

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 3, 2020
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2702
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2702. This measure temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease and establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease. It sunsets on June 30, 2025. The Department respectfully requests that this measure be held, and support be given to Senate Bill 2708, Relating to Agricultural Enterprises, which is also being heard on this agenda.

The Department recognizes the difficulties identified in this measure and believe that they are addressed in Senate Bill 2708. Many of our tenants in our Agricultural Parks and Non-Agricultural Parks programs would be a far better fit in the Agricultural Enterprise Program. This program allows for outside investment capital and more flexibility in the holding of the lease. Transferring appropriate land assets into the Agricultural Program, allows the intent of the Agricultural Parks and Non-Agricultural Parks program to continue concentrating on the growing of food.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

SB2702sd1, Relating to Agriculture
Senate WAM Decision Making Hearing
Thursday, February 20, 2020
1:00 pm
Conference Room 211

Testimony by: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Dela Cuz, and Members of the Senate WAM 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).

This bill authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. For many farmers this means the opportunity to obtain investment capital for their operations and be eligible for non— agricultural park leases. In order to grow Hawaii's agriculture production, the experts at the Department and Board of Agriculture should have the flexibility to decide and specify conditions for the local farmer to be successful.

Thank you for consideration of this testimony.

From: [Brian Watanabe](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:00:16 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support SB2702 SD1, which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

This bill will support modern agriculture, which often requires substantial investments in infrastructure such as greenhouses, processing facilities, wells, pumps and irrigation systems, and aquaculture tanks or troughs. These investments are often beyond the financial capacity of individual farmers or small farm corporations, who would need to attract investors in order to expand and improve their farms' production. The current Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules for non-agricultural parklands requires that at least 75% of the members of agricultural corporations, cooperatives, or partnerships be "bona fide farmers," severely limiting the ability of farms to seek outside investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Brian Watanabe
President
HFP
94-340 UKEE ST
WAIPAHU, HI 96797
aipooohana@hawaiiintel.net

From: [Hawaii Beef LLC, J.](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:20:07 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support SB2702 SD1, which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

This bill will support modern agriculture, which often requires substantial investments in infrastructure such as greenhouses, processing facilities, wells, pumps and irrigation systems, and aquaculture tanks or troughs. These investments are often beyond the financial capacity of individual farmers or small farm corporations, who would need to attract investors in order to expand and improve their farms' production. The current Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules for non-agricultural parklands requires that at least 75% of the members of agricultural corporations, cooperatives, or partnerships be "bona fide farmers," severely limiting the ability of farms to seek outside investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Hawaii Beef LLC
operational Manager
Hawaii Beef Producers
PO Box 388
Paauilo, HI 96776
JMATTOSHBP@AOL.COM

From: [Alan Gottlieb](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:30:10 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support SB2702 SD1, which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

This bill will support modern agriculture, which often requires substantial investments in infrastructure such as greenhouses, processing facilities, wells, pumps and irrigation systems, and aquaculture tanks or troughs. These investments are often beyond the financial capacity of individual farmers or small farm corporations, who would need to attract investors in order to expand and improve their farms' production. The current Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules for non-agricultural parklands requires that at least 75% of the members of agricultural corporations, cooperatives, or partnerships be "bona fide farmers," severely limiting the ability of farms to seek outside investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Alan Gottlieb
Vice President
Ponoholo Ranch
PO Box 700489
Kapolei, HI 96709
alan@prloffice.com

From: [John Giblin](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 9:00:11 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support SB2702 SD1, which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

This bill will support modern agriculture, which often requires substantial investments in infrastructure such as greenhouses, processing facilities, wells, pumps and irrigation systems, and aquaculture tanks or troughs. These investments are often beyond the financial capacity of individual farmers or small farm corporations, who would need to attract investors in order to expand and improve their farms' production. The current Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules for non-agricultural parklands requires that at least 75% of the members of agricultural corporations, cooperatives, or partnerships be "bona fide farmers," severely limiting the ability of farms to seek outside investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Philippe Visintainer](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 9:30:12 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support SB2702 SD1, which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

