

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2282

February 12, 2020
1:30 p.m.
Room 224

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

The Department of Budget and Finance offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 2282.

S.B. No. 2282 requires the Board of Agriculture (Board) to establish the Agricultural Theft Enforcement Program (ATEP) within the Department of Agriculture (DOA); authorizes the Board to appoint or employ agricultural theft enforcement officers within ATEP; establishes duties, authority, and standards for officers; establishes the Agricultural Theft Enforcement Special Fund (ATESF) under the administration of DOA; amends Section 141-10, HRS, to expand the scope of the Agricultural Development and Food Security Special Fund (ADFSSF) to protect agricultural resources; appropriates an unspecified sum from the ADFSSF for deposit into the ATESF for FY 21; and appropriates an unspecified sum from the ATESF for FY 21 for operating expenditures and the establishment of one full-time Chief Enforcement Officer position and two full-time Enforcement Officer positions, one each for the islands of Hawai'i and O'ahu.

As a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of any special fund, which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS.

Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding S.B. No. 2282, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining.

The department defers to DOA regarding program implementation and funding.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
WEDNESDAY, February 12, 2020
1:30 p.m.

SENATE BILL NO. 2282
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Nakatani, Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”). The ADC supports Senate Bill No. 2282, which establishes the agricultural theft enforcement program and agricultural theft enforcement special fund within the Department of Agriculture and authorizes the Board of Agriculture and agricultural theft enforcement officers to exercise police powers. The bill extends to the agricultural theft enforcement program the applicability of certain statutory provisions relating to the law enforcement officer independent review board; possession of electric guns; the law enforcement standards board; emergency vehicles; and worker's compensation for volunteer emergency response personnel, authorizes the use of funds in the agricultural development and food security special fund for protection of agricultural resources, and appropriates funds. ADC strongly supports the bill.

Agriculture theft and other crimes occurring on agricultural lands has become commonplace with the criminals operating without regard to law enforcement. This bill will provide the manpower and statutory framework for investigation and enforcement

that will deter the criminal activity and will instill confidence in the community that their safety concerns are being addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and for your consideration of this bill.

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

**FEBRUARY 12, 2020
1:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2282
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2282 Relating to Agriculture.

This measure:

- Establishes the agricultural theft enforcement program and agricultural theft enforcement special fund within the Department of Agriculture;
- Authorizes the Board of Agriculture and agricultural theft enforcement officers to exercise police powers;
- Extends to the agricultural theft enforcement program the applicability of certain statutory provisions relating to law enforcement; and
- Appropriates funds for this program.

The Department offers comments on the measure.

Agricultural theft is a major concern for the Department and for agricultural producers in the State. In 2005, a [USDA NASS survey](#) found the total value of theft and vandalism losses, as well as security costs, from Hawaii farms was estimated at \$11.4 million or 9% of the 2004 Hawaii net farm income. While the Department recognizes the severity of the problem, we have significant concerns regarding the Department's



capacity to house and administer a law enforcement branch. The Department lacks the legal and procedural law enforcement subject matter expertise necessary for successfully conducting a program of this type. Additionally, we lack the operational infrastructure (buildings, vehicles, dispatch capacity, weapons, secure communications, etc.) to support the program as contemplated. A new law enforcement program would require significant start up time, resources, training, and expertise, before an effective and fully functional law enforcement presence can be established. Unfortunately, the need for this law enforcement capability to address agricultural crimes is immediate and growing.

A possible alternative could be to enhance existing law enforcement resources of the State, such as the Department of Public Safety (PSD), which already has the law enforcement infrastructure, expertise, and training, by creating a special agricultural crimes unit that is provided specialized training in agricultural crimes. We defer to PSD on feasibility, but DOA would be willing to work closely with such unit and provide its expertise in agricultural matters to ensure effective law enforcement for these types of offenses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 7, 2020

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Committee Members:

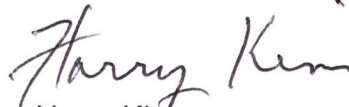
RE: SB 2282 Relating to Agriculture

SB 2282 does not have a preamble, but its contents reflect the vulnerabilities agriculture has to theft and vandalism. Our news media has documented farmers who have gone out of business because of their losses, and the problem seems to get worse year by year.

