

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



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

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
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TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 1, 2019  
8:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 782  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 782. This bill provides funding to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify efficient agriculture equipment and retrofit engines to meet the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USDA EPA) standards. The Department of Agriculture supports this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget and offers a comment.

The Hawaii Farm Equipment Use Report (NASS, March 2018) surveyed farmers in all four counties to determine, that of the 19 types of farm equipment in the survey, Hawaii farmers reported a need for 11,692 pieces of equipment over the 16,984 pieces that were in use. The survey results support the need for a farm equipment pilot program to identify the equipment that is efficient and meets the needs of Hawaii farmers. The pilot program could include a provision for retrofitting existing equipment to meet USDA EPA standards similar to the USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). EQIP provided funding to farmers in California to improve air quality if they would take actions such as to replace old diesel-powered farm equipment with similar new equipment powered with the cleanest emission-certified diesel engines. For



Page 2

this bill, the funding provided could be to retrofit existing equipment with more efficient engines to comply with EPA standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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February 1, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 782**  
RELATING AGRICULTURE

Room 312  
8:30 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 782**, which appropriates funds to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify efficient agriculture equipment and retrofit engines to meet the United States Environmental Protection Agency's standards.

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-782**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 10:55:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/1/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:



**MAUI**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**LATE**

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 312  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2019 AT 8:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair;  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair; and  
Members of the Committee Agriculture;

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 782 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 HB 782 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 to EPA regulations.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony

Sincerely,

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.



January 30, 2019

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

**Support of HB 782, Relating to Agriculture (Appropriates funds to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify efficient agriculture equipment and retrofit engines to meet the standards of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).)**

**Friday, February 1, 2019, 8:30 a.m., in Conference Room 312**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. 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 782** 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.

**HB 782.** This bill appropriates funds to establish a pilot program to explore retrofitting foreign small equipment to comply with EPA standards, which is necessary as farmers and ranchers must explore and resort to alternative means and technology to operate their farms due to the increase in demand for unskilled labor.

**LURF's Position.** LURF members include farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider such assistance very helpful, if not critical to the conduct of their operations and to help sustain their businesses.

The purpose of this bill 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."

LURF therefore appreciates the objective of HB 782, which is to support agriculture and provide needed assistance to agriculture-related or agribusinesses operations. Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be meaningless without implementation of such measures. The establishment of the foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program is critically needed to help support viable agricultural activity in this State.

By recognizing the significance of, and need to assist the local agriculture industry, and implement incentives and measures which help to support the growth and maintenance of agriculture in the State, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of this measure.





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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Friday, February 1, 2019 — 8:30 a.m. — Room 312

**Ulupono Initiative Supports HB 782, Relating to Agriculture**

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

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better management of waste and fresh water. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

**Ulupono supports HB 782**, which appropriates funds to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify efficient agriculture equipment because it aligns with our goal to increase local food production.

According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, 6,494 of the 7,000 farms in Hawai'i (93 percent), had annual farm sales of less than \$100,000. Also, in 2012, 5,179 of the 5,293 farms (98 percent) that made a harvest were fewer than 50 acres. 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.

We believe that by collaborating, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay  
Managing Partner

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



# Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair  
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

Friday, February 1, 2019  
8:30am  
Conference Room 312  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**HB782 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE:** Appropriates funds to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify efficient agriculture equipment and retrofit engines to meet the United States Environmental Protection Agency's standards.


My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) **SUPPORTS House Bill 782**

It is always important for an industry to embrace change and innovation to stay relevant and efficient. This bill will help to improve the abilities of our Nurserymen and women to become more competitive in production and possibly more efficient with the current tight labor environment.

If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email [eric@greenpointnursery.com](mailto:eric@greenpointnursery.com).

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,

  
Eric S. Tanouye  
President  
Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

**HB-782**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 6:25:17 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/1/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

## **AGRtestimony**

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**From:** Barry Kim <kimn001@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 5:52 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** I Support HB782

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

I support HB782, which appropriates funds to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify efficient agriculture equipment and retrofit engines to meet the United States Environmental Protection Agency's standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely

## **AGRtestimony**

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**From:** Frederick Mencher <fmencher@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 31, 2019 10:52 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** I Support HB782

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

I support HB782, which appropriates funds to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify efficient agriculture equipment and retrofit engines to meet the United States Environmental Protection Agency's standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely

## **AGRtestimony**

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**From:** Valerie Correa <vcorrea71@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 31, 2019 8:53 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** I Support HB782

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

I support HB782, which appropriates funds to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify efficient agriculture equipment and retrofit engines to meet the United States Environmental Protection Agency's standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely

**HB-782**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 4:07:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/1/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Faith Tuipulotu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-782**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 4:43:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/1/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB782

Mahalo for your support on this bill

Mahalo RF Davis