This bill will support modern agriculture, which often requires substantial investments in infrastructure such as greenhouses, processing facilities, wells, pumps and irrigation systems, and aquaculture tanks or troughs. These investments are often beyond the financial capacity of individual farmers or small farm corporations, who would need to attract investors in order to expand and improve their farms' production. The current Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules for non-agricultural parklands requires that at least 75% of the members of agricultural corporations, cooperatives, or partnerships be "bona fide farmers," severely limiting the ability of farms to seek outside investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Philippe Visintainer
Member
HCP
7600 Hana Hwy
Haiku, HI 96708
philippe@coconutprotectors.com

From: [Alvin Tsuruda](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 10:30:09 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support SB2702 SD1, which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

This bill will support modern agriculture, which often requires substantial investments in infrastructure such as greenhouses, processing facilities, wells, pumps and irrigation systems, and aquaculture tanks or troughs. These investments are often beyond the financial capacity of individual farmers or small farm corporations, who would need to attract investors in order to expand and improve their farms' production. The current Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules for non-agricultural parklands requires that at least 75% of the members of agricultural corporations, cooperatives, or partnerships be "bona fide farmers," severely limiting the ability of farms to seek outside investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Alvin Tsuruda
Owner
Waihale Products
41-910 Mahiku Pl
Waimanalo, HI 96795
Waihale@hawaiiantel.net



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

SB2702 SD1

Temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease. Includes reporting requirements. (SD1)

Monday, February 20, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means,
The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB2702 SD1.**

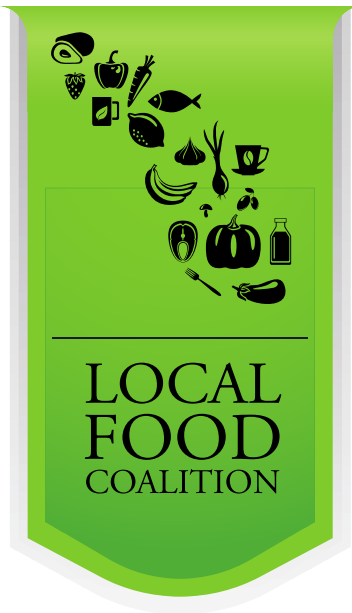
HCC is committed to supporting our civic leaders promote a coherent state-wide policy for sustainable development. Using the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, we advocate policy that; increases local food production to promote food security, protects agricultural lands, promotes carbon neutrality, models sustainable land use, protects our watersheds, supports long-term stable employment that embraces technology and innovation, contributes to the health and well-being of the community, and encourages public, private and civic partnerships.

We support expansion of opportunities for certain entities, including farmers, to obtain investment capital for their operations and be eligible for non-agricultural park leases. Modern agriculture requires significant investment in infrastructure and often require the need to attract investors in improve production. Current HDOA rules for non-agricultural park lands require that at least 75% of the members of agricultural corporations, cooperatives, or partnerships be "bona fide farmers," severely limiting the ability of farms to seek outside investment.

We support SB2702 SD1 and appreciate the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Nicole Galase
Managing Director





SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
February 20, 2020 – 1:00 PM - Room 211

RE: SB 2702 SD1 - Relating to Agriculture – In Support

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Aquaculture &
Aquaponics Association
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council
Hawai'i Farm Bureau
Federation
Hawai'i Farmers' Union
United
Hawai'i Food Industry
Association
Hawai'i Food
Manufacturers Association
Kohala Center
Land Use Research
Foundation of Hawai'i
Maui Farm to School
Network (Maui F2SN)
Ulupono Initiative
College of Tropical
Agriculture and Human
Resources - University of
Hawai'i at Manoa

The Local Food Coalition **supports** SB 2702 SD1 which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease and establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

Modern agriculture often requires substantial investments in infrastructure such as greenhouses, processing facilities, wells, pumps and irrigation systems, and aquaculture tanks or troughs. These investments are often beyond the financial capacity of individual farmers or small farm corporations, who would need to attract investors in order to expand and improve their farms' production. Current HDOA rules for non-agricultural park lands require that at least 75% of the members of agricultural corporations, cooperatives, or partnerships be "bona fide farmers," severely limiting the ability of farms to seek outside investment. The Local Food Coalition believes this measure will address this existing investment constraint for farmers on non-agricultural park lands.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of SB 2702 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