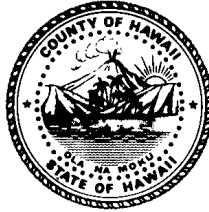
The Hawai'i County Prosecuting Attorney's office has had an investigator working on agricultural crimes, and we have received positive comments from the agriculture community about his work. We therefore believe that a statewide program is warranted, based on the results achieved on the Big Island. As to whether a new program needs to be established within the Department of Agriculture, I defer to the wisdom of this Committee. Especially if the DOA does not welcome having such a new program, a more efficient and effective approach could be for the Department of Agriculture to contract with County prosecutors, or for this Legislature to fund county prosecutors directly.

Whatever your decision, we support the idea of a statewide, state-funded, anti-theft program, and urge favorable consideration of SB 2282.

Respectfully Submitted,


Harry Kim
MAYOR

County of Hawai'i
Council District 9 -
North and South Kohala



Phone: (808) 961-8564
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Email: tim.richards@hawaiiicounty.gov

Chair: Committee on Agriculture,
Water, Energy, & Environmental
Management

Vice Chair: Committee on Finance

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL
District 9

25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 11, 2020

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Submission via online testimony

RE: Support of SB 2282
Hearing Date/Time: February 12, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Dear Senators:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, DVM. I am a rancher and livestock veterinarian with over 35 years' experience here in Hawai'i. I am currently a sitting County Councilman for the County of Hawai'i, chairing the Committee on Agriculture, Water, Energy and Environmental Management and Vice Chair of the Committee on Finance. I support all forms of agriculture and firsthand understand the agriculture theft concerns statewide.

The agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project have been successful here on Hawai'i Island. However, in order to secure our agricultural industry and protect its future statewide, additional enforcement must be done to deter theft. Establishing an agricultural theft enforcement program and appropriating funds to its mission would be ideal as it would deter agricultural theft with strong enforcement options authorized to the Board of Agriculture and its agricultural theft enforcement officers. Hawai'i depends on its agricultural industry; we need to do all we can to protect it. That said, I fully support SB 2282.

Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss my position and knowledge of this matter further.

Sincerely,

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
Hawai'i County Council, District 9

xc: Aaron S. Y. Chung, Chair – Hawai'i County Council
Mitch Roth, Prosecutor – Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

DWIGHT K. NADAMOTO
ACTING PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



LYNN B.K. COSTALES
ACTING FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawai`i

February 12, 2020

RE: S.B. 2282; RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony, in support of S.B. 2282, with proposed amendments.

The Department appreciates the bill's overall goal of strengthening Hawaii's enforcement of laws that are already in place to protect our agricultural community, and welcomes the opportunity to work with a dedicated unit of duly qualified and specialized enforcement officers. That said, the Department would like to make two suggestions:

- (1) Similar to Act 217 (2019), S.B. 2282 may benefit from expanding the targeted offenses from just agricultural theft, to also expressly include agricultural vandalism, which may include (but is not limited to) HRS §708-820, §708-821, §708-822 and §708-823.
- (2) Given that the changes proposed in S.B. 2282 will likely lead to a significant increase in the number of cases that need to be screened, conferred and prosecuted, the Department respectfully requests two dedicated positions—one deputy prosecuting attorney and one investigator—which could be adjusted once we have had a chance to assess the actual impacts. The Department is very concerned about the prospect of having an influx of cases being brought to us, without having sufficient manpower to prosecute them in an effective and timely manner.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the passage of S.B. 2330, with the proposed amendments.



