

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

MARCH 2, 2021
9:25 P.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 1349
RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS BENEFITTING AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill 1349. This bill appropriates funds for capital improvement projects of the Department of Agriculture. The Department supports this bill provided it does not impact priorities in the executive budget.

We respectfully request that projects submitted in the executive budget request be included in this bill. Priority projects include Agricultural Infrastructure Improvements on Oahu, Airport Animal Quarantine Improvements, Lower Hamakua Ditch Improvements, and Agricultural Infrastructure Improvements, Statewide. These projects and the other projects included in the executive budget request will provide much needed repairs and upgrades to agricultural infrastructure and department facilities. These improvements will facilitate an increase in local food production and provide a safe and efficient work environment for our employees.”

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





Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 — 9:25 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 1349, Relating to Capital Improvement Projects Benefiting Agriculture.

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 1349, which appropriates funds for capital improvement projects for agriculture.

Ulupono supports identifying critical agriculture infrastructure needs across the State and finding ways to fund such projects. One of the top issues affecting the overall success of local agriculture is a lack of state of the art, modern infrastructure. Old, dilapidated facilities seemingly plague our state's agricultural land, as operators are forced to make due with band aid, temporary solutions that continue to set local producers back when facing import competition.

With much needed funding invested into Hawai'i's agricultural infrastructure, local farmers and ranchers will be able to increase their chances of success to contribute meaningfully to our community's food security and well-being, while also directly meeting the bold State food production goals.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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March 2, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 1349
RELATING TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS BENEFITING
AGRICULTURE

Room 211
9:25 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau **strongly supports SB 1349**, which appropriates funds for capital improvement projects for agriculture.

The success of the agriculture industry is dependent on the resources provided to the Department of Agriculture. The department is an important resource for farmers and ranchers statewide. Funding to the department for capital improvement projects assists farmers like members of the Hawaii Ulu Co-operative that utilize the DOA Hanolo Processing and Marshaling Facility to produce value-added items for local consumption across the state.

HFB respectfully requests your strong support of this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

SB-1349

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 6:13:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bronson Azama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As the former President of the Hawai'i Future Farmers of America Hawai'i Association, I would like to testify in support of this measure. This could provide huge benefits to our farmers who are actively trying to seek appropriations to expand their capacity. There has been a sizable uptick in demand for local produce, especially via our food hubs. This bill could provide a huge benefit to our farmers to build capital and increase production. More revenue can also allude to more jobs which can help support our efforts in Agriculture education to make awareness of farming as an affordable way of life here in Hawai'i.