



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021 AT 1:00 P.M.**

To The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair;
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

**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
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, Senate AEN Committee 1:00 pm 2/17/2021

Aloha, Chair Gabbard and Vice-Chair Nishihara and members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment 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

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 1:28:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Manfredi	Testifying for Hawaii Coffee Association	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this measure in support of Maui Grown Coffee Inc.

Mahalo!