LAND USE RESEARCH
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

1100 Alakea Street, Suite 408
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 521-4717
www.lurf.org

February 6, 2020

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Comments in Support of the Intent of SB 2282, Relating to Agriculture (Establishes the Agricultural Theft Enforcement Program and Agricultural Theft Enforcement Special Fund within the Department of Agriculture [DOA]; authorizes the Board of Agriculture and agricultural theft enforcement officers to exercise police powers; extends to the Program the applicability of certain statutory provisions relating to law enforcement; authorizes use of funds in the agricultural development and food security special fund for protection of agricultural resources; appropriates funds.)

Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 1:30 p.m., in Conference Room 224

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 utility companies. 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 provide comments **in support of SB 2282.**

SB 2282. This bill proposes to establish the agricultural theft enforcement program and agricultural theft enforcement special fund within the DOA; authorizes the Board of Agriculture and agricultural theft enforcement officers to exercise police powers; and extends to the proposed program, the applicability of certain statutory provisions relating to law enforcement. The measure also authorizes the use of funds in the agricultural development and food security special fund for protection of agricultural resources.

LURF's Position. LURF fully supports the intent of SB 2282, which is to protect farmers and other individuals who have been the victims of agricultural theft for years and have reportedly suffered losses totaling millions of dollars. LURF understands that it is reportedly difficult for law enforcement agencies to enforce the agricultural theft laws currently in effect, and that farmers have, in the past, made efforts to work with the

police in attempts toward more effective enforcement efforts, but that such undertakings have proved unsuccessful.

The proposed program and funding will assist in, amongst other things, prosecuting perpetrators of, and preventing agricultural theft; and identifying areas where agricultural theft is most prevalent. The bill confirms the need for collaboration amongst diverse sectors of the community - business, government, and agricultural stakeholders - and the importance for them to work together cooperatively to prevent agricultural crimes and improve the overall economic viability of the State's agricultural industry.

LURF therefore **supports the intent of SB 2282** as an effort to promote the importance of the issues relating to the enforcement of agricultural theft laws. LURF further respectfully requests that the proposed Program allow the opportunity for continued input by all stakeholders, including, but not limited to farmers and ranchers, government and law enforcement agencies, and legal experts in order that all interested parties may contribute to this and any further statewide program that may be developed as a result.

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments regarding this matter.

SB-2282

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 11:16:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Nellis	Testifying for Dole Food Co. Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

I am Daniel Nellis, General Manager of Dole Food Company Hawaii. Dole Hawaii fully supports the establishment of an agricultural theft enforcement program with funded positions for Chief and two officers. Ag theft is an ongoing problem that is also tied to ag vandalism. I would urge the legislature to consider that trespass on agricultural lands should also be within the enforcement jurisdiction of the newly proposed enforcement positions. Arrests for trespassing will effectively stop theft of ag products.

Thanks for your consideration.

SB-2282

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 2:50:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2282

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 9:10:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:



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 12, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2282
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 224
1:30 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 2282, which establishes the agricultural theft enforcement program and agricultural theft enforcement special fund within the Department of Agriculture.

Agricultural crime is persistent problems facing agriculture. Weather, drought, pests, weeds, disease, unstable markets, transportation, labor issues, and a changing climate all contribute to uncertainty for farmers and ranchers. Few businesses face such challenges, yet we are charged with producing food, fiber, fuel and flowers for the 99% of non-farmers. Add in the constant threat and impacts of trespass, theft, and vandalism, and it's a wonder farms and ranches remain viable.

Sadly, agricultural crime is a growing trend in Hawaii. Farmers and ranchers are often victims of those who are looking for easy targets. Despite our efforts to install cameras, form community ag watch groups, and patrol our farms, these criminals know that being caught and prosecuted is unlikely.

In recent years, not only have crops and livestock been stolen, but also tractors, trucks, farm equipment, and tools. We support all efforts to curb this attack on our viability. In most cases, we bear the cost of these crimes since we cannot pass these costs on to the consumer in the form of higher prices.

We respectfully ask that this measure be amended to use the term **agricultural crime**, rather than just agricultural *theft*, since we are victims of vandalism, trespass, and other forms of property crime that destroy our crops, buildings, and fences, and even let loose our animals where they can cause accidents and get killed on the roads.

Thank you for your continued support of our local farmers and ranchers.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Wednesday, February 12, 2020 — 1:30 p.m. — Room 224

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 2282, 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 SB 2282, which establishes the agricultural theft enforcement program and agricultural theft enforcement special fund within the Department of Agriculture.

In our conversations with farmers and ranchers, one issue that keeps coming up is agricultural theft and how there is little enforcement and punishment for offenders. Agricultural lots are a prime target for thieves as there are many open entry points, farms are often located in rural and isolated areas, and punishments are minor relative to other crimes. For farmers that can afford to, precious money has to be spent on security infrastructure, monitoring, and manpower to defend their agricultural operations vs. producing food. This leads to higher production costs, which result in increased prices for local food at the market when consumers are already price sensitive. We believe this will further hurt local food sales. Profit margins for agricultural operations are already tight and, if a business loses revenue from theft or vandalism and has to invest heavily in security, this could push more local farmers and ranchers out of the agricultural sector. Ultimately, this underrated issue is one that hurts our ability to increase locally grown food in our state.

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 through collaboration, 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,

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

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

**LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC
PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759
(808) 688-2892**

SB2282, Relating to Agriculture
Senate AEN Hearing
Wednesday, February 12, 2020
1:30 pm
Conference Room 224

Testimony by: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Senate AEN Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC, which is part of our family-run business of farms on Oahu and Molokai, under the administrative umbrella of Sugarland Growers, Inc. We have more than 35 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. I am a volunteer director for the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Agriculture theft has been a long-discussed problem for Hawaii's agricultural producers and the solutions are difficult to implement. Farmers and ranchers often cannot install surveillance equipment or pay for 24/7 security. This leaves agricultural production very vulnerable to persons who steal, and re-sell stolen goods despite laws that require a bill of lading by the purchaser. It's like harvested produce falling off the back of the truck on the way to market or doubling Hawaii's food production.

The proposed agricultural theft enforcement program establishes 1 full time Chief Enforcement Officer and 2 full time Enforcement Officers, one for Hawaii Island and the other for Oahu. Dedicated enforcement officers will help in curtailing this crime against farmers and ranchers.

As this program establishes itself and proves successful, adding more enforcement officers is suggested. It's also suggested that the enforcement duties include other criminal activities against farmers and ranchers such as trespassing, property crimes such as vandalism and damage to equipment, even releasing or slaughtering of livestock.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

SB-2282

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 4:20:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2020 1:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Kamiya	Testifying for Kamiya Gold, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair & Honorable Russell Ruderman, Vice Chair,

My name is Michael Kamiya and I am a 3rd generation papaya farmer on the windward side of Oahu. Together with my father, we own and operate Kamiya Gold, Inc, which grows and produces the Kamiya Papaya. We fully support SB 2282, as farmers we are constantly the victims of crimes, vandalism and theft. Everything from papayas to farm equipment, machinery, parts and supplies have been stolen from our farms. When law enforcement is called, the most that is ever done is a police report, therefore any help from an Agricultural Theft Enforcement Division would be greatly appreciated. In addition, with the existence of such a division would hopefully deter future theft/vandalism. Farming is by far one of the most challenging careers one would ever choose, and if we are to perpetuate the future young farmers, we need to support the industry and help any farmer to succeed. The establishment of such a division would be greatly appreciated by so many of the local farmers and growers.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael Kamiya

Kamiya Gold, Inc.

SB-2282

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 12:12:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Winona Aguero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Winona Saranillio Aguero and I was born and raised in Wahiawa. I currently live and own my home in Whitmore since 1972. The amount criminal activities around this community continues to grow from year to year. There are more homeless people and the amount of theft and crime makes me feel unsafe. I believe agriculture farming is great but the illegal taking and ciminal act are out of control in the farm area as well. I support more enforcement is needed NOW before there are anymore killing, vandalism and illegal taking of vehicles in the surround area. I support SB2282. Sincerely Winona Saranillio Aguero

02-12-20 1:30PM in conference room 224.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE and
ENVIRONMENT

RE: SB 2282 Proposed Agricultural Theft Enforcement Program

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020

1:30 p.m.

