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Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT AND
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Friday, February 8, 2019

1:30 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
SB 488
RELATING TO LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION.

Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Taniguchi, and Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

The Office of Planning supports SB 488 Relating to Local Food Production. SB 488 requires the department of agriculture to conduct a study on what metrics to use to accurately determine how much food is locally produced. SB 488 further directs the department of agriculture to consult with a firm that specializes in food security metrics and with the department of business, economic development, and tourism to recommend a food security metric system for Hawaii.

Pursuant to Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, as amended by Act 210, Session Laws of 2006, the Office of Planning's Sustainability Coordinator recently assisted the Hawaii State Auditor's Office to provide and publish a statewide measurement update to the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan. Published in March 2018, the ten year measurement update of the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan, the first of its kind over the past decade, reviewed the data collected over the course of ten years spanning from 2008-2017 and evaluated the metrics and indicators measuring Hawaii's progress toward sustainability according to the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan's original 5 goals, 9 "2020 benchmarks," 22 strategic actions, and 55 indicators.

One of the Nine "2020 benchmarks" was to "increase production and consumption of local foods and products, particularly agricultural products." The ten year measurement update of the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan found that the agricultural production data do not include all production quantities due to the reduction in force of the State's agricultural statistical surveyors and non-recurring annual statistical surveying data. The 2018 measurement update of

the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan furthermore explained that the measurement of local agricultural production did not necessarily represented “food” (for example: whether macadamia nuts and coffee yields provide a sustainable food source for the people of Hawaii.)

Finally, the 2018 measurement update of the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan recommended strengthening future policies, planning, and funding to establish an official statewide agricultural baseline of local food production and local food consumption, which SB 488 intends to address by assisting to meet the State's goal of doubling local food production through a department of agriculture-led study to determine what methods should be used to establish a Hawaii food security metric system that will accurately reflect how much food is produced locally.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
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TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, & TOURISM

FEBRUARY 8, 2019
1:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 488
RELATING TO LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Chairpersons Gabbard and Wakai and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 488, which requires the Department of Agriculture to conduct a study on what metrics to use to accurately determine how much food is locally produced and, in cooperation with a firm that specializes in food security metrics and with DBEDT, recommend a food security metric system for Hawaii. The Department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget and offers comments.

Strategic planning will allow the State to identify and prioritize resources that will collectively move Hawaii's diverse agricultural industry which is comprised of thousands of individual agricultural operations, wholesalers, and retailers. Dedicated funding will allow the Department to work with an outside party to address the tasks listed in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



SB-488

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:24:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Autumn Ness	Testifying for Hawai'i Center for Food Safety	Support	No

Comments:



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, & TOURISM

Friday, February 8, 2019 — 1:30 p.m. — Room 224

Ulupono Initiative Supports the Intent of SB 488 with a Comment, Relating to Local Food Production

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better manage waste and fresh water resources. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono supports the intent of SB 488 with a comment, which requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to conduct a study on what metrics to use to accurately determine how much food is locally produced, because it aligns with our goal to increase local food production.

Ulupono is supportive of the Governor's plan to double local food production by 2020. However, to meet such an ambitious goal, it is important to have a strategic plan to help the agriculture industry, funders, policymakers, and the public. If everyone is using similar metrics and is on the same page, it will help to provide guidance so organizations like Ulupono can be more effective at aligning our actions. We also understand that with so many funding requests to the Legislature, what gets measured gets funded. We hope more metrics and information will help provide momentum at the Legislature for increasing funding for agricultural initiatives.

If this study gets published, we believe the DOA should continuously update the data collected. If so, this will require funding for additional DOA staff. Ulupono would love to see the re-launch of the DOA's Market Analysis and News Branch, which until October 2009 released excellent pricing data that farmers and ranchers used to make better strategic decisions. This was a clear example where a publicly supported program helped to stimulate private sector projects. The funding to restart this branch within the DOA will

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



lead to the creation of useful information for farmers and ranchers for their businesses. By obtaining quantitative datasets, the DOA will be in a better position to conduct long-term strategic planning. This will make the State more efficient and effective in serving the local agriculture community.

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 these committees' efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

We believe that through collaboration, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner

SB-488

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 3:28:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O'ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 8, 2018
TIME: 8:30 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 312

SB 488 – RELATING TO LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION.

Requires the department of agriculture to conduct a study on what metrics to use to accurately determine how much food is locally produced. Directs the department of agriculture to consult with a firm that specializes in food security metrics and with the department of business, economic development, and tourism to recommend a food security metric system for Hawaii. Appropriates funds.

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dale Sandlin, and I am Managing Director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 150+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council provides comments on SB 488, asking for the inclusion of local ranchers within the process.

Determining the baseline for food production is critical to the success of meeting the Governor's goal of doubling local food production by 2020 and this provides a reasonable and effective framework for helping to make future policy decisions regarding our state's food security. While we support the process outlined, there is no specific mention of stakeholder input as to current production levels. We believe that by adding producer representation, this process can provide greater results.

We respectfully ask that this measure be amended to include direct agricultural producer input by adding representation from agriculture commodity groups.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.



SB-488

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 6:39:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mulinix	Testifying for Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

About 90% of our food is shipped in from the mainland. This is not only unsustainable, it is a huge waste of resources. Growing our own food once again in Hawaii will not only help provide jobs and grow our local economy, it is also one of the best ways for us to fight back against Climate Change. Before Captain Cooke arrived in Hawaii there were just about as many people living in Hawaii then as there are today, and the Kanaka Maoli lived a completely self sufficient lifestyle, growing all of their own food. We have greater technology today, so it should be easier for Hawaii to become sustainable again, as it once was in our not so distant past.

Mahalo for you kind attention, Dave Mulinix, Our Revolution Hawaii

SB-488

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 11:09:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Layla Kilolu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Elected Public Servants,

My name is Layla and I am a graduate student at UH Manoa studying urban and regional planning. I am also an East-West Center fellow studying resilience, and working towards making our state more sustainable and resilient. Further I support this bill because I know that we need to increase our food security efforts here, and the appropriate metrics to measure our progress is integral to that. Mahalo for your efforts!

**Respectfully,
Layla Kilolu, MBA**

SB-488

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 7:08:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Drew Wilkinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB488. There is a need for a better understanding of Hawaii's local food production. We need a baseline to move forward from. With a more comprehensive understanding of the local food system, the state will be able to create new legislation and appropriate funds that speak to Hawaii's needs.

SB-488

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 10:45:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We know we are screwed if anything happens to our shipping. This is a good start to help with food security.

SB-488

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 7:36:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments: