

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 JUDICIARY AND WAYS AND MEANS

**TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022
10:05 A.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

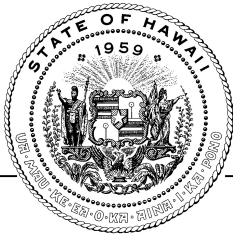
**HOUSE BILL NO. 1712, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Chairpersons Rhoads and Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1712, HD 1 that prohibits "waste disposal facilities" on "A" and "B" rated land in the Agricultural District and prohibits the creation of "waste disposal sites" on Important Agricultural Land. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure that seeks to protect agricultural lands with the highest productivity potential from land uses that are inconsistent with agricultural production.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony on this measure.





**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**
Tuesday, April 5, 2022
10:05 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

in consideration of
HB 1712 HD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Keith-Agaran,
and Members of Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) has **comments** on HB 1712 HD1, which would amend Section 205-4.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and Section 205-43 Important Agricultural Lands to prohibit the creation of waste disposal sites on important agricultural lands.

OPSD is primarily concerned with the prohibition of uses in IAL. IAL is essentially an overlay district to identify and plan for the maintenance of a strategic agricultural land resource base. IAL designation does not allow or prohibit specific uses, as provided in HRS Sections 205-2 and 205-4.5, thus uses cannot be prohibited in the IAL law. OPSD recommends that the bill be amended to delete Section 2 amending HRS 205-43 IAL provisions. If waste disposal facilities are prohibited in the Agricultural District, as proposed on page 3, lines 1-2 of the measure, they will automatically be prohibited on any Agricultural District lands designated as IAL.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

1000 ULUOHIA STREET, SUITE 308, KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3486 • FAX: (808) 768-3487 • WEBSITE: <http://envhonolulu.org>



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

ROGER BABCOCK, JR., Ph.D., P.E.
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL O'KEEFE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:
DIR 22-37

April 1, 2022

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Dela Cruz, and Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Keith-Agaran:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1712 HD1, Relating to Agricultural Lands

The City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services ("ENV") opposes HB 1712 HD1 because it will further reduce potential locations to site a new landfill on Oahu.

In case you are not aware, in November 2019 the Hawaii State Land Use Commission issued a Decision and Order that, among other things, requires the City and County of Honolulu ("City") to identify an alternative landfill site that is not the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill ("WGSL") by no later than December 31, 2022, and to close the WGSL by no later than March 2, 2028.

Then, in 2020, Governor Ige signed Act 73 (SB2386, SD2, HD2) into law. Act 73 added the following requirement to Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 342-52.

(b) No person, including the State or any county, shall construct, modify, or expand a waste or disposal facility including a municipal solid waste landfill unit, any component of a municipal solid waste landfill unit, a construction and demolition landfill unit, or any component of a construction and demolition landfill unit **without first establishing a buffer zone of no less than one-half mile around the waste or disposal facility.** This subsection shall not apply to the continued operation of an existing waste or disposal facility that is properly permitted; provided that continued operation does not require physical expansion, vertical or horizontal, of the facility requiring additional permitting review and a permit modification.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means
April 1, 2022
Page 2

Act 73 defines a “buffer zone” as, “the distance between the edge of waste or waste activity and the nearest residential, school, or hospital property line.” Additionally, Act 73 prohibits siting a landfill in a conservation district.

The City is required to have an active solid waste landfill that is capable of receiving ash and residue from its waste-to-energy facility, H-POWER. An active landfill is also needed to accept non-combustible and other material that is unable to be processed at H-POWER, as well as wastes diverted from H-POWER during required annual maintenance shut-downs. Additionally, the City needs a landfill in order to receive and/or store debris that could be generated in a natural disaster. The land area required for the new landfill site is estimated to be approximately 80 acres. This does not include the required landfill buffer zone, which could add approximately 400 hundred acres to the landfill site, depending on the location.

The City is under a deadline to identify a site for its new landfill before the end of 2022. Act 73 already prohibits the use of several sites that would otherwise be well-suited to accommodate a landfill. HB 1712 HD1 would further reduce remaining available sites, possibly requiring the City to site its next landfill in a less desirable location.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 768-3486.