Dear Senator Mike Gabbard, Senator Russell E. Ruderman & Committee:

I am a resident of Wahiawa and care about the concerns of residents of Whitmore Village who live adjacent to the acres of ADC lands. I support establishing security, surveillance and law enforcement in agricultural lands. However, I have some questions and concerns about the scope of this bill. Are there other areas on Oahu and different islands that this bill pertains to? Whenever we increase the amount of guns in an area, I want to be certain that we are prudent. Will the volunteer officers have guns too? This bill covers a lot of information; I don't want to be duped into supporting a bill in which the details are still unclear. I am looking forward to seeing how this proposal is morphed and changed in this ongoing legislative session.

Action is required. I support the intent of SB2282 to patrol and protect this developing agricultural area and in turn the surrounding neighborhoods. I just don't want some unorthodox military, police and/or civilian forces harassing me.

Thank you for your time,

Erin Mendelson

Wahiawa Resident

SB-2282

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 10:47:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

In support, however, it should fall under sheriffs or DLNR, or State Law Enforcement Services. It should not be a seperate entity.

SB-2282

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 12:24:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Molly Hernandez	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha my name is Molly Hernandez. I'm here today on behalf of my Niece, Malia Soma-Valmoja and our Ohana in SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2282.

We need to prevent criminal activities on agricultural lands in our communities and all over the State of Hawaii where homelessness, drug addiction, mental health issues, domestic violence, theft of abandoned vehicles, and even death by firearms are occurring due to lack of control and regulations that need to be enforced.

One place in particular is in Whitmore Village where these crimes have been occurring for a very long period of time on state agricultural land managed by Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). It's an area that is raising concerns from the community. This agricultural land needs to be contained and law enforced.

Each time I pass by Whitmore Village in the morning & afternoon, it will always be a reminder of the day Malia Soma-Valmoja lost her life on January 11, 2020, brutally murdered by use of a firearm on this state agricultural land. She didn't deserve this injustice action.

We must stand together to prevent criminal activities on agricultural lands so it will be a safer place for our communities and Ohana.

PLEASE SUPPORT SENATE BILL 2282 into law so action may pursue.

On behalf of Malia Soma-Valmoja and our Ohana, Mahalo for your time and consideration in SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2282.

JUSTICE FOR MALIA!

SB-2282

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 12:54:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mel valmoja	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

My name is Mel Valmoja and i am submitting testimony in favor of supporting SB2282. Please, i ask, to also support this bill, designed to deter and prevent crimes against people and personal property, on agricultural and farm lands .The State farm lands in Whitmore that is managed by the ADC, Agribusiness Development Corporation, needs support. Unfortunately due to lack of funding and staff, it has recently become a haven of criminal activity. My niece Malia-Soma Valmoja was killed on State ADC lands in Whitmore on January 11, 2020.. Please support SB2282 to establish the agricultural theft enforcement program and special fund. Protect property, livestock, produce, and most of all, another life from being stolen.

Mahalo nui loa.

Mel Valmoja and

Ohana of Malia Soma-Valmoja

SB-2282

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 1:35:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alayne Balico	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

My name is Alayne Balico and i am submitting testimony in favor of supporting SB2282. Please, I ask, to also support this bill, designed to deter and prevent crimes against people and personal property, on agricultural and farm lands .The State farm lands in Whitmore that is managed by the ADC, Agribusiness Development Corporation, needs support. Unfortunately due to lack of funding and staff, it has recently become a haven of criminal activity. My niece Malia-Soma Valmoja was killed on State ADC lands in Whitmore on January 11, 2020.. Please support SB2282 to establish the agricultural theft enforcement program and special fund. Protect property, livestock, produce, and most of all, another life from being stolen.

Mahalo nui loa.

Alayne Balico and
Ohana of Malia Soma-Valmoja

SB-2282

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 1:36:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bronsten Kossow	Individual	Support	No

Comments: