

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 COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

FEBRAURY 23, 2022

10:05 A.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**SENATE BILL NO. 2675
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2675. The bill requires the Department to establish a three-year cover crop reimbursement pilot program to reimburse farming operations in the State for the costs of acquiring cover crop seeds, green manure or compost.

The Department supports the intent of the bill emphasizing the advantages cover crop systems may have to increase soil health and agricultural productivity in the State. The Department also has concerns that there may be unwanted disadvantages of using cover crops, such as potential increase in the presence of insect pests or plant diseases that may adversely impact crops following cover crops if the cover crop species list is not thoroughly evaluated. The Department offers assistance to collaborate with UH CTAHR researchers and Cooperative Extension Specialists to update cover crop research. Susceptibility tests of grass cover crops for spittle bugs is highly recommended. Some cover crops may also exhibit allelopathic interactions with other



crops, releasing biochemicals with potentially harmful effects to successive crops. Poorly or incompletely managed cover crops can behave like noxious weeds, if left unchecked. In addition, most cover crops commonly recommended and used in the State are not native to Hawaii and some may be susceptible to the new invasive pasture pest, the Two Lined Spittle Bug.

The Department would need additional resources to successfully administer a cover crop reimbursement program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2675

**February 23, 2022
10:05 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2675 requires the Department of Agriculture to: establish and implement a three-year cover crop reimbursement pilot program to reimburse farming operations for the costs of cover cropping; establish the 1.00 exempt temporary pilot program manager position that may receive a salary not to exceed \$50,000 annually; and submit interim reports to the Legislature. This bill also appropriates an undetermined amount of general funds in FY 23 to effectuate the program, provided that up to \$20,000 may be used for the program's administrative costs.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:28:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Megan Fox	Testifying for Malama Kaua'i	Support	No

Comments:

Cover crop reimbursement is an excellent strategy to enrich our constantly depleted soils. Highly support this help for our farmers.



To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 10:05 am

In strong support of SB2675

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee members of Ways and Means,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of SB2675**.

This bill will support farmer adoption of conservation agriculture practices. Cover crops are an essential step in regenerative agriculture which is the most promising avenue to sequestering carbon and addressing the climate crisis. Cover crops reduce the need for fossil fuel-based soil amendments, and preserves water and prevents run offs which protects the reefs. Cover crops are one of the most common, accessible agricultural strategies for improving soil health. Healthy soils make healthier food. Every farmer who learns about and adopts cover crops helps mitigate the climate crisis.

Please support this important bill towards healthy soils, healthy food systems, and carbon sequestration. We will all benefit!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:20:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Scott Crawford	Testifying for Kipahulu Ohana, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Cover crops are very important for soil health and regeneration and deserve more support as part of our agricultural industry in Hawaii. This bill is a very good step and deserving of your support.

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

SB2675, Sustainable Agriculture
Senate WAM Decision Making Hearing
Wednesday, February 23, 2022
10:05am

Testimony by: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Sen WAM Committee:

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.

As a soil conservation participant and from my own farming experience, I know that cover crop planting is an important and effective method of increasing crop production. Cover crops replenish soil nutrients, prevent erosion and nonpoint source pollution. Establishing the proposed pilot cover crop reimbursement program will increase the number of farmers who can afford to buy cover crop seeds. This fits in well with overall farm production best practices.

Your support of this program is appreciated and needed. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.



Officers

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State President
HFUU

Anabella Bruch
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Bobby Pahia
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Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Mau

Brynn Foster
North Shore, Oahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, Oahu

Vincent Kimura
Waimanalo, Oahu

Anabella Bruch
Kauai

Aloha Chair DelaCruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU strongly supports SB2675 to incentivize cover crop adoption.**

Unlike SB2990 which would provide cover crop seed cost share. **SB2675 establishes a cover crop program that reimburses by acreage**, following the mechanism employed by the USDA NRCS and multiple other states. Furthermore, SB2675 directs the HDOA to allocate funding reflecting the distribution of farm sizes across the state in a manner that will aid farm equity in access to state subsidies.

HFUU supports this program as means to support small and family farmers as well as any producer seeking to support their soil health.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vincent Mina President HFUU/HFUF



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
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February 23, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2675
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Room 211 & Videoconference
10:05 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

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 SB 2675, which establishes a three-year cover crop reimbursement pilot program to provide reimbursement to farming operations in the State for costs related to cover cropping and establishes a cover crop reimbursement pilot program manager position within the department of agriculture to administer the program.

HFB agrees that the use of cover crops increases agricultural productivity and is a beneficial management practice. We strongly support the concept of building soil structure and nutrient capacity. Caring for the soil is a cornerstone to having multigenerational farms that continue to provide for the people of Hawai'i.

Farming is a tough business. High production costs are a major driver of narrow profit margins for Hawai'i's farmers. Land, water, labor, taxes, transportation, utilities, inputs, invasive species, and food safety regulations are all costs of doing business that often results in our farmers just being able to break even. HFB supports this initiative that could reduce the cost of production for local farmers by incentivizing cover cropping. This is another mechanism that can help locally produced goods compete with imported products, strengthening our local economy.

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

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:25:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nancy & Zeb Jones	Testifying for Hydroponics Alternatives LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Honorable Senate Ways & Means Committee Members:

We submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2675, which relates to creating a three-year pilot program to reimburse farmers in Hawai`i for costs associated with installing cover crops on their respective farms. As longtime farmers, we know that cover crops can not only effectively increase crop production, but also prevent soil erosion and nonpoint source pollution and replenish soil nutrients. This program would also establish a manager position within the Department of Agriculture to administer the program. While only established for a 3-year period, if successfully adopted on a more widespread basis by Hawai`i farmers, we would like to see this program adopted on a permanent basis.

For all of the above reasons, we urge your honorable committee to please pass SB2675 out of your committee. Mahalo again for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting SB2675.

Warm aloha,

Nancy & Zeb Jones

Hydroponics Alternatives LLC



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

SB2675
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 10:05 AM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five 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 SB2675** to establish a three-year cover crop reimbursement pilot program to provide reimbursement to farming operations in the State for costs related to cover cropping.

Agricultural lands have the ability to benefit the environment while feeding the community. Hawaii's ranchers are always looking for ways to ensure that the health of the land is prioritized, as stewarding the land is paramount in ensuring their operations can remain productive for future generations. Any assistance to help with increasing soil quality, sequestering carbon, and preventing erosion is welcome. As Hawaii Island ranchers combat the Twolined Spittlebug and Maui Nui ranchers contend with invasive deer, cover crops will continue to be an important tool to cover any bare soil caused by these invasive species.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:59:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

SB2675

The Senate Ways and Means Committee,

The Green Party of Hawai'i asks you to support SB2675 relating to a 3 year cover crop reimbursement pilot program. The passage of SB2675 supports our farmers and future generations. Please support SB2675.

Mahalo,

Green Party of Hawai'i

Co-Chair GPH Susan Roberts Emery



Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB2675

Wednesday, February 23rd, 2022 10:05 a.m. Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports SB2675, relating to sustainable agriculture, which would establish a three-year cover crop reimbursement pilot program to provide reimbursement to farming operations in the State for costs related to cover cropping. It would also create a program manager position to administer the program.

HAPA believes that SB2675 is part of the solution to establishing a sustainable, profitable and regenerative agriculture system for Hawai'i while improving our land management practices for the better.

SB2675 will help encourage the use of cover crops which create closed loop systems and eliminate the cost of synthetic inputs while recycling, and even fixing, nutrients within the soil. Good healthy soil is one of the important factors to increase local food production and support regenerative farming practices.

Cover crops improve water quality, soil health, and build resiliency in the face of climate change. They are one of the most common, accessible agricultural strategies for improving soil health and water retention and preventing nitrogen pollution in water and erosion—to the benefit of both the environment and the farmer ^[1].

Covered crops are considered a Best Management Practice (BMP) widely used in agriculture for nutrient loss reduction and soil conservation ^[2].

Cover crops are crucial to the nutrient cycle and the development of fertile soil and because of this trait are sometimes referred to as "green manure." This is because cover crops are used to manage a range of soil macronutrients and micronutrients ^[3]. Of the various nutrients, the impact that cover crops have on nitrogen management has received the most attention from researchers and farmers, because nitrogen is often the most limiting nutrient in crop production ^[4].

In the same way that allelopathic properties of cover crops can suppress weeds, they can also break disease cycles and reduce populations of bacterial and fungal diseases and parasitic nematodes. For example, species such as mustards, have been shown to suppress fungal disease through the release of naturally occurring toxic chemicals. Similarly, some cover crops are used as so-called "trap crops", to attract pests away from the crop of value and intentionally toward the cover crop.

The many benefits of cover crops include that they:

- Grow our agriculture sector through cover crop seed production;
- Support sustainable farming practices and healthy soil;
- Remediate depleted soil from industrial farming systems;
- Build organic matter (soil quality) and improve soil fertility (nutrients);
- Reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers and save farmers money in inputs;
- Support native species and biodiversity;
- Increase water infiltration and water retention;
- Suppress weeds resulting in less herbicide use;
- Provide disease and pest management;
- Reduce wind and water erosion and conserves top soil; and
- Prevent runoff from impacting sensitive environments, water sources, nearshore reefs and fisheries.

Similar cover crop reimbursement programs to SB2675 have been successfully implemented in other states and work to incentivise cover crop planting and growth ^[1,2].

HAPA strongly supports SB2675 and believes it is part of the solution to growing our local food production and economy and a more regenerative agricultural system for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Anne Frederick
Executive Director

[1] Civil Eats: Held, Lisa (2020) *Two States are Leading a Cover Crop Revival*

<https://civileats.com/2020/02/11/two-states-are-leading-a-cover-crop-revival/>

[2] NASDA (2019) *Innovative State-Led Efforts to Finance Agricultural Conservation*,

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/nasda2/media/innovative-state-led-efforts-finance-agricultural-conservation.pdf>

[3] USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service; *Healthy Soils: Are Covered All The Time*

<https://nrcspad.sc.egov.usda.gov/distributionCenter/