

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 AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2021
3:05 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 1248
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

Chairpersons Gabbard and Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1248 relating to agricultural enterprises. This bill establishes a new agricultural enterprise program within the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (Department), establishes the Agricultural Enterprise Special Fund, and requires annual reporting to the Legislature. The Department **strongly supports** this measure, provided this measure does not impact the Executive Budget.

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.

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

SB1248, Agricultural Enterprises
Senate AEN/EET Hearing
Friday, February 12, 2021

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Misalucha, and Members of the Senate AEN/EET Joint Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC, which is part of our family-run business of farms on Oahu and Molokai, under the administrative umbrella Sugarland Growers, Inc. We have more than 35 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. I am a volunteer director for the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

SB1248 establishes the Agricultural Enterprise Program and authorizes the DOA greater flexibility to increase agricultural production growth on State lands. The pandemic has highlighted the need for support of Hawaii's diversified agriculture industry, to include all types of farm and ranch production.

Agriculture is much more than growing food. A successful farm or ranch must use modern technology to keep pace with processing, storage, value-added processing, distribution, and other infrastructure. The cost of these needed infrastructures is beyond the reach of many smaller-scale agriculturists.

The Agricultural Enterprise Program supports smaller-scale farmers and ranchers access to these business infrastructures needs that they would otherwise not have the means for investment. It allows outside investment or partnerships to support these efforts, which are not within current HDOA rules.

Your support is urged for SB1248. It is a needed mechanism to provide Hawaii with increased food production and import foods replacement.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 4:58:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerry Nishek	Testifying for Kauai Nursery & Landscaping Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Senators,

Kauai Nursery & Landscaping is very much in support of SB 1248.

We feel that the the Department of Agriculture can help to put land into the hands of farmers, nurseries, and other agricultural people with less red tape than is being done by DLNR.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 6:22:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roland Barker	Testifying for Lokelani Ranch / 7th Veil, LLC	Support	No

Comments:

I am a small-scale agricultural producer on the island of Kauai.

This bill represents an important step in fostering diversified and small-scale agriculture in Hawaii. This bill will pave the way to providing critical infrastructure to small producers who would otherwise not have access to such facilities. This infrastructure can make the difference between a failed farm and a prosperous one.

It is important to note that small producers and diversified agriculture is the foundation on which increased food self-sufficiency for the state of Hawaii can be achieved, and therefore I support any steps the Legislature can take to further this goal.

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:48:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lloyd Seiji Nakano	Testifying for Ka'u Royal Hawaiian Coffee and Tea, LLC (dba Ka'u	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice-Chairs Nishihara and Misalucha, and members of the committees,

I support SB 1248, 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. SB 1248 also establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

This measure supports smaller-scale farming operations, particularly those in diversified agriculture including coffee and tea, 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.

Mahalo,



February 9, 2021

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Bennette Misalucha, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism

Testimony in Support of SB 1248, 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 to annually report an accounting of non-agricultural park lessees to the Legislature.)

Friday, February 12, 2021, 3:05 p.m., in Conference Room 224; via Videoconference

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 1248**, and to offer comments.

SB 1248. The purpose and intent of this bill is to authorize the DOA or its lessees to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish and remove infrastructure or improvements on any lands over which the DOA has jurisdiction where the activity is necessary to support and promote agriculture; to accept from the Department of Land and Natural Resources the transfer of any lands that will serve an agricultural purpose; and to efficiently 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, which is found by the Legislature to be in the State's best interests and helps to meet State constitutional requirements.

LURF's Position. LURF members include private property owners, farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider programs and incentives 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 1248 will greatly assist with launching such incentives and with the unaffordable costs which must be incurred in connection with agricultural enterprises, projects, and activities. Creation of the Agricultural Enterprises Program will also expressly allow for ancillary and other activities that support the economic viability and success of the local agricultural industry.