Sincerely,

Roger Babcock, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.
Director

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Testimony of Michael A. Dahilig
Managing Director, County of Kaua'i

Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
April 5, 2022 at 10:05 AM
Room 211 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of
House Bill 1712 HD1
Relating to the Agricultural Lands

Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice-Chairs Keohokalole and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

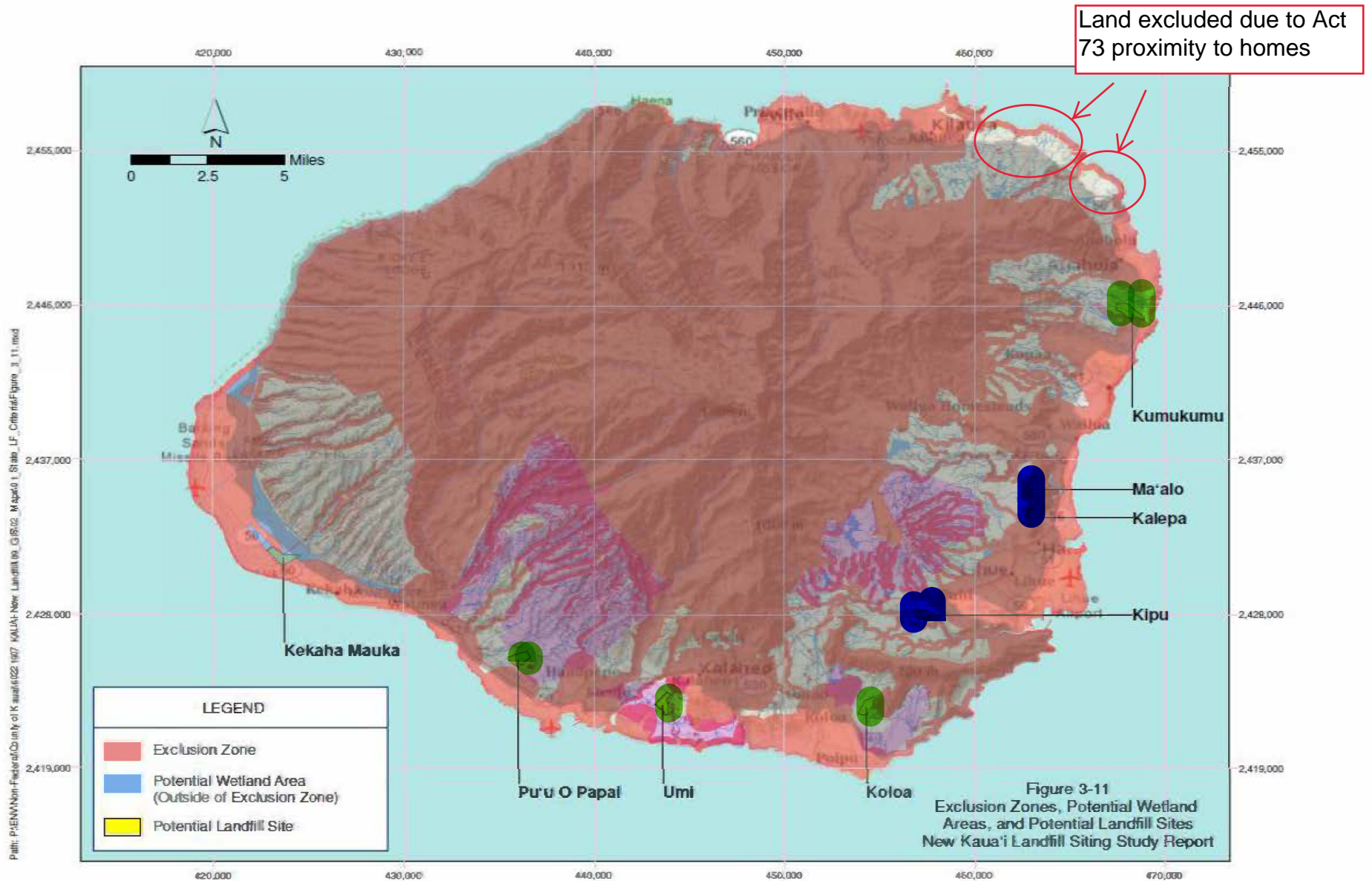
The County of Kaua'i offers comments on House Bill 1712 HD1 which prohibits the siting of waste disposal facilities on important agricultural lands and agricultural lands with class A and B productivity ratings.

Although we appreciate the intent of protecting agricultural land for agricultural purposes, we ask that you consider the ramifications for our island which is limited in geographic size and challenged with its topographic features. The County of Kaua'i is facing a waste disposal crisis. Our current landfill has less than five years of capacity and our ability to site a landfill is additionally limited with restrictions on constructing a facility in a conservation or tsunami zone, near homes, hospitals, schools, and airports. When factoring in areas that cannot be built on due to terrain or water features, excluding important agricultural lands in essence bans the construction of a landfill on Kaua'i.

Attached is an overlay of our 2012 landfill siting study which includes the currently restricted zones, sites that were restricted due to proximity to airports, sites that were impacted by Act 73, as well as lands designated Important Agricultural Lands. This map illustrates the limit on sites from the 2012 study that are available to the County.

With these considerations, we respectfully request your committees amend House Bill 1712 HD1 to exclude counties with populations less than 100,000.

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



● 2012 Landfill sites excluded due to airport proximity.

● Lands designated Important Agriculture

● 2012 Landfill sites excluded due to Act 73

● Land inside the UIC boundary line.



April 4, 2022

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

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

Testimony in Support of HB 1712, HD1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS. Prohibits siting of waste disposal facilities on important agricultural lands [IAL] and agricultural lands with class A and B productivity ratings. Effective 7/1/2050. [HD1])

**Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 10:05 a.m.
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. LURF's mission 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 express its **strong support of HB 1712, HD1.**

HB 1712, HD1. This bill prohibits the siting of waste disposal facilities on IAL and agricultural lands with class A and B productivity ratings.

LURF's Position. LURF members include property owners, farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider efforts to protect and support agriculture significant to the continued conduct of their operations and to help sustain and preserve farming and ranching businesses into the future.

LURF and the Hawaii Farm Bureau were the principal proponents of the IAL law, which was intended to support the viability of agricultural uses on good agricultural lands as a long-term way to ensure that lands remain in agricultural use.

LURF supports this measure because it will assure that the primary use of IAL and the most productive agricultural lands will be reserved for agricultural purposes.

For the reasons stated above, LURF **supports HB 1712, HD1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

HB1712 HD1

Relating to the Agricultural Lands

Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 10:05 AM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB1712 HD1** to prohibit siting of waste disposal facilities on important agricultural lands and agricultural lands with class A and B productivity ratings.

There are many competing uses for the limited resource of land. However, the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports prioritizing agriculture so that the community can grow towards a more food secure future. We realize that landfills are necessary, but have concerns that agricultural lands that are considered for these sites. We support this bill that will keep agricultural lands for the use of agricultural production.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





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

April 5, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1712, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:05 AM

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice-Chairs Keohokalole and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1712, HD1, which prohibits siting of waste disposal facilities on important agricultural lands and lands with class A and B productivity ratings.

Land is one of the greatest resources in Hawai'i. HFB believes that policies must be developed and implemented which would ensure long-term viable agricultural use of this resource is used for the general welfare of the people of Hawai'i and reserved for the benefit of future generations. Act 183 (SLH 2005) and Act 233 (SLH) provide policies and mechanisms to identify and protect Important Agricultural Lands as required by the State Constitution, Article XI, Section 3.

As our population increases the farming community continues to see an increase in competing uses for agriculturally zoned lands, such as housing, solar, and now waste disposal sites.

We recognize that in the land category system used today, agriculture was originally the catchall land classification and that some lands included within the agricultural district were not necessarily considered optimal for agriculture.

However, agriculture has significantly evolved. Soil classification is no longer the only determinant of land good for agriculture. Greenhouses, hydroponics, aquaculture, and aquaponics are just a few of the many types of agriculture that can occur on *all* classes of land (A, B, C, D, E). Some of the best floriculture and hydroponic operations in Hawai'i are on C, D, and E lands. The total environment, including rainfall amount and timing, day and night-time temperatures, wind, and humidity each contribute to whether a particular region is suitable for a specific crop. In many cases, the soil type and even the existing terrain are not determinative of whether farming can exist and thrive.

HFB recognizes the need for future landfill locations, however, we have serious concerns about future waste or disposal facilities being sited on agriculturally zoned land, especially land with soil classified by the land study bureau's detailed land classification as overall (master) productivity rating class A and B and lands designated as Important Ag Lands (IAL).

HFB believes that the primary use of agriculturally zoned lands is production agriculture. We should direct nonagricultural uses and activities from agricultural lands to other areas and ensure that uses on agricultural lands are actual agricultural uses. The coronavirus pandemic has underlined the importance of agriculture in our isolated and vulnerable state. We must protect agricultural lands and avoid simplistic solutions to Hawai'i's waste disposal problems.

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



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND WAYS & MEANS
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 — 10:05 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 1712 HD 1, Relating to Agricultural Lands.

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, 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 the 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 HB 1712 HD 1, which prohibits the siting of waste disposal facilities on important agricultural lands (IAL) and lands with class A and B productivity ratings.

Ulupono supports our local producers across the State and believes that maintaining Hawai'i's most productive lands in agriculture will help local communities meet our sustainability and resiliency commitments for generations to come. We understand that competing interests seek similar lands across the State. Lands that, amongst other things, have healthy soils, little to no slope, access to water, utilities and infrastructure, and a favorable location provide an incentive to many that seek land intensive operations, including those in the energy and waste sectors.

Agricultural Lands classified as "A" are considered the most productive in the State. They constitute about 3 percent or about 56,000 acres of the nearly 1.93 million acres of agricultural zoned land in Hawai'i. Class "B" agricultural lands, also highly productive, constitute an about 6 percent or about 112,609 acres of the nearly 1.93 million acres of agriculturally zoned land in Hawai'i. If we are serious about supporting local farmers and ranchers while meeting our food security goals, this small percentage of extremely viable agricultural land should remain in productive agriculture.

The State's IAL lands prioritize agriculture by maintaining agriculturally zoned lands in production in perpetuity. The IAL designation remains a direct commitment to agricultural production and its role for Hawai'i's resilient future. Allowing this designation to reopen for additional uses can threaten currently identified IAL lands and future production as we look to increase our local ag footprint here in Hawai'i. We should be encouraging future generations with dedicated agricultural lands and resources that are best suited for success. This bill seeks to maintain that hope.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

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

HB1712hd1, Relating to Agricultural Lands
Sen JDC/WAM Decision Making Hearing
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 – 10:05am
CR211

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate JDC/WAM Committees:

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. Our family farms grow about 1 million pounds weekly of import replacement produce. 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.

We strongly believe land that can be farmed must be protected for agricultural production. Such land must not be taken away for non-agricultural use.

We understand that future landfill locations and other competing needs for land use are many. It makes sense to site non-agricultural purposes on non-agricultural designated lands.

Once the farmland is lost, it is gone forever. That impacts the lifestyle of everyone on the island, both residents and visitors.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of HB1712 HD1
Relating to Agricultural Lands

Senate Committee on Judiciary & Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Time: 10:05am

Place: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Keith-Agaran, and members of the committees:

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of HB1712 HD1, which prohibits siting of waste disposal facilities on important agricultural lands and agricultural lands with class A and B productivity ratings.

Siting landfills on agricultural lands presents safety and compliance problems for farm owners and the public. Farmers must comply with food and safety regulations to ensure they produce and sell quality crops. It is a complex regulatory compliance program that has created added expenses for local farmers. Having a landfill on or near farmland jeopardizes crop safety because it may contaminate with dust, soil runoff, or poor water quality. Farm owners are then forced to pull back and reduce productive farm acres, move operations elsewhere, or, worst of all, close down all operations. Agriculture is an important part of Hawaii's economy and sustainability strategy. For these reasons, we support this measure to prohibit waste disposal on important agricultural lands and lands with class A and B productivity ratings.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB1712 HD1. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Pono Chong
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.

LATE

HB-1712-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 10:58:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/5/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick M. Mencher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 5, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1712, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:05 AM

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice-Chairs Keohokalole and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

I support HB 1712, HD1, which prohibits siting of waste disposal facilities on important agricultural lands and lands with class A and B productivity ratings.

Land is one of the greatest resources in Hawai'i. I believe that policies must be developed and implemented which would ensure long-term viable agricultural use of this resource is used for the general welfare of the people of Hawai'i and reserved for the benefit of future generations. Act 183 (SLH 2005) and Act 233 (SLH) provide policies and mechanisms to identify and protect Important Agricultural Lands as required by the State Constitution, Article XI, Section 3.

As our population increases the farming community continues to see an increase in competing uses for agriculturally zoned lands, such as housing, solar, and now waste disposal sites.

We recognize that in the land category system used today, agriculture was originally the catchall land classification and that some lands included within the agricultural district were not necessarily considered optimal for agriculture.

However, agriculture has significantly evolved. Soil classification is no longer the only determinant of land good for agriculture. Greenhouses, hydroponics, aquaculture, and aquaponics are just a few of the many types of agriculture that can occur on all classes of land

(A, B, C, D, E). Some of the best floriculture and hydroponic operations in Hawai‘i are on C, D, and E lands. The total environment, including rainfall amount and timing, day and night-time temperatures, wind, and humidity each contribute to whether a particular region is suitable for a specific crop. In many cases, the soil type and even the existing terrain are not determinative of whether farming can exist and thrive.

I recognize the need for future landfill locations, however, we have serious concerns about future waste or disposal facilities being sited on agriculturally zoned land, especially land with soil classified by the land study bureau's detailed land classification as overall (master) productivity rating class A and B and lands designated as Important Ag Lands (IAL).

I believe that the primary use of agriculturally zoned lands is production agriculture. We should direct nonagricultural uses and activities from agricultural lands to other areas and ensure that uses on agricultural lands are actual agricultural uses. The coronavirus pandemic has underlined the importance of agriculture in our isolated and vulnerable state. We must protect agricultural lands and avoid simplistic solutions to Hawai‘i's waste disposal problems.

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

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher

LATE

HB-1712-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 11:07:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/5/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support



LATE

Testimony from Scott Dahlman, Senior Director Government Affairs, CropLife America

In support of HB 1712 – Relating to Agricultural Lands

Wednesday, April 5, 10:05 am, Via Zoom

Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz and members of the committee,

CropLife America (CLA) is the national association representing manufacturers, formulators, and distributors of pesticides products used in agriculture production. We support and promote scientific-based policy in the regulation of pesticide products at both the state and federal level. We are in strong support of HB 1712.

This bill would further ensure that Hawaii achieves its food security and sustainability goals by protecting important agricultural lands. We spend more than \$3 billion a year importing 80 percent of our food. So siting landfills on agricultural lands with A and B soil rating is counter-productive to our collective efforts to support farmers and those farmlands. Agricultural lands have already been rezoned for housing. We need to protect what is left.

Mahalo for your consideration.



**Biotechnology
Innovation
Organization**

LATE

Testimony from Gene Harrington, Senior Director Government Affairs, BIO

In support of HB 1712 – Relating to Agricultural Lands

Wednesday, April 5, 10:05 am, Via Zoom

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ways and Means

Aloha Chairs Rhoad and Dela Cruz and members of the committee,

BIO is the world's largest trade association representing biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations across the United States and in more than 30 other nations. Our key areas of focus are health biotechnology, industrial and environmental biotechnology, and food and agriculture biotechnology. We are in strong support of HB 1712.

This bill would further ensure that Hawaii achieves its food security and sustainability goals by protecting important agricultural lands. We spend more than \$3 billion a year importing 80 percent of our food. So siting landfills on agricultural lands with A and B soil rating is counter-productive to our collective efforts to support farmers and those farmlands. Agricultural lands have already been rezoned for housing. We need to protect what is left.

Mahalo for your consideration.