

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

March 23, 2021
10:15 A.M.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**SENATE BILL NO. 496 S.D. 2, H.D. 1
RELATING AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Quinlan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 496 S.D. 2, H.D. 1. The purpose of this measure is to instruct the Department of Agriculture to identify the top 10 fruit and vegetable imports to the state that may be commercially grown by farmers in Hawaii, recommend ways to increase their production, and incorporate the findings into Act 151 (2019) for submission to the regular legislative session in 2023.

The Department appreciates the intent of this measure so long as it does not impact our Executive budget and offers comments.

The Department is assuming that this request for import information is sourced directly from the U.S. Mainland and elsewhere from foreign countries. Additionally, we assume the quantitative measure is designated in shipping weight.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



SB-496-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 9:47:58 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/23/2021 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Loke	Hawaii Department of Agriculture	Comments	No

Comments:

I am available for questions.

SB-496-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 2:59:37 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/23/2021 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Sean Quintana, Chair, the Honorable David Holt, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development

From: Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **SB496 SD2 HD1-RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 10:15 a.m., by videoconference

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and members of the House Committee on Economic Development:

The Climate Protectors Hawaii is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis. The Climate Protectors Hawaii **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB496 SD2 HD1!**

As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, food insecurity, loss of protective coral reefs, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

The purpose and intent of this measure is to reduce the State's reliance on imported produce. More specifically, this measure requires the Department of Agriculture to identify the top ten imported fruits and vegetables that may be commercially grown in the State; and

Facilitating more local food production, as this bill would do, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions released in transporting food to Hawaii, reduce our food insecurity, and help local farmers.

Please pass this bill! Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Tuesday, March 23, 2021 — 10:15 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of SB 496 SD 2 HD1, Relating to Agriculture.

Dear Chair Quinlan 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 the intent of SB 496 SD 2 HD1, which requires the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor, to identify the top ten fruit and vegetable imports to the State that may be commercially grown by farmers in Hawai'i and recommend ways to increase their production.

Ulupono supports import replacement efforts to increase local food production for local consumption, which helps bolster our state's food security. While we support the idea of expanding Act 151, SLH 2019, to include information on import replacement, we believe that more substantive support should be provided outside of a strategic plan that the Department has already begun disseminating through stakeholder outreach and engagement. Previous drafts have looked to incentivize growing the state's most imported crops by providing a tax credit to local producers. By providing this direct support, farmers will be more likely to produce those fruits and vegetables.

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 23, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 496, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 312
10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice-Chair Holt, 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 496, SD2, HD1, which requires the department of agriculture, in cooperation with the office of the governor, to identify the top ten fruit and vegetable imports to the State that may be commercially grown by farmers in Hawaii and recommend ways to increase their production.

About 85-90% of Hawaii's food is imported which makes it particularly vulnerable to disruptions in shipping and the food supply. The "Economic Impacts of Increasing Hawaii's Food Self-Sufficiency".report by Dr, Mathew Loke of HDOA and Dr. PingSung Leong of CTAHR estimates that replacing just 10% of the food we currently import would amount to approximately \$313 million. Assuming a 30% farm share, \$94 million would be realized at the farm-gate which would generate an economy-wide impact of an additional \$188 million in sales, \$47 million in earnings, \$6 million in state tax revenues, and more than 2,300 jobs.

Food import replacement can also have a significant impact on Hawaii's economy by decreasing the risk of introducing harmful invasive pests. These pests could have devastating effects on the island's agricultural economy and its fragile ecosystems. Invasive species such as coqui frogs, red fire ants, CBB, two-line spittlebug, coffee leaf rust, macadamia nut feltid coccid, and varroa mites have severe consequences beyond agriculture and require millions in public dollars to fund eradication or containment programs.

We support efforts to replace agricultural imports with Hawaii-grown products to provide our communities with the fresh fruits and vegetables they want while helping the State's farmers be more successful.

The proposed task force will provide necessary information to help farmers decide what produce they can grow to replace that being brought into Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure of great importance.



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Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:
Committee on Economic Development
Rep. Sean Quinlan, Chair
Rep. Daniel Holt, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 23, 2021
TIME: 10:15am
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: SB496 SD2 HD1 Relating to Agriculture

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Our local agriculture sector has tremendous potential for growth. Increasing local food production has been a goal for a wide range of stakeholders for a long time but making significant progress has proved challenging. Researching and identifying which products can be successfully produced locally will help focus efforts to increase local food production.

We believe that providing tax credits is a powerful way to incentivize local growers to prioritize these products and we encourage the committee to consider restoring language to that effect in the measure. This system will maximize these products' potential to be successfully produced in quantities that can minimize or eliminate the need to import them.

We urge you to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-496-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 1:03:37 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/23/2021 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurel brier	Kauai climate action coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Supporting Hawaii farmers helps our economy and our environment. Why are we importing citrus, avocados and bananas and so many other things when we can grow here? IMUA