

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
WAYS AND MEANS
and
JUDICIARY**

**Wednesday, February 26, 2020
1:10PM
State Capitol, Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2708, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES**

Senate Bill 2708, Senate Draft 1 proposes to: 1) authorize the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to undertake a number of activities to promote agriculture and the development of infrastructure on lands under DOA jurisdiction; 2) establish the agricultural enterprise program and a special fund for the program; 3) require the Board of Agriculture to submit annual report to the Legislature to include an accounting of leases on non-agricultural park land; 4) make an appropriation of \$1,200,000 into and out of the agricultural enterprise special fund for the planning, design, construction, operation, management, maintenance, repair, demolition, and removal of infrastructure on lands under the jurisdiction of DOA to support and promote agriculture; and 5) make technical, non-substantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments on the measure.**

The Department recognizes the importance of providing DOA with the necessary tools to promote agriculture and develop infrastructure on the lands it manages. The Department notes that the measure additionally authorizes DOA to accept the transfer of any lands from the Department that will support an agricultural purpose and to operate or manage those resources. The measure goes on to define "agricultural activities" to include the "care and production of livestock; livestock products; poultry; poultry products; and apiary, horticultural, and floricultural products."

Pursuant to Act 90 Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, now codified at Chapter 166E, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the Department has already transferred more than 18,000 acres of agricultural land to DOA, and additional transfers are in process – consisting of nearly all the agricultural crop land, such as former sugar cane land, held by the Department. The Department has generally excluded large-acre pasture leases from these transfers because of the high natural resource value of certain

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

pasture lands which are remnant native forests which have never been plowed, with native and endangered plants and wildlife, their proximity to forest reserves, their potential for reforestation, and/or their importance in providing access to other public lands for management, hunting or public recreation purposes. But the lessees under these pasture leases have requested the Department to transfer their leases to DOA for management because DOA appears to have greater flexibility under Chapter 166E, HRS (as well as the present bill if it were to become law), to amend, extend, and issue new leases by negotiation.

The perceived need to transfer pasture leases to DOA can be relieved by providing the Department with statutory powers similar to those exercised by DOA in the management of its leases. Accordingly, the Administration has introduced a measure this Session (Senate Bill 2914 and House Bill 2358, House Draft 1) to give the Department greater flexibility to deal with pasture leases. Positive advancement in carbon sequestration challenges, wildlife management, wildfire protection and forest health concerns can be best managed by the Department through mutually beneficial practices with ranching, wildlife protection, and native forest restoration. For these reasons, the Department respectfully requests the Legislatures support Senate Bill 2914 and House Bill 2358, House Draft 1 to allow the pasture leases to remain under the Department's management.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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 COMMITTEES ON
WAYS AND MEANS AND JUDICIARY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020
1:10 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 2708, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

Chairpersons Dela Cruz and Rhoads and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2708, SD1 relating to agricultural enterprises. This bill establishes a new agricultural enterprise program within the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (Department), establishes positions, and makes an appropriation. The Department strongly supports this measure and respectfully requests the following changes and offers comments.

Delete SECTION 3 of this measure (page 26, lines 1 through 12). The requirements for the tenants to report to the Department gross sales, type of agricultural products sold, and range of product prices are not conditions in our leases. Our tenants are generally very reluctant (or unable) to forward this information. Additionally, the subject may conflict with the title of this bill.

This bill is intended to allow agricultural enterprises on lands under the jurisdiction of the Department. The Department's Ag Park program and the Non-Ag Park program focus on actual, physical farming activity on the land. Limited ancillary activity



is allowed only under very narrow conditions and circumstances. Moreover, strict eligibility requirements as a bonafide farmer must be met to hold any long-term lease under both programs. However, the agricultural industry must adapt to rapid developments in technology and methodology in agriculture and aquaculture in order to attain the food sustainability goals of the State. The Department needs flexibility in its disposition of public lands to support those changing conditions by allowing and encouraging the use of innovative agricultural models to optimize productivity, supporting and promoting agriculture through farmers markets, food hubs and processing facilities, animal feed mills, etc., and enabling or providing agricultural educational training. The business of agriculture is far broader than simply the growing of an organism. This program recognizes that the business of agriculture is just as important to the growth of agriculture as the production of the crop itself.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Meadow Gold Dairies



