



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

By  
Nicholas Comerford, Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 1248 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of the intent of SB 1248 relating to agricultural enterprises. Our first comment is to combine SB 1248 and SB 1025 which appear to be very similar. This testimony is comparable to that provided from HB 871.

Given the desire by the state government, state agencies, and University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to increase all aspects of agriculture for the benefit of the residents of Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) requires the ability and authority that is outlined in this bill. UHM/CTAHR currently works closely with HDOA. We have developed a document that outlines the different responsibilities of HDOA and UHM/CTAHR, as well as where they overlap and collaborate. This document addresses language in this bill and is a good foundation for meeting this legislations intent.

SB 1248 gives HDOA the ability and authority to accomplish its basic mission to “conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands.”

UHM/CTAHR understands, through experience, that HDOA is critical to the agricultural future of the state of Hawai'i. It is tasked with diverse responsibilities and focuses on those responsibilities with limited human and monetary resources. SB 1248 and its intent are fundamental to HDOA's mission.

Given the state's current economic difficulties, SB 1248 will also be a mechanism for implementing the needed changes and management objectives with which HDOA is tasked.

Therefore, UH and CTAHR strongly supports the intent of this bill, but is aware of the current financial climate of the State of Hawai'i and realizes that state funding is reduced. UH defers to HDOA on their priorities.

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 24, 2021  
10:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 1248  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

Chairperson Dela Cruz 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.



February 22, 2021

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

**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.)**

**Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 10:00 a.m., in Conference Room 211 & 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 incentives and programs such as that proposed by this bill critical to the conduct of their operations and to help sustain their businesses. These landowners and agricultural stakeholders believe SB 1248 will greatly assist with initiating such efforts 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.



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

February 24, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 1248**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

Conference Room 211  
10:00 AM

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 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.



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS  
Wednesday, February 24, 2021 — 10:00 a.m.

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

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

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: 2/22/2021 4:30:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Jones	Testifying for Hydroponics Alternatives LLC	Support	No

Comments:

**Testimony Supporting SB 1248 – Relating to Agricultural Enterprises via HDOA**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

As a Wai`anae farmer, I am submitting this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 1248, to:

- 1) establish a new Agricultural Enterprise Program within the Hawai`i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) along with a special fund, and
- 2) requires annual reports to the Legislature.

I recognize the major budget shortfalls due to this ongoing economic crisis. However, I strongly believe SB 1248 can support critically-needed agricultural infrastructure via the HDOA for post-harvest handling/packing, food safety certification, and perhaps also fruit-fly eradication to assist Hawai`i's growers. Facilities such as Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant and the Honalo Marshalling Yard on Hawai`i as well as the Kalaeloa Harvesting Facility on O`ahu all provide Hawai`i's farmers with the structural elements needed to successfully market/transport their produce.

In passing SB 1248, this proposed Agricultural Enterprise Program can complement the HDOA's other existing farmer programs on additional agricultural lands or those transferred from the Department of Land and Natural Resources relative to the installation and management of needed agricultural structures. Passage of SB 1248 will also enable the HDOA needed flexibility to both support and promote diversified agriculture and improve Hawai`i's food security.

For all of the above reasons, I respectfully ask that you please **support SB 1248 and pass this out of your Committee**. Mahalo for this opportunity to present testimony on this important legislation to help HDOA further diversify our agriculture.

NANCY JONES, Manager - Hydroponics Alternatives



Site: PO Box 1472, Wai`anae, HI 96792



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**SB1248**

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES.

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 10:00 am  
VIA Video Conference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

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



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

SB1248, Agricultural Enterprises  
Senate WAM Decision Making Hearing  
Wednesday, February 24, 2021 – 10:00am

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs  
Position: Support

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate WAM Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 42 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. I am a volunteer director, serving as Chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have been an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

SB1248 establishes the Agricultural Enterprise Program and authorizes the HDOA 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.



## EAST OAHU COUNTY FARM BUREAU

910 CALIFORNIA AVE., WAHIAWA, HI 96786

February 22, 2021

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

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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: 2/23/2021 9:13:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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.





Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, 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, that 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

**LATE**

**SB-1248**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 10:00:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support Sb 1248

**LATE**

**SB-1248**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 10:27:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isabel Thottam	Testifying for Happy Heart Kona LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

SB-1248

DATE: Wednesday, February 24, 2021

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

TIMESLOT: WAM

**IN SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Isabel Thottam and I am an owner of a plant-based, vegan bakery called Happy Heart Kona. 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, who 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.

I support this measure because as a local business owner and baker, I want to be able to source the majority of my ingredients locally. Although I do currently source locally, I find it hard to specifically get local fruit produce in bulk to be able to scale my offerings. Hawaii is home to so many amazing tropical fruits, such as pineapple, dragon fruit, jaboticaba, guava, Surinam



cherries, mango, etc., all of which could be grown to a larger scale to increase the use of these tropical, local fruits in our restaurants and other food businesses. I am personally committed to only using local fruits in my bakery, and I think more businesses would do this if more was available.

Moreover, I think Hawaii is missing a huge opportunity to grow more diverse fruits. I worked for an organic tree fruit orchard in Washington State for 5 years. I know that there is a lot of opportunities for other fruits to be grown in places such as Ocean View, where it would be possible to grow things like cherries, berries, peaches, etc., All it takes is someone being able to invest in doing so and more support from the government to help such farmers get started. If farmers could start growing diversified fruits or more fruit to scale, it would help people have more access to larger quantities of such fruits. I, as an individual citizen, would love to be able to go to the local grocery store and buy locally grown apples, strawberries blueberries, and such - wow, that would be amazing! Even easier would be just having the ability to buy more diverse fruits such as surinam cherries, jaboticaba, guava, and dragon fruit, all of which you can only find in small quantities when they are in season. And from a business perspective, if we could buy fruits and vegetables in bulk, and have access to other agriculture products such as ulu flour, that would give us so much more incentive to source locally.

Mahalo,

Isabel

**LATE**

**SB-1248**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:02:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie A Whalen	Testifying for HARC	Support	No

Comments:

Supporting agricultural enterprises is important to the future growth of the agricultural industry. There is a note of caution though that before building something for the industry there needs to be some commitment by individual producers that they will use the facility and provide payment for use if that is necessary to maintain the facility.

thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1248

**LATE**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
February 24, 2021 – 10:00 A.M. - Videoconference

**RE: SB 1248 - Relating to Agricultural Enterprises - In Support**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition **supports** 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. Establishes the agricultural enterprise program. Establishes the Agricultural Enterprise Special Fund. Requires the Board of Agriculture to annually report an accounting of non-agricultural park lessees to the Legislature.

Smaller scale farming operations, particularly those in diversified agriculture, often do not have ready access to processing, packing, storage and distribution facilities, and usually do not have the financial resources to construct these facilities.

The agricultural enterprise program would allow HDOA or a lessee to "plan, design, construct, operate, manage, maintain, repair, demolish, and remove facilities" on designated lands; would allow transfer of suitable land from DLNR to HDOA; and would provide funding and personnel to implement the program. Hawaii's agriculture industry needs assistance in becoming modernized. These types of operations are extremely costly and not within the budgets for new or expanding small and medium sized farms. Outside investment or partnerships could work for our farmers but current HDOA rules significantly limit these opportunities.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of SB 1248. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

John Garibaldi  
808-544-8319  
[igaribaldi@wik.com](mailto:igaribaldi@wik.com)



Hawai'i Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association  
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council  
Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation  
Hawai'i Farmers' Union United  
Hawai'i Food Industry Association  
Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association  
Kohala Center  
Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i  
Maui Farm to School Network (Maui F2SN)  
Ulupono Initiative  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources - University of Hawai'i at Manoa

**SB-1248**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:22:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zeb Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Testimony In Support of SB 1248 – Relating to Agricultural Enterprises via HDOA**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

I submit this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 1248, which establishes a new Agricultural Enterprise Program within the Hawai`i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), sets forth a special fund, and requires annual reports to the Legislature. We realize the tremendous budget shortfalls that exist during this ongoing economic crisis. However, we believe SB 1248 can support critically-needed agricultural infrastructure via the HDOA for post-harvest handling/packing, food safety certification, and perhaps also fruit-fly eradication to assist of Hawai`i's growers. Facilities such as Honalo Marshalling Yard and the Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant on Hawai`i as well as the Kalaeloa Harvesting Facility on O`ahu all provide Hawai`i's farmers with the structural elements necessary to transport and market their produce successfully.

With the passage of SB 1248, this proposed Agricultural Enterprise Program can complement the HDOA's other existing farmer programs on additional agricultural lands or those transferred from the Department of Land and Natural Resources relative to the installation and management of needed agricultural structures. Passing SB 1248 will also enable the HDOA the flexibility it needs to both support and promote diversified agriculture and increase Hawai`i's food security.

For all of the above reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support SB 1248 and pass this out of your Committee**. Mahalo for this opportunity to present testimony on this important legislation in the interest of increasing diversification of Hawai`i's agriculture.

Zeb Jones, PO Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792

**SB-1248**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:09:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**SB-1248**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 9:42:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We support bill SB 1248

**SB-1248**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 10:20:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2021 10:00:00 AM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kalani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill that will help us get more food production.

**LATE**

**SB-1248**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 12:10:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support



**SB-1248**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 9:42:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Working with local farmers growing all types of crops and raising livestock on farms and ranches of all sizes, I have experienced the need for the provisions in SB 1248. HDOA requires the statutory authority provided in this bill to accomplish its basic mission to protect agricultural lands and promote diversified agriculture.

Each of us wants Hawaii to become more self-sufficient and to produce more food. This bill will help accomplish that goal, without impacting fiscal resources during this difficult time. Thank you for your support of SB 1248 and local agriculture.