

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MARCH 29, 2019
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

SENATE BILL NO. 1151 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LOANS

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill 1151 SD1 HD1. This bill increases the chairperson's authority to approve agricultural and aquacultural loans to \$100,000.00. The Department of Agriculture strongly supports this bill.

The chairperson's approval authority of \$25,000 has not been increased since it was originally authorized in 1982, approximately 37 years ago. Since that time, business costs have increased significantly, and the speed of business has increased. The higher approval authority will allow faster approval of smaller loans and enable the Department to respond faster to assist applicants during times of emergency and allow businesses to take advantage of opportunities that may require immediate funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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March 29, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 1151, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 308
2:00 PM

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 1,900 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 SB 1151, SD1, HD1, which increases the chairperson's authority to approve agricultural loans and aquacultural loans from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

We support this change as it will expedite the approval of small loans to Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. Raising the ceiling of the loan approval authority of the Chairperson parallels the ongoing increase in construction and operating costs. This increase will also allow the Board of Agriculture to focus on larger loans that are more complex. Overall, it will make the HDOA more efficient and by reducing the cost and time expended on and by Hawaii's farmers and ranchers waiting for approval for a small HDOA loan.

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



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Friday, March 29, 2019 — 2:00 p.m. — Room 308

Ulupono Initiative Supports SB 1151 SD 1 HD 1, Relating to Department of Agriculture Loans

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 manage waste and fresh water resources. 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 SB 1151 SD 1 HD 1, which increases the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture to approve agricultural and aquacultural loans, because it aligns with our goal to increase local food production.

One major, persistent and formidable obstacle to expanding, diversifying, and ensuring the sustainability of Hawai'i's local food production is the need for substantial capital investment in agriculture infrastructure, technologies, facilities, workforce training, and production activities. Yet, our local farmers and ranchers have few options for agricultural financing. The agricultural loan revolving fund is one of the many ways the State has been supportive of agriculture in Hawai'i over the years. This bill would give additional flexibility to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture such that DOA may provide additional financial support when necessary.

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,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

LATE

SB-1151-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 12:18:06 PM
Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
NANCY JONES	Hydroponics Alternatives - Waianae	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Honorable House Finance Committee Members:

We submit this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 1151, SD2,HD1 to increase the authorization limit from \$25,000 to \$100,000 for the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture in connection with agricultural and aquaculture loans. As pointed out in the Department's testimony, that \$25,000 authorization limit has NOT changed in almost 40 years -- since 1982. Yet, production costs for local farmers have increased dramatically in those 4 decades as farmers continue to battle new-pest-infestations, fires, lava flows, hurricanes, and severe rains that decimate crops and cause farmers to abandon farming altogether. So, in order to expeditiously provide needed financial assistance to Hawai'i's growers and improve Hawai'i's food security, we respectfully urge your committee to please approve this authorization increase from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

Mahalo for this opporunity to present this testimony supporting SB1151, SD2, HD1.

Nancy & Zeb Jones & 'Ohana