

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**MARCH 19, 2021
10:00 A.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1297 SD1
RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO
ASSIST MAUIGROWN COFFEE, INC.**

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1297 SD1. This bill extends the authorization to issue special purpose revenue bonds to assist MauiGrown Coffee, Inc., with the operation and expansion of its farm and mill. The Department supports this bill.

The department recognizes MauiGrown Inc. as a successful coffee operation, producing quality Maui-grown coffee for consumers. With the threat of the Coffee Berry Borer and recently Coffee Leaf Rust plaguing the coffee industry, this bill will also help MauiGrown to incorporate best management practices to help protect their valuable crop.

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





MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 325
FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.**

To The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair;
The Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

**SUPPORT SB1297 RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE
REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST MAUIGROWN COFFEE, INC.**

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap. I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, in the county most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of our dependence on the visitor industry and corresponding rate of unemployment. I am writing share our support of SB1297.

Agriculture and the manufacturing of value-added products are assets to economic diversification and we work to assist them through our Made in Maui trade council and Made in Maui County Festival.

We support this bill to help continue the building and growth of the coffee industry in Maui County.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony and ask that you please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap

Pamela Tumpap
President

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



Testimony for SB-1297 HD-1, House Agriculture Committee 10:00 am 3/19/2021

Aloha, Chair Hashem and Vice-Chair Perruso and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee

My name is Kimo Falconer, President of MauiGrown Coffee, Inc. We are a 400-acre coffee farm located at Ka'anapali at West Maui. In 2017, we were successful in passing HB1230 as Act 116, in an effort to secure Special Purpose Revenue Bond (SPRB) funding for an expansion of our coffee operation. As Act 116 (2017) currently expires in June of 2022, SB-1297 (2021) is intended to extend Act 116.

At the time, Act 116 was the only SPRB funding vehicle designated for Agriculture to make it through and signed by Governor Ige. To that end, Act 116 is the only Agricultural SPRB awaiting review through the Finance Administration Division (FAD) so that we may be appointed a Bond counsel and then move further to the banking institutions.

It is a rather slow process that includes securing numerous commitments and agreements, that eventually get summarized in a working business plan to move forward. By the time we were ready to approach FAD with the next step proposal, the State was turned on its' head with COVID. Now all of those commitments need to be revised as each and every vendor entity that is providing bids is reevaluating their own business structure. We remain in a holding pattern at least until our potential vendors become comfortable enough to give us solid commitments.

Therefore, I humbly ask for your support in allowing us the necessary extension to this SPRB bill by approving SB-1297 and give us the extension to the year 2027.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



SB-1297-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:33:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Keawe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose sb1297 sd1