As these Committees are aware, the unsustainable costs which have already been cast upon agricultural stakeholders over the past years by various safety and security standards, programs and regulations, as well as the enactment of onerous regulations relating to water systems, infrastructure, and growing and processing machinery and facilities, are now greatly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, proving to be overwhelming, if not devastating to the agricultural industry as well as the State's long-term objective of sustainable agriculture.

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 lauds the objective of SB 1248, which is to support diversified agriculture; provide needed assistance to agriculture-related operations; and to expand Hawaii's agricultural industry. 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 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 1248** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.



EAST OAHU COUNTY FARM BUREAU

910 CALIFORNIA AVE., WAHIAWA, HI 96786

February 9, 2021

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, and Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair, and Senator Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Misalucha, and Members of the Committee,

The East O'ahu County Farm Bureau, which represents approximately 420 farmers and supporters of agriculture from Waimanalo to Kahuku, **strongly supports SB 1248**, "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 1248 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 1248.

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

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:48:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jimmy Gomes	Testifying for Ulupalakua Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB1248



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of SB1248
Relating to Agricultural Enterprises

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

Date: Friday, February 12, 2021

Time: 3:05 p.m.

Place: Via Video Conference

Chair Gabbard, Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Misalucha and members of the committees:

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB1248 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; establishes the Agricultural Enterprise Special Fund; and requires the Board of Agriculture to annually report an accounting of non-agricultural park lessees to the Legislature.

The success of farmers is integral to meeting the State's food sustainability goals. As it is, many farmers don't have access to processing, packing, storage, and distribution, nor do they have the financial resources to construct these facilities.

The proposed Agricultural Enterprise Program will help farmers optimize productivity, support and promote agriculture through farmers markets, food hubs, and processing facilities, and enable agricultural educational training. These types of operations are extremely costly and not within the budgets for most local farmers. Outside investment, and/or partnerships, could work for farmers but current HDOA rules limit these opportunities.

We respectfully request your support for SB1248 to make agriculture more sustainable for Hawaii's farmers. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Emmanuel Zibakalam

Executive 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.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair

SB1248

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES.

Friday, February 12, 2021 3:05 pm
Conference Room 224

Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Misalucha, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB1248** 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. SB 1248 also establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund.

Funding and support is needed for the Department of Agriculture to implement this program that will assist our farmers and ranchers to get access to the facilities they need to continue to operate. The COVID pandemic has highlighted the need to support local farmers and ranchers and to streamline and bolster steps along the supply chain. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:20:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerry Kakazu	Testifying for MetroGrow Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice-Chairs Nishihara and Misalucha, and members of the committees,

I support SB 1248, 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. SB 1248 also 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.

Mahalo,

Kerry Kakazu

MetroGrow Hawaii

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 4:43:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Testifying for Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:

Please support Sb1248



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 12, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

TESTIMONY ON SB 1248
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

Conference Room 224
3:05 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice-Chairs Nishihara and Misalucha, 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 supports SB 1248, 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.

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-sized 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.

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 6:14:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elliot Telles	Testifying for Jays Hog Farm	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Wakai, Vice-Chair Nishihara and Misalucha, and members of the committee,

I support SB 1248, 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. SB 1248 also 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.

Mahalo,



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, & TOURISM
Friday, February 12, 2021 — 3:05 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 1248, Relating to the Agricultural Enterprises.

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

Ulupono supports SB 1248, 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 are extremely important in providing crucial markets to agriculturalists statewide. The DOA's management of such a program is important to support the State's goals on food production.

We recognize that you face many difficult decisions this year to balance the budget in the midst of this economic crisis, but we hope that this support for local agriculture can be considered.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:44:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Weidenbach	Testifying for Hawaii Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association	Support	No

Comments:

SB1248 is a detailed and carefully conceived measure to support the development, infrastructure and commercial operation of diversified agriculture farms, including aquaculture and aquaponics enterprises, on Hawaii Department of Agriculture lands. If we as a State are serious about diversifying our economy and improving local food production, food safety, and food security, then the passage of SB 1248 is an important and necessary step to enable HDOA lands to developed and utilized for this fundamental economic purpose and to encourage and facilitate the continuation of farming in Hawaii. The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponic Association strongly supports this measure.

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:46:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james Kimo Falconer	Testifying for MauiGrown Coffee, Inc	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as it establishes the agricultural enterprise program and enterprise special fund that will benefit smaller scale farm operations.

Mahalo

Kimo Falconer, President

MauiGrown Coffee, Inc.

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT COMPANY LLC

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Bennette Misalucha, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

From: Scott Enright, President - Scott E. Enright Company, LLC

RE: SB1248, Relating to Agricultural Enterprises
February 12, 2021; 3:05pm; Conference Room 224

Position: **SUPPORT**

My name is Scott Enright. I am the former Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) and am currently working as an agriculture consultant. I offer strong support for SB1248.

This legislation will allow HDOA's Agricultural Resource Management Division to make the best use of the lands resource infrastructure such as dairies, slaughterhouses, marshalling yards, vacuum cooling plants, and water resources around the State that don't currently fit any of the language in statute for their Ag park or Non-Ag park land programs. This legislation will assist the HDOA's agricultural economy to flourish and to do the work that's asked by State statutes. Again, I ask this Committee to support this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB1248.

Sincerely,

Scott Enright

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 4:28:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 5:54:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice-Chairs Nishihara and Misalucha, and members of the committees,

I support SB 1248, 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. SB 1248 also 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.

Mahalo,

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:07:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James W Tavares	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB1248

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:31:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aileen K . F. Yeh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill.

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 5:03:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taylor Kellerman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice-Chairs Nishihara and Misalucha, and members of the committees,

I support SB 1248, 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. SB 1248 also 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.

Mahalo

Taylor Kellerman

Director of Diversified Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Kualoa Ranch Hawaii

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:24:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeri Moniz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support sb1248



Cindy Goldstein, PhD
Ag Matters, LLC
98-814 C Kaonohi Street
Aiea, HI 96701
agmatters@hawaii.rr.com

SB1248 Agricultural Enterprises/ Enterprise Special Fund
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, Senate Committee on EET
Friday, February 12, 2021 at 10 a.m.

Position: **Support**

Chair Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Senator Clarence Nishihara; Chair Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair Bennette Misalucha, and members of the committees,

My name is Cindy Goldstein, and I am in support of SB1248 and what it is meant to accomplish.

SB1248 recognizes the need for expanded availability of suitable land for Hawaii's farmers. Authorizing the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to oversee the proposed planning and improvements on any lands under the jurisdiction of HDOA provides the appropriate expertise to support statewide agriculture.

Diversified agriculture will benefit from the agricultural enterprise program, allowing HDOA or a lessee to plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove facilities on designated lands. The majority of Hawaii agriculture is carried out by small farms with limited financial resources. SB1248 recognizes the need to support the many smaller-scale farming operations in Hawaii

SB1248 also establishes the agricultural enterprise program and the agricultural enterprise special fund. These programs have the potential to directly benefit Hawaii's farmers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB1248.

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:14:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jill Coombs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice-Chairs Nishihara and Misalucha, and members of the committees,

I support SB 1248, 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. SB 1248 also 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.

Mahalo,

Jill Coombs

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:06:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gordon Inouye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Member of the Senate,

We need action to support this bill. the individual farmer cannot afford this so a collective effort by the DOA is required to support agriculture.

Aloha, Gordon Inouye

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:33:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Imamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kevin Imamura. I am a small business owner of Imamura General Maintenance, LLC. I run a handyman and a landscaping business. In the future, I want to get back into farming.

I am writing in support of this HB 871 and SB 1248 bill. There are a couple things I wish to be addressed. I will be submitting the same letter for both bills.

First is existing farm lots. There are a lot of farm lots that has the zoning of agriculture, but when you look at the house. There are several fruit trees, maybe an animal or two and one HUGE house. It is clear many of these ag lots are not growing these trees and raising these animals for productions. Just meeting the qualification to get the tax break. There is a need follow up if these people are really on these farmlands for production or not. If they are not, they need to be let go of their lease so other can come in to farm. There are also other that looks like no one been there for decades (Panaewa Ag Lots). These farm leases need to be followed up, cancelled and allow others with a business model to come in to do actual farming. Start with a 5-year lease, if they are productive extend to 25 years then remaining 55 year lease.

Second, I am hoping that in this bill. A construction of a Fruits and Vegetable Processing Plant (1 per district – so farmers do not have to travel so far) for small farmers to rent out a certain amount of time. This will be a place where a certified kitchen can be rented to process food. We cannot afford to build one on our own. Small farmers and or backyard farmers can bring their produce (fruits and vegetables) (Even a backyard farmer can bring in 5-gallon bucket of guava just to experience the process and see if this is something they will be interested in the future) to process them into pickled vegetables or a bottling facility to make juice, jams and jelly. The farmers will have to provide their own ingredients, cooking pots, bottling jars and covers. Extra charges for using the facility pots and pans. Before leaving, the farmers are responsible for the cleanup and removal of trash. After an inspection, the farmers will receive back their deposit. Quarterly safety class as well and classes to teach people how to grow

fruits and vegetable, harvest, process it and bottle it (classes depends on growing seasons).

Third, Construction of Animal Processing Plant. (1 per district) (Same building?) A certified kitchen to allow small farmers and backyard farmer to bring cow (1), sheep (?), goat (?) or chicken (?) to safely process the meat, milk, egg to sell or take home. Quarterly safety classes as well as teaching small farmers and backyard farmers to raise their own animals, kill, skin and de-bone the animal, process the meat (different cuts (package and vacuum seal), making smoked meat, sausages, etc.), milk (old fashion pasteurized bottle milk, churning butter, cheese, etc.) and eggs (grading). Other classes of making use of the byproducts of harvesting animals, turning animal skin to leather (leathermaking), blood and bones to blood and bone meal for fertilizer, etc. Anything to recycle and reduces waste.

An incinerator about the size of a dumpster is constructed separated from building. It will be run by propane and a blower to reduce smoke and have a tall 12-foot smokestack with a fire arrester on top to prevent sparks from escaping. All cardboard, plastic and paper bags, food scraps (vegetable and meat) will also be put into incinerator. This will reduce 95% of the rubbish from this facility. Doing it this way, will show that there is will no need for millions of plastic trash bags to go into the landfill. All rubbish will be placed in the trash cans, emptied into incinerator and trash cans are washed. No plastic trash bags. At the end of the day, an employee of the facility will run the incinerator. The end results are the remaining 5% of the rubbish will be the ashes to throw away. If you approve of this idea. Every home, apartments, buildings should have one depending on the size of their use. Obviously, homes will have a smaller unit. Another future bill to reduce waste and eliminating plastic trash bags from going into land fill.

Fourth, Classes teaching farmers how to figure out cost and how to calculate how much to sell their product. I spent many years learning my trade. One thing that I have seen as the number one reason farms and small business goes out of business. Are people do not know how much to charge for their service or in this case how much to sell their product. Quarterly classes teaching small farmer and back yard farmers about operating costs. How much does it take to run a small business? How do you make a budget? What is my profit and losses? How do I file my taxes? How do I market? If I go to a wholesaler, am I getting a fair price or are they taking advantage of me? If you are planning on selling 1 bottle of guava jam. How do you figure out your costs? If we do not know how much to charge per bottle, are we making money or are we losing money? Majority of the time, we guess the price we sell the 1 bottle of jam. But guess what? it is too low. We do not make enough to cover our operating costs, so we close our business. If you want agriculture to be successful, this is an essential part of your enterprise program. Anybody can grow or make a great product. It does no good if you cannot sell it for a profit.

Fifth and final request, if you genuinely want to have an Agriculture Enterprise Program to promote agriculture. Develop a crew to help construct new or existing farms. As I

mentioned, we are small individual farmers, with little money and resources. Our construction skills are not the greatest and our planning skills is even worse. But we love what we do, and we are willing to work hard to be successful. Time and time again, we see agriculture theft on the rise, damages to crops and structures are done with little or no chance of catching the people. We are left to defend ourselves and eat the costs of damages and losses. The police come and tells us we cannot do nothing without video evidence.

Monthly, teach about security (fence, lights, gates, cameras, etc.), basic construction skills as carpentry, welding, electrical, plumbing, small engine care and maintenance. Just enough for small farmers to learn the basics. If they are interested in learning more than basics, they can take classes from the community college for adults at their expense.

Per district/island or as people are willing to travel. As a farmer needs help putting in fence line, building a greenhouse or packaging shed. Volunteers from other farms and other agencies, meet up to plan to help with the construction of the project. Like what we saw during the flash floods and hurricane disasters. When there was a call for help, many people brought out their chainsaws and tractors to clear the roads.

The meeting will break up the projects into sections where volunteers can help and give their inputs and best way of working to get the job done. If they have their own machines (skid steers, tractors, etc.) and tools are encouraged to donate their uses. In return for this service, the farmer must be willing to volunteer their time, manpower and equipment the next farmer's request for help. It is an honor system; you are as good as your word. If the farmer is not willing to help after his project. He does not qualify for the program. The idea is that the faster the farmer can secure their property line, the safer the farmer will be from wild pigs and animals as well as thefts and damages to their property and crops. The same idea is the faster the greenhouses and packing and shipping building can be completed, the faster the farmer can grow and harvest their crop to sell. One more reason to meet people in the same field, cook some food and make some new friends.

By this time, I am hoping the Ag loans people will be stepping in to help with the costs and basic business plans to help us farmer be successful. After all, nobody starts a business with the goal of failing. We fail because we do not have the right information and people to guide us to success. The more successful the farmers are, the more money they will make. The more knowledge and experience they gain, the more efficient they will operate. The bigger they grow, the more businesses the Ag loans people will have that will pay on time and borrow some more. The Ag loans people will easily hit their monthly quotas.

Like the plantation days. When a neighbor needs to change their roof. The whole neighborhood comes to help. This way of thinking needs to come back. One farmer needs help, everybody comes to help. Spread the Aloha.

I apologize for being long winded. However, this is extremely important for the survival of Hawaii. In this pandemic, we saw the panic for rice, toilet paper and basic items. Should Matson or Young Brothers go down like Aloha Airlines, we are in deep trouble. More and more agriculture lands are being turned in to cities Kapolei and Mililani. More and more agriculture is being seen as a third rate skill next to construction. After all, we make more money farming people than vegetables. Please take my suggestions seriously. As the original FFA Creed starts...I believe in the future of farming.

Final words of wisdom - Give a fish a man eats for a day, teach a man to fish, he eats for a lifetime. We must invest in agriculture, starting with elementary to college. If all the schools grow their vegetable that they serve at lunch. The students will learn the importance of farming. Most trouble kids hate studying, I was one of them. But using my hands in agriculture, I excelled. Not everything is on a written test. Some of us are better without it.

Thank you for your time,

Kevin Imamura

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 5:45:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Franco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 1248

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 1:30:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

As one who has worked with farmers throughout the islands over the past 30 years, I believe this bill will give HDOA the authority it needs to better assist small farmers who are struggling. It was strongly supported last year but the pandemic derailed its passage. Please pass it now.

Thank you.

SB-1248

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 4:30:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie A Whalen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

If the purpose is to promote small enterprises then they need to have consolidated facilities since these tend to be too expensive for a single entity. However, each project needs to have buyin by farmers before funds are spent on agricultural facilities. The past has often worked on build it and they will come and they didn't.

thanks you for this opportunity to provide testimony in Support of SB1248