

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

**FEBRUARY 25, 2020
12:40 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 3041
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 3041. This measure has two purposes:

1. Extends the deadline for submitting the strategic plan required by Act 151, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019 to the convening of the 2021 Legislature; and
2. Extends the lapse date for the \$100,000 appropriated by Act 151 to June 30, 2021.

The Department of Agriculture strongly supports this measure.

The time period allotted in the Act for the Department, the Agribusiness Development Corporation, and the Office of the Governor to develop a robust plan was insufficient to ensure the strategic plan product is both responsible and reflective of Hawaii's agricultural industry and public. While the plan continues to be developed to this day, the requested extensions will allow the Department to do comprehensive outreach throughout the State to the agricultural operations and public and private entities that are the foundation of the State's endeavor to double local food production and increase local food self-sufficiency.

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



SB-3041

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 10:22:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

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

Comments:



February 20, 2020

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

Support of SB 3041, Relating to Agriculture (Extends deadline for submitting the strategic plan required by Act 151, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019 [Act 151]; extends the lapse date for funds appropriated by the Act to 6/30/2021.)

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 12:40 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 3041** 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 3041. This bill proposes to extend the deadline for submitting the strategic plan required by Act 151; and to extend the lapse date for funds appropriated by the Act to June 30, 2021.

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 agriculture industry and conduct of their operations, to help sustain their businesses, promote local food production, and increase the State's ability to achieve its food sustainability goals.

By allowing an extension of the deadline for the Department of Agriculture to submit the strategic plan as required by Act 151, as well as an extension of the lapse date for funds appropriated, SB 3041 would help efforts being made to support the agriculture industry and aid agriculture-related businesses. The strategic plan is vital to assist in outlining

strategies and benchmarks to achieve the goal of doubling food production in Hawaii and increasing food exports out of the State by 2030.

LURF believes that this bill is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes [HRS], 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.”

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

For the reasons set forth above, LURF is **in support of SB 3041**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this measure.



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 25, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 3041
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211
12:40 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 HB 3041, which extends the deadline for submitting the strategic plan required by Act 151, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019.

Many studies have been conducted (e.g. Increased Food Security and Food Self Sufficiency Strategy, Oct 2012, DBEDT and HDOA) that suggest strategies for increased food production. HFB believes that increased food production requires all types of agriculture. A strategic plan would address ways to double food production and exports.

HFB respectfully requests your strong support for this measure. A roadmap providing a common goal to improve Hawaii's agriculture is needed.

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