Written Testimony By: Glenn K. Muranaka
SB2708sd1, Relating to Agricultural Enterprises
Sen WAM/JDC Hearing – 1:10pm
Wednesday, February 26, 2020
Room 211

Position: Support

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole and Members of the Sen WAM/JDC Committee:

My name is Glenn K. Muranaka, President and General Manager of Meadow Gold Dairies. Our company has been in Hawaii since 1897—123 years, providing Hawaii consumers with a variety of milk products and juices. Meadow Gold's long history has not come without effort. We continually adapt to our customers' and consumers' ever-changing needs, and we constantly evolve along with our industry, our community and our market. Over the years, this has required that we struggle, tighten our belts, innovate and work extremely hard, making us a better company in the process. The foundation of this work rests with the 300 employees that are committed to providing superior quality products.

We support this measure that will authorize the Department of Agriculture to support and promote the growth of agriculture through increased management and control of lands under its jurisdiction. This expanded authority would include planning, designing, constructing, operating, managing, maintaining, repairing, demolishing, and removing infrastructure or improvements for its farmer lessees. The Department is the best entity to work with farm lessees on public lands.

We also support the transfer of agricultural lands currently under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture for land management that will support the growth of agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at 944-5911.

From: [Philippe Visintainer](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 4:00:11 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

This measure supports smaller-scale farming operations, particularly those in diversified agriculture, often do not have ready access to processing, packing, storage, and distribution facilities, and usually do not have the financial resources to construct these facilities. The agricultural enterprise program would allow HDOA or a lessee to "plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove facilities" on designated lands; would allow the transfer of suitable land from DLNR to HDOA, and would provide funding and personnel to implement the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

SB-2708-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 5:12:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

From: [Alvin Tsuruda](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 5:00:11 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [John Gordines](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 4:00:15 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Phil Becker](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 6:20:06 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Phil Becker
Owner
Aikane Plantation
PO Box 698
Pahala, HI 96777
sales@aikaneplantation.com

From: [Alan Gottlieb](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 6:30:07 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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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: [James Gomes](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 6:40:06 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

James Gomes
Opr Mgr
Ulupalakua Ranch
8640 Kula Hwy
Kula, HI 96790
jag@urmaui.com

From: [Jerry Nishek](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 7:00:03 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

This measure supports smaller-scale farming operations, particularly those in diversified agriculture, often do not have ready access to processing, packing, storage, and distribution facilities, and usually do not have the financial resources to construct these facilities. The agricultural enterprise program would allow HDOA or a lessee to "plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove facilities" on designated lands; would allow the transfer of suitable land from DLNR to HDOA, and would provide funding and personnel to implement the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Jerry Nishek
General Manager
Kauai Nursery & Landscaping Inc.
3-1550 Kaunualii Hwy
Lihue, HI 96766
jerry@kauainursery.com

From: [County Farm Bureau](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 6:00:09 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

County Farm Bureau
6170 Hauiki Rd Unit G
Kapaa, HI 96746
jerrysfarmkauai@gmail.com

From: [Randy Cabral](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 5:40:05 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

This measure supports smaller-scale farming operations, particularly those in diversified agriculture, often do not have ready access to processing, packing, storage, and distribution facilities, and usually do not have the financial resources to construct these facilities. The agricultural enterprise program would allow HDOA or a lessee to "plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove facilities" on designated lands; would allow the transfer of suitable land from DLNR to HDOA, and would provide funding and personnel to implement the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Robert Main](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 4:00:09 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

This measure supports smaller-scale farming operations, particularly those in diversified agriculture, often do not have ready access to processing, packing, storage, and distribution facilities, and usually do not have the financial resources to construct these facilities. The agricultural enterprise program would allow HDOA or a lessee to "plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove facilities" on designated lands; would allow the transfer of suitable land from DLNR to HDOA, and would provide funding and personnel to implement the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Robert Main
Proprietor
Main Family Farm
PO Box 310
Holualoa, HI 96725
mainstreet808@gmail.com



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

February 24, 2020

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

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees,

The East O'ahu County Farm Bureau, which represents approximately 420 farmers and supporters of agriculture from Waimanalo to Kahuku, **strongly supports SB 2708 SD1**, "Relating to Agricultural Enterprises," which would establish an agricultural enterprise program under HDOA.

Modern agriculture often requires infrastructure such as greenhouses, shade houses, drip irrigation lines, aquaculture tanks, and processing, packing, and storage facilities. 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, especially new farmers or small-to-medium-size operations, often cannot afford to pay for all the needed facilities. Compounding the problem, current HDOA rules restrict the percentage ownership that outside investors can hold in a farm leasing HDOA lands, making it difficult for farmers to raise funds to build and improve their farms.

SB 2708 SD1 would establish an agricultural enterprise program allowing HDOA and/or its lessees to build and maintain agricultural infrastructure on designated lands. Under this program, HDOA could enhance its lands' productive capacity by installing needed facilities, including processing, packing, storage, and distribution facilities that can serve many farms. In addition, the enterprise leases would be subject to different rules than current HDOA leases, allowing for greater private investment in the farms themselves. The enterprise program would strongly encourage the development of new farms and improvements to existing farms on the subject lands. We therefore respectfully urge your committee to support passage of SB 2708 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



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 26, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TESTIMONY ON SB 2708, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

Room 211
1:10 PM

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees:

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 2708, SD1, which would establish an enterprise program under the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

This is a much-needed program that would boost Hawaii's agricultural production and success to the levels our state needs to become more self-sufficient. Our farmers need this assistance. Our communities need the results of this program.

With the passage of this bill, HDOA will be better able to support and promote agriculture through increased management and control of the lands under its jurisdiction. The bill will also support the management of agricultural lands mandated by this body to be transferred from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to HDOA.

Hawaii's agriculture needs assistance in becoming modernized. Controlled environment production, on-site processing, cold storage, and value-added processing will promote environmental sustainability and meet consumer demands. These types of operations are extremely costly and not within the budgets for new or expanding small and medium size farms. Outside investment or partnerships could work for our farmers but current HDOA rules significantly limit these opportunities.

Please support Hawaii's efforts to retain and grow its agricultural industry in order to provide our communities with the food and other products they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important measure.

From: [Melvin Matsuda](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 8:10:08 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

This measure supports smaller-scale farming operations, particularly those in diversified agriculture, often do not have ready access to processing, packing, storage, and distribution facilities, and usually do not have the financial resources to construct these facilities. The agricultural enterprise program would allow HDOA or a lessee to "plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove facilities" on designated lands; would allow the transfer of suitable land from DLNR to HDOA, and would provide funding and personnel to implement the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Melvin Matsuda
Vice President
Kahuku Farmers Inc
PO Box 36
Kahuku, HI 96731
melvin@kahukubrand.com



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS & MEANS AND JUDICIARY
Wednesday, February 26, 2020 — 1:10 p.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 2708 SD 1, Relating to Agricultural Enterprises.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committees:

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 2708 SD 1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture.

Ulupono supports the DOA's Enterprise Program, which provides additional infrastructure and services directly supporting local producers' post-harvest opportunities. Agricultural infrastructure such as the Kalaeloa harvesting facility, Honalo Marshalling yard, and the Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant is extremely important in providing crucial markets to agriculturalists statewide. The DOA's management of such a program is important to support the State's local food production goals.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

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

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

From: [Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Kunitake](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 9:30:02 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Melvin Kunitake
owner
melvin kunitake farm
PO Box 135
Holualoa, HI 96725
melvin.kuni@gmail.com

From: [Darren Okimoto](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 9:50:06 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Darren Okimoto
Member
Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association
3318 Martha St
Honolulu, HI 96815
okimotod@gmail.com

From: [Edward Kawamura](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 7:40:05 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

This measure supports smaller-scale farming operations, particularly those in diversified agriculture, often do not have ready access to processing, packing, storage, and distribution facilities, and usually do not have the financial resources to construct these facilities. The agricultural enterprise program would allow HDOA or a lessee to "plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove facilities" on designated lands; would allow the transfer of suitable land from DLNR to HDOA, and would provide funding and personnel to implement the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Edward Kawamura
President
M. Kawamura Farm
6266 Opaekaa Rd
Kapaa, HI 96746
edward@kawamurafarm.com

From: [Alan Tada](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 7:40:06 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Alan Tada
Flowers Forever
FLOWERS FOREVER LLC
2979 Kalena St
Lihue, HI 96766
flowersforever@hawaiiintel.biz

From: [Wenhao Sun](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 9:10:07 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Wenhao Sun
Olakai Hawaii
Olakai Hawaii
56-1081 Kamehameha Hwy
Kahuku, HI 96731
wsun@marineagrifuture.com

From: [Danette Llanos](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 9:20:06 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Danette Llanos
Technician
Hartung Brothers Hawaii, LLC.
94-1145 Kahuailani St
Waipahu, HI 96797
danette.llanos@hartungbrothers.com

From: [Hawaii Beef LLC, J.](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 10:50:08 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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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

SB-2708-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 11:22:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

From: [Stephanie whalen](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 12:40:10 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

SB-2708-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 11:56:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Corbin	Testifying for Aquaculture Planning and Advocacy LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Senators: Passage of this bill would clearly demonstrate the State is serious about diversifying our economy by strongly encouraging sustainable industries like agriculture and aquaculture that can have major impacts on rural communities throughout the islands. It allows DOA to actively manage lands under its jurisdiction. Further, it boldly establishes an Enterprise Program and a Agricultural Enterprise Special Fund that could be effective catalysts for rapid devopment.

John Corbin, MS, CFP, AICP; President, Aquaculture Planning and Advocacy LLC, Kaneohe,Hi



February 25, 2020

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

Re: SB2708 SD1 Relating to Agricultural Enterprises
Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and Committee Members

The Hawaii Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association (HAAA), with statewide membership, **strongly supports the intent of SB2708 SD1** which would establish an agricultural enterprise program under the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

This measure will help the HDOA or a lessee to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure or improvements on any lands over which the department has jurisdiction, to support and promote agriculture, and to accept from the Department of Land and Natural Resources the transfer of any lands that will support an agricultural purpose and to operate or manage those resources.

An emerging trend in modern agriculture is controlled environment production, as well as on-site cold storage and value-added processing, to address environmental sustainability and consumer demands, and to maximize the production and revenue potential of small and mid-size farms. However, new and expanding farms typically do not have the financial means to pay for such facilities without outside partnerships or investment. Current HDOA rules significantly limit such partnerships, investment, and controlled environment production and support infrastructure.

The HAAA respectfully requests your support of this measure to help expand opportunities for farmers to obtain important investment capital and partnerships for their operations, and to allow farmers to construct and operate such agriculture-related infrastructure on HDOA-leased lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2708.

Sincerely,
Ronald P. Weidenbach
HAAA President



February 25, 2020

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Testimony in Support of SB 2708, SD1, Relating to Agricultural Enterprises (Authorizes the Department of Agriculture [DOA] to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the DOA, to support and promote agriculture; establishes the Agricultural Enterprise Program and the Agricultural Enterprise Special Fund; and requires the Board of Agriculture [BOA] to annually report an accounting of non-agricultural park lessees to the legislature; and makes an appropriation. [SD1])

Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 1:10 p.m., in Conference Room 211

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. One of LURF's missions 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 testimony in **support of SB 2708, SD1**, and to offer comments.

SB 2708, SD1. The purpose and intent of this bill is to authorize the DOA or a lessee to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish and remove infrastructure or improvements on any lands over which the DOA has jurisdiction, to support and promote agriculture, and to accept from the Department of Land and Natural Resources the transfer of any lands that will support an agricultural purpose and to operate or manage those resources. This measure is also intended to promote and support diversified agriculture and increase agricultural self-sufficiency by establishing an agricultural enterprise program within the DOA, for the purpose of complying with the requirements of Article XI, Section 3, of the State Constitution.

LURF's Position. LURF members include private property owners, farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider programs such as that proposed by this bill critical to the conduct of their operations and to help sustain their businesses. These landowners and agricultural stakeholders believe SB 2708, SD1 will greatly assist with the establishment of such a program and the costs which must be incurred in connection with agricultural enterprises, projects and activities.

The purpose of this bill is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes, 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 SB 2708, SD1, which is to support diversified agriculture and provide needed assistance to agriculture-related operations. Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be meaningless without implementation of such measures.

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.

As this Committee may already be aware, the unsustainable costs cast upon land owners and agricultural stakeholders by various safety and security standards, programs and regulations are another serious concern, as the enactment of onerous regulations relating to maintenance and operation of water systems, infrastructure, as well as growing and processing machinery and facilities are proving to be potentially counterproductive to the long-term objective of sustainable agriculture.

As potential issues relating to and food safety and security continue to be a significant concern, LURF and its members appreciate this measure being taken to assist agricultural stakeholders.

For the reasons stated above, LURF is in **support of SB 2708, SD1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

From: [Paul Bienfang](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 2:50:06 PM



Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

This measure supports smaller-scale farming operations, particularly those in diversified agriculture, often do not have ready access to processing, packing, storage, and distribution facilities, and usually do not have the financial resources to construct these facilities. The agricultural enterprise program would allow HDOA or a lessee to "plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove facilities" on designated lands; would allow the transfer of suitable land from DLNR to HDOA, and would provide funding and personnel to implement the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Paul Bienfang
President
Analytical Services LLC
3586 Kumu Pl
Honolulu, HI 96822
bienfang888@gmail.com

LATE

From: [James Tavares](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 9:20:05 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

James Tavares
Owner
The Grassmaster
PO Box 3037
Kahului, HI 96733
tavaresjam@gmail.com

LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
February 26, 2020 – 1:10 PM - Room 211

**RE: SB 2708 SD1 - Relating to Agricultural Enterprises –
In Support**



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

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

The Local Food Coalition **supports** SB 2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture.

Smaller scale farming operations, particularly those in diversified agriculture, often do not have ready access to processing, packing, storage and distribution facilities, and usually do not have the financial resources to construct these facilities. The agricultural enterprise program would allow DOA or a lessee to "plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove facilities" on designated lands; would allow transfer of suitable land from DLNR to DOA; and would provide funding and personnel to implement the program.

Hawaii's agriculture industry needs assistance in becoming modernized. These types of operations are extremely costly and not within the budgets for new or expanding small and medium sized farms. Outside investment or partnerships could work for our farmers but current DOA rules significantly limit these opportunities.

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 Hawaii's efforts to retain and grow its agricultural industry. We urge you to pass SB 2708 SD1.

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

From: [Adam P. Killermann](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 9:10:07 AM

LATE

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Adam P. Killermann
Presy
Ajar Inc.
PO Box 738
Kalaheo, HI 96741
apkajar@gmail.com

From: [Roy Asao](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 4:00:10 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Roy Asao
1323 Olini St
Honolulu, HI 96818
rasao777@aol.com

From: [LUANA BECK](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 4:10:08 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

LUANA BECK
PO Box 711510
Mountain View, HI 96771
holuanaranch@yahoo.om

From: [Paula Carroll](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 4:10:08 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Paula Carroll
4791 Analii St
Honolulu, HI 96821
paula-carroll@hotmail.com

From: [Susan Cabral](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 6:50:09 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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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 Chuensanguansat](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 7:10:04 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Diane Chuensanguansat
DINAS GARDEN
PO Box 860898
Wahiawa, HI 96786
dina@hawaii.rr.com

