hawaii and strongly encourage your support for this Bill.

Sincerely,

**Emily Emmons**

Executive Director  
Ho'ola Veteran Services 501c3 d.b.a. Ho'ola Farmss

Executive Director  
Emily Emmons  
808-494-2613  
[emily@hoolafarms.org](mailto:emily@hoolafarms.org)



## AGRtestimony

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**From:** Rose Matthews <rose@bearclawfarm.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2020 12:16 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB2568 – GoFarm Hawaii Program (Date/Time of Hearing: 1/31/2020; 9:00am)

Measure HB 2568; Date/Time of Hearing: 1/31/2020; 9:00am)

Dear Chairs Creagan and DeCoite and members of the committee,

Please recognize my strong support for HB 2568, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. I started the Windward GoFarm program in 2015. Since completing the program, I established a small farm business, Bear Claw Farm LLC, in 2016 which currently grows diversified vegetables on 1 acre of land in Waimanalo. I sell produce to local restaurants and via farm stand pop-ups in Waimanalo, Kahalu'u, and Kalihi each week. The GoFarm program taught me production skills, provided business support, and gave me a network that allows my business to continue growing. I would not be where I am today without the GoFarm program. I am currently on incubator land rented from GoFarm. Without this land option, I would not have been able to start my farm business as the investment and risk would have been too large. I am now working on my business full-time, growing hundreds of pounds of produce each month, and am looking forward to a long term commitment of growing food for Oahu.

The GoFarm Hawaii program is a needed and valuable program for the state of Hawaii. Their ongoing support, educational opportunities, and network continues to provide a valuable support system for my business.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill.

Sincerely,  
Rose Matthews  
Bear Claw Farm LLC  
[rose@bearclawfarm.com](mailto:rose@bearclawfarm.com)  
517-402-6551



To: AGRtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
January 31, 2020

SUBJECT: Support for HB2568 – GoFarm Hawaii Program (Date/Time of Hearing:  
1/31/2020; 9:00am)

Dear Chairs Creagan and DeCoite and members of the committee,

Please recognize my strong support for HB 2568, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. Since graduating from the program in 2015, I have started a small farm business and am currently growing on 2 acres of land. I sell produce on a regular basis to local supermarkets, to local restaurants at the farmers' market, and direct to 20 local families. I currently have 1 full-time employee and several interns. The program taught me production skills, provided business support, and gave me a network that allows my business to continue growing. I am currently working with GoFarm staff to improve my marketing and sales. I am working on my business full-time, and am looking to expand to a larger parcel with a larger staff within 2 years.

The GoFarm Hawaii program is a needed and valuable program for the state of Hawaii. Their ongoing support, educational opportunities, and network continues to provide a valuable support system for my business.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Dobovan".

John Dobovan  
President  
Kulahaven Farms  
PO Box 901301  
Kula, HI 96790  
(808) 955-0955  
jd@kulahavenfarms.com

**LATE**

**Subject: Support for HB2568—GoFarm Hawaii Program (1/31/2020; 9:00am)**

Dear Chairs Creagan and DeCoite and members of the committee,

I am in strong support of HB2568, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. As a former and current student, the GoFarm Hawaii program is a beginner's farmer training program that teaches students practical skills on becoming a farmer such as crop planning, irrigation, pest and disease management, soil amendments, farming goals, marketing, and production. These are skills that are not taught anywhere else in the state. GoFarm Hawaii has been honing their training program for almost a decade and is beginning to see the rewards of their efforts as more students transition from the incubator stage of the program to becoming independent farmers.

In addition to the practical skills gained, GoFarm Hawaii places a strong emphasis on building a network in the farming and agricultural industry—coordinating field visits to other farms, sponsoring agricultural events such as the Variety Showcase Oahu, and encouraging mentorship programs between established and beginning farmers. As a beginning farmer, the connections made are invaluable.

During the program, I have not only been able to learn about farming, I am actively managing a plot of GoFarm Hawaii land, marketing and selling products, developing a business plan, and looking closely at the financial viability of specific crops and my business. After graduating, I hope to find land to begin to manifest my dream and place all my acquired skills to practice.

For Hawai'i, whose goal is to increase local food production dramatically, GoFarm Hawaii is the first step to obtaining that goal. Farmers face huge challenges in this state. For me, GoFarm Hawaii mitigates some of those challenges through education. Please give your support to GoFarm Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Tina Bushnell  
Wiko Farms  
[kwbushnell@gmail.com](mailto:kwbushnell@gmail.com)  
808-218-0663

**LATE**

**HB-2568**

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 12:59:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Meg "Sunshine" Roberts	Individual	Support	No

Comments: