

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 WAYS AND MEANS

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020
1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2711, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2711, SD1. This measure appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii Community College System (UHCCS) to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program and requires a report to the Legislature. The Department supports the intent of this measure provided it does not impact the priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2711 SD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of SB 2711 SD1 that establishes a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot project.

The idea behind the bill is worthy in that given the prevalence of small farms in the state, and the need to improve the technology used on those farms, and that typical farm equipment is not of the right size to be effective on small farms. The need for equipment of appropriate size is clear.

The issue we see with this bill is that it does not clearly identify objectives for the pilot program. As written it includes identifying foreign agriculture technology, purchasing equipment, and retrofitting equipment engines to comply with Environmental Protection Agency standards.

Not included in the objectives is a list of what foreign technology beyond small tractors should be considered; nor does it include testing of the equipment on small farms in Hawai'i. If the objective is to see if it can be done, then the revision to this measure to have the University of Hawai'i (UH) serve as the lead agency to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program at a community college of its choosing is appropriate as they have the appropriate shop(s) to do the retrofitting, as well as to provide students a useful educational experience. In addition, the shop program may also be able to test the machinery in the field.

If the future is to consider buying equipment and lending it out as needed, that is typically done, in other states, through the county Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

We recognize the need for this equipment, and we would support a stronger plan that includes the appropriate state organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the intent with concerns on SB 2711 SD1 and provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

From: [Alvin Tsuruda](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2711
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:00:12 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

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

I support SB2711 SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program at a community college of its choosing.

This measure supports the demand for agriculture labor, which continues to increase. Farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. Although engines attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations, this pilot program would explore retrofitting foreign equipment to comply with those standards.

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

From: [John Giblin](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2711
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 9:00:14 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

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

I support SB2711 SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program at a community college of its choosing.

This measure supports the demand for agriculture labor, which continues to increase. Farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. Although engines attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations, this pilot program would explore retrofitting foreign equipment to comply with those standards.

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: [James Gomes](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2711
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 9:10:07 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

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

I support SB2711 SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program at a community college of its choosing.

This measure supports the demand for agriculture labor, which continues to increase. Farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. Although engines attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations, this pilot program would explore retrofitting foreign equipment to comply with those standards.

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



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 211
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020 AT 1:00 P.M.**

To The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair;
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means;

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2711 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap and I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, with approximately 650 members. We appreciate the opportunity to support of SB2711 on a pilot program relating to ag equipment.

Historically, agriculture has been very important to our community, but it is a difficult industry to successfully start and operate. Use of technology and modernization is key. We support efforts that seek to sustain and support agriculture as the industry is currently struggling with a labor shortage, in addition to other factors. We appreciate that this bill takes a new approach to supporting the industry by establishing a pilot program to look for more efficient equipment and ensuring it is compliant with EPA regulations.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony and we hope you will move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

SB-2711-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 7:53:26 AM

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

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

Comments:



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 20, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2711, SD1
RELATING TO THE AGRICULTURE

Room 211
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-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 supports SB 2711, SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program. Requires a report to the Legislature.

As the demand for agriculture labor continues to increase, while the availability of labor decreases, farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. A limited number of weed management solutions and the increase in labor costs have made weed management a major challenge for many small farmers in Hawaii. Many small farmers also have a need for smaller harvesting and field prep equipment that is not readily available in Hawaii. These growers include vegetable crops, wetland crops, and livestock forage crops. There is a need to identify high technology small equipment and evaluate its applicability for Hawaii's diverse agriculture systems.

Countries such as Japan have small equipment that is suitable for Hawaii's small farmers, however, the engines that are attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations. This pilot program would help identify desired small equipment as well as finding solutions that would allow Hawaii farmers to import foreign equipment that complies with EPA standards.

We recommend that the pilot project include, among other things, the following:

- Establish contact with manufacturers of small equipment in Japan and other countries.
- Work with EPA to identify EPA standard and compliance requirements for small foreign ag equipment.
- Collaborate with Agriculture and Ag Professionals from foreign countries on management practices.
- Bring harvesting, weed management, and field prep machinery into the State of Hawaii for evaluation.
- Conduct on-farm trials to evaluate the efficacy and applicability to multiple growing systems (wetland, conventional, organic, forage crops, etc.) statewide.
- Conduct education and training workshops statewide to update agriculture producers on available technology.

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



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors 2018 - 2020

TESTIMONY FROM THE HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

President
Joshua Uyehara

In Support of SB2711
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Vice-President
Warren Mayberry

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, 02-20-20 at 1:00PM
Senate conference room 211

Secretary
Dawn Bicoy

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

Treasurer
Laurie Yoshida

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) is in support of SB2711, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program.

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

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers need to identify ways to reduce the need for labor to operate their farms through the use of technology, such as small equipment tractors. Currently, however, engines attached to affordable options from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with the EPA's standards. This bill will allow farmers to retrofit their equipment to come into compliance, and potentially reduce the operational costs of farming and ranching.

President Emeritus
Alan Takemoto

Please vote in support of SB2711 to support the livelihood of Hawaii's farmers. 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

Support of SB 2711, S.D.1, Relating to Agriculture (Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii [UH] to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program at a community college of its choosing; requires a report to the Legislature.)

Thursday, February 20, 2020, 1:00 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. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of SB 2711, S.D.1** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii.

SB 2711, S.D.1. This bill appropriates funds to UH to establish a pilot program at a community college of its choosing, to identify and purchase foreign agricultural technology, including small equipment tractors and retrofit engines to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's emission standards, which is vital to farmers and ranchers who must resort to alternative means and technology to operate their farms due to the increase in demand for unskilled labor.

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

The purpose of this bill is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes, 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 2711, S.D.1, which is to support agriculture and provide needed assistance to agriculture-related or agribusinesses operations. Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be meaningless without implementation of such measures. The establishment of the foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program is critically needed to help support viable agricultural activity in this State.

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

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

From: [GLENN TOYAMA](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2711
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:50:06 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

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

I support SB2711 SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program at a community college of its choosing.

This measure supports the demand for agriculture labor, which continues to increase. Farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. Although engines attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations, this pilot program would explore retrofitting foreign equipment to comply with those standards.

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: [Greg Askew](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2711
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 12:40:08 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

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

I support SB2711 SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program at a community college of its choosing.

This measure supports the demand for agriculture labor, which continues to increase. Farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. Although engines attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations, this pilot program would explore retrofitting foreign equipment to comply with those standards.

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: [Philippe Visintainer](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2711
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 9:30:08 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

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

I support SB2711 SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program at a community college of its choosing.

This measure supports the demand for agriculture labor, which continues to increase. Farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. Although engines attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations, this pilot program would explore retrofitting foreign equipment to comply with those standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Thursday, February 20, 2020 — 1:00 p.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 2711 SD 1, Relating to Agriculture.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Hennessey, and I am the Senior Vice President of Communications & External Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve our community's quality of life by creating more locally produced food; increasing affordable clean renewable energy and transportation options; and better managing waste and fresh water resources.

Ulupono supports SB 2711 SD 1, which establishes a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program within the University of Hawai'i.

According to the 2017 USDA NASS Census of Agriculture, 66% of Hawai'i's 7,328 farms statewide, or 4,868 farms, are between 1–9 acres. In addition, 78%, or 5,701 farms, produce less than \$25,000 in sales. Since the average farmer in Hawai'i is a small farmer with limited land, it is critical for local growers to identify smaller and have access to farming equipment suitable for Hawai'i. Right-sized equipment can better help smaller farms develop into future medium and large-sized farms that can grow more local food.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become increasingly complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

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

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

SB-2711-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 4:00:14 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:

From: [Robert Paull](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2711
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 7:40:12 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Carolynn Lum](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2711
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 11:20:06 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

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

I support SB2711 SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program at a community college of its choosing.

This measure supports the demand for agriculture labor, which continues to increase. Farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. Although engines attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations, this pilot program would explore retrofitting foreign equipment to comply with those standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Carolynn Lum
2746 Apapane St
Lihue, HI 96766
hawaii96766@yahoo.com

SB-2711-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 12:00:08 PM

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

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

Comments:

From: [John Gordines](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2711
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:30:10 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

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

I support SB2711 SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program at a community college of its choosing.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Diane Chuensanguansat](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2711
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:40:06 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

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

I support SB2711 SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program at a community college of its choosing.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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

From: [Alan Gottlieb](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2711
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:40:06 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

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

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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: [Susan Cabral](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2711
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:40:07 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

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

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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: [Megan Kono](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2711
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:50:07 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

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

I support SB2711 SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program at a community college of its choosing.

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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: [Frederick Mencher](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2711
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 10:40:08 AM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

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

I support SB2711 SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program at a community college of its choosing.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Frederick Mencher
2029 Nuuanu Ave Apt 1510
Honolulu, HI 96817
frederickmencher@gmail.com

From: [Randy Cabral](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2711
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 12:10:09 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

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

I support SB2711 SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program at a community college of its choosing.

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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: [Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Takamiyashiro](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2711
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 1:50:09 PM



Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

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

I support SB2711 SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program at a community college of its choosing.

This measure supports the demand for agriculture labor, which continues to increase. Farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. Although engines attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations, this pilot program would explore retrofitting foreign equipment to comply with those standards.

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 SB2711
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020 4:20:04 AM



Dear Chairman Dela Cruz,

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

I support SB2711 SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program at a community college of its choosing.

This measure supports the demand for agriculture labor, which continues to increase. Farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. Although engines attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations, this pilot program would explore retrofitting foreign equipment to comply with those standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

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