From: [Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Takamiyashiro](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 5:00:10 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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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: [Sandi Kato-Klutke](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 4:10:05 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Sandi Kato-Klutke
Retired
6266 Kawaihau Rd
Kapaa, HI 96746
skatoklutke@gmail.com

From: [Justin Cadiz](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 4:00:11 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Justin Cadiz
91-1028 Hokuimo St
Kapolei, HI 96707
justin.cadiz16@gmail.com

From: [Bradley Fox](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 5:50:08 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Bradley Fox
3009 Polohi Pl
Honolulu, HI 96817
k.fox00@gmail.com

From: [Robert Paull](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 6:20:10 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

This measure supports smaller-scale farming operations, particularly those in diversified agriculture, often do not have ready access to processing, packing, storage, and distribution facilities, and usually do not have the financial resources to construct these facilities. The agricultural enterprise program would allow HDOA or a lessee to "plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove facilities" on designated lands; would allow the transfer of suitable land from DLNR to HDOA, and would provide funding and personnel to implement the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Ray Nakamura](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 6:40:06 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Ray Nakamura
PO Box 253
Kunia, HI 96759
rtnakamura@hawaii.rr.com

From: [Christian Mathias](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 9:10:08 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Christian Mathias
Agronomist
PO Box 253
Kunia, HI 96759
christian.mathias@corteva.com

From: [Megan Kono](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 9:10:05 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

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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

SB-2708-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 12:36:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is one of the most important measures this year to expand Hawaii's ability to become more food self-sufficient.

This is why:

- It will help bring modernize Hawaii agriculture by supporting needed infrastructure improvements.
- It will assist farmers in complying with food safety requirements.
- It will help farmers conserve water and reduce fertilizer and pesticide needs.
- It will help farmers increase yield and quality.

The enterprise program will strongly encourage the **development of new farms and improvements to existing farms** in Hawaii.

Please pass this bill this year!

Thank you.

SB-2708-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 12:44:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a much-needed bill that has support from all sectors of the agricultural community, including the Department of Agriculture.

Please pass SB 2708 so Hawaii's commercial farmers have the support and tools they need to stay viable, despite all the obstacles facing them in this global economy.

Thank you.

From: [Kaohelauii, Pualei](#)
To: [WAM Testimony: JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Pass SB1363 SD1!
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 8:10:19 AM

LATE

I STRONGLY SUPPORT the original version of SB1363 SD1, which seeks to ensure that the state's constitutional and statutory Public Land Trust (PLT) obligations to Native Hawaiians are more properly fulfilled, by: (1) Establishing \$35 million as an interim reflection of the 20% of PLT revenues that should be transferred annually to OHA for the benefit of Native Hawaiians; (2) Transferring \$139 million to OHA for underpaid PLT revenues between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2019; (3) Requiring continued annual accounting of revenues from PLT lands; and (4) Convening a Public Land Trust Revenues Committee every six years, to review and make recommendations regarding OHA's portion of PLT revenues. After years of unjustified delay, it is finally time to revisit Native Hawaiians' fair share of PLT revenues. Importantly, Native Hawaiians' PLT share is the primary source of funding for programs, grants, and services that benefit both Native Hawaiians and the larger community. Raising Native Hawaiians' annual share will support a wider range of strategic and innovative programs and activities designed to improve the well-being and conditions of Native Hawaiians and Hawai'i. Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS SB1363 SD1 with amendments to add the dollar amounts back into this bill.

From: [Allan Kaneshiro](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2708 SD1
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 8:40:10 AM

LATE

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I support SB2708 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove infrastructure on any lands under the jurisdiction of the department, to support and promote agriculture. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

This measure supports smaller-scale farming operations, particularly those in diversified agriculture, often do not have ready access to processing, packing, storage, and distribution facilities, and usually do not have the financial resources to construct these facilities. The agricultural enterprise program would allow HDOA or a lessee to "plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove facilities" on designated lands; would allow the transfer of suitable land from DLNR to HDOA, and would provide funding and personnel to implement the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Allan Kaneshiro
47-460 Aiai Pl
Kaneohe, HI 96744
abkkoo@aol.com