

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
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 COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

MARCH 4, 2021
10:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

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

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1297. 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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 211
THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.**

To 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,

**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, Senate Ways and Means Committee 10:00 am 3/4/2021

Aloha, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Ways and Means 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.



LATE

SB-1297

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 12:47:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaikea K. Blakemore	Testifying for Neighborhood Place of Puna	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not raid special funds. We ask that Hawai'i instead adopt a progressive tax system in lieu of stripping funding from potentially important public service organizations and programs. During covid, our communities need social services and resources more than ever. Do not punish our most vulnerable communities with financial instability when Hawai'i is home to some of the richest land and business owners who pay the least in taxes. Mahalo.

Kaikea K. Blakemore

Neighborhood Place of Puna

Community Development Specialist