John Garibaldi
808-544-8319
igaribaldi@wik.com



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 20, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2702, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE
Room 211
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keih-Agaran, 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 strongly supports SB 2702, SD1 which establishes the qualifications and conditions that determine the eligibility of entities and investors applying for a non-agricultural park lease. It also authorizes the experts at the Department and the Board of Agriculture, the discretion to decide, on a case-by-case basis, the details of who a local farmer can partner with, and under what conditions, in order to best meet Hawaii's needs.

This bill is essential for Hawaii's farmers who lease agricultural land under the Department of Agriculture non-ag park program. In order to meet our State goal to increase food production and become more self-sufficient, farmers must improve efficiency and increase yields, and accomplish this in an environmentally friendly manner.

In many cases, this requires huge investments of capital that our small and medium-size local farmers just don't have – costs can be in the millions of dollars per acre. This bill would allow Hawaii's farmers to establish and grow their farms by partnering with those who have access to the necessary technologies and funds, while maintaining decision-making control of the business.

We are very supportive of the amendments made by the previous committee (SD1) that address any concerns and clarify any issues raised by committee members or others.

Thank you for your continued support of our local farmers who look forward to providing more of Hawaii's agricultural needs.



EAST OAHU COUNTY FARM BUREAU
910 CALIFORNIA AVE., WAHIAWA, HI 96786

February 18, 2020

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, and Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

The East O'ahu County Farm Bureau, which represents approximately 420 farmers and supporters of agriculture from Waimanalo to Kahuku, **strongly supports SB 2702 SD1**, "Relating to Agriculture," which would enable greater investment in farming operations.

Currently, HDOA's rules require that at least 75% of the members of agricultural corporations, cooperatives, or partnerships must be "bona fide farmers" in order to qualify for non-agricultural park leases. However, modern agriculture often requires infrastructure such as greenhouses, shade houses, drip irrigation lines, aquaculture tanks, processing facilities, and equipment for seeding and harvesting. Farmers need to satisfy increased food safety requirements, to conserve water, to reduce fertilizer input, and to protect their crops from pests and diseases while minimizing pesticide use – all while maintaining or increasing yield and quality in order to compete in the marketplace. Farmers need to seek investment capital to build or improve their farms, but few if any investors would qualify as "bona fide farmers" under current rules. SB 2702 SD1 would reduce this impediment by allowing a greater degree of passive investment in agricultural and aquacultural operations that meet certain requirements and that are approved by the board of agriculture. We therefore hope that your committee will support increased investment in Hawai'i's farms and ranches by passing SB 2702 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher
for Grant Hamachi, President
East O'ahu County Farm Bureau



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors 2018 - 2020

President
Joshua Uyehara

Vice-President
Warren Mayberry

Secretary
Dawn Bicoy

Treasurer
Laurie Yoshida

Directors-at-Large
Alan Takemoto
Leslie Campaniano
Michelle Starke
Joshua Uyehara
Warren Mayberry

President Emeritus
Alan Takemoto

TESTIMONY FROM THE HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of SB2812
Relating to the Agricultural Lands

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, 02-20-20 at 10:35AM
Senate conference room 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) is in support of SB2812, which would clarify that agriculture activities in non-agricultural park lands may include the care and production of pasture lands and require the transfer of certain lands from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

It has been 16 years since the passage of Act 90, yet there has been little progress in transferring the land. The intent of Act 90 was to ensure the long-term use of agricultural lands by transferring them to HDOA, which is more equipped to manage agricultural lands.

The success of ranchers and farmers is key to meeting the State's sustainability goal to double local food production. Ranchers need long-term leases to invest in infrastructure improvements on leased land. This measure will help reinforce the original intent of the legislature regarding the appropriate allocation of land in agricultural use.

Please support SB2812 to make agriculture more sustainable for our farmers and ranchers. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Emmanuel Zibakalam
Program Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.



February 18, 2020

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB2702 SD1 Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members

The Hawaii Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association (HAAA), with statewide membership, **strongly supports SB2702 SD1** to expand opportunities for farmers to obtain investment capital and be eligible for Department of Agriculture's non-agricultural park leases.

Recent and emerging technological advances have created opportunities for innovation in agriculture that may improve efficiency, increase yields, and encourage sustainable farming practices. However, these technologies often require high investments of capital that small and mid-size farmers are often unable to access alone. By partnering with investors or establishing partnerships with others who have access to such technologies or capital, farmers may be able to invest in these technologies to establish or expand their agricultural or aquacultural businesses.

Currently, the Department of Agriculture's administrative rules on non-agricultural park lands contain provisions that require at least 75% of such partnership members, including investors, to qualify individually as bona fide farmers, and they may also be subject to a durational Hawaii residency requirement. These requirements significantly limit a farmer's ability to access capital necessary to acquire these state-of-the-art technologies which can cost up to \$2-3 million per acre. SB2702 SD1 addresses these existing investment constraints by exempting individual farmers and nonindividual concerns from the required individual qualifications of a "bona fide farmer".

In summary, the HAAA respectfully requests your support of this important measure to help expand opportunities for farmers to obtain important investment capital and partnerships for their operations on non-agricultural park lands. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2702 SD1.

Sincerely,

Ronald P. Weidenbach
HAAA President

From: [William Durston](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:00:13 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support SB2702 SD1, which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

This bill will support modern agriculture, which often requires substantial investments in infrastructure such as greenhouses, processing facilities, wells, pumps and irrigation systems, and aquaculture tanks or troughs. These investments are often beyond the financial capacity of individual farmers or small farm corporations, who would need to attract investors in order to expand and improve their farms' production. The current Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules for non-agricultural parklands requires that at least 75% of the members of agricultural corporations, cooperatives, or partnerships be "bona fide farmers," severely limiting the ability of farms to seek outside investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

William Durston
Leilani Nursery Inc
Leilani Nursery Inc
41-630 Kaulukanu St
Waimanalo, HI 96795
billdurston@hawaii.rr.com

From: [GLENN TOYAMA](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:40:06 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support SB2702 SD1, which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

This bill will support modern agriculture, which often requires substantial investments in infrastructure such as greenhouses, processing facilities, wells, pumps and irrigation systems, and aquaculture tanks or troughs. These investments are often beyond the financial capacity of individual farmers or small farm corporations, who would need to attract investors in order to expand and improve their farms' production. The current Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules for non-agricultural parklands requires that at least 75% of the members of agricultural corporations, cooperatives, or partnerships be "bona fide farmers," severely limiting the ability of farms to seek outside investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

GLENN TOYAMA
ALL
HAWAIIAN FLOWER GARDENS
PO Box 5
Mountain View, HI 96771
gtoyama67@gmail.com

From: [Stephanie whalen](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 11:50:06 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support SB2702 SD1, which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

This bill will support modern agriculture, which often requires substantial investments in infrastructure such as greenhouses, processing facilities, wells, pumps and irrigation systems, and aquaculture tanks or troughs. These investments are often beyond the financial capacity of individual farmers or small farm corporations, who would need to attract investors in order to expand and improve their farms' production. The current Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules for non-agricultural parklands requires that at least 75% of the members of agricultural corporations, cooperatives, or partnerships be "bona fide farmers," severely limiting the ability of farms to seek outside investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Stephanie whalen
VP
KVTHC
PO Box 64
Kunia, HI 96759
whaleinn1944@gmail.com

From: [James Gomes](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 9:00:14 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support SB2702 SD1, which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

This bill will support modern agriculture, which often requires substantial investments in infrastructure such as greenhouses, processing facilities, wells, pumps and irrigation systems, and aquaculture tanks or troughs. These investments are often beyond the financial capacity of individual farmers or small farm corporations, who would need to attract investors in order to expand and improve their farms' production. The current Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules for non-agricultural parklands requires that at least 75% of the members of agricultural corporations, cooperatives, or partnerships be "bona fide farmers," severely limiting the ability of farms to seek outside investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

James Gomes
Operation Manager
Ulupalakua Ranch
8640 Kula Hwy
Kula, HI 96790
jag@urmaui.com

From: [Susan Mulkern](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 1:30:08 PM



Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support SB2702 SD1, which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

This bill will support modern agriculture, which often requires substantial investments in infrastructure such as greenhouses, processing facilities, wells, pumps and irrigation systems, and aquaculture tanks or troughs. These investments are often beyond the financial capacity of individual farmers or small farm corporations, who would need to attract investors in order to expand and improve their farms' production. The current Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules for non-agricultural parklands requires that at least 75% of the members of agricultural corporations, cooperatives, or partnerships be "bona fide farmers," severely limiting the ability of farms to seek outside investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Susan Mulkern
Vice President
Mulkern Landscaping & Nursery
408 Lani St
Honolulu, HI 96821
susan@mulkernlandscaping.com

SB-2702-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 3:57:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2020 1:00:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

LATE

From: [Kaohi Mokuhalii](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020 2:10:05 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support SB2702 SD1, which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

This bill will support modern agriculture, which often requires substantial investments in infrastructure such as greenhouses, processing facilities, wells, pumps and irrigation systems, and aquaculture tanks or troughs. These investments are often beyond the financial capacity of individual farmers or small farm corporations, who would need to attract investors in order to expand and improve their farms' production. The current Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules for non-agricultural parklands requires that at least 75% of the members of agricultural corporations, cooperatives, or partnerships be "bona fide farmers," severely limiting the ability of farms to seek outside investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Kaohi Mokuhalii
Owner
KM Farm & Ranch
PO Box 276
Naalehu, HI 96772
kaohi@kmfarmandranch.com

SB-2702-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 12:47:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory FRIEL	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

From: [John Gordines](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:30:08 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support SB2702 SD1, which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

This bill will support modern agriculture, which often requires substantial investments in infrastructure such as greenhouses, processing facilities, wells, pumps and irrigation systems, and aquaculture tanks or troughs. These investments are often beyond the financial capacity of individual farmers or small farm corporations, who would need to attract investors in order to expand and improve their farms' production. The current Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules for non-agricultural parklands requires that at least 75% of the members of agricultural corporations, cooperatives, or partnerships be "bona fide farmers," severely limiting the ability of farms to seek outside investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Robert Paull](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 7:40:08 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support SB2702 SD1, which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

This bill will support modern agriculture, which often requires substantial investments in infrastructure such as greenhouses, processing facilities, wells, pumps and irrigation systems, and aquaculture tanks or troughs. These investments are often beyond the financial capacity of individual farmers or small farm corporations, who would need to attract investors in order to expand and improve their farms' production. The current Hawaii Department of Agriculture rules for non-agricultural parklands requires that at least 75% of the members of agricultural corporations, cooperatives, or partnerships be "bona fide farmers," severely limiting the ability of farms to seek outside investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Susan Cabral](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:40:06 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support SB2702 SD1, which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Diane ChChuensanguansat](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:40:07 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Diane ChChuensanguansat
PO Box 860898
Wahiawa, HI 96786
dina@hawaii.rr.com

From: [Megan Kono](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:50:08 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Randy Cabral](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 12:10:07 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Greg Askew](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 12:40:07 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Greg Askew
Ono Pop's Kauai
Ono Pop's Kauai
PO Box 435
Kalaheo, HI 96741
GregAskew2@gmail.com

From: [Christine Brammer](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 12:20:08 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Christine Brammer
1020 Aoloa Pl Apt 106B
Kailua, HI 96734
christine.brammer@gmail.com

From: [Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Takamiyashiro](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 1:50:10 PM

LATE

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support SB2702 SD1, which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Stephen Takamiyashiro
1518 Paula Dr
Honolulu, HI 96816
pamtaka14@gmail.com

From: donald.sommer
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2702 SD1
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020 4:10:07 AM

LATE

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I support SB2702 SD1, which temporarily authorizes the Board of Agriculture to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes conditions and qualifications for a lease.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

donald.sommer
5453 New Grange Garth
Columbia, MD 21045
desommer@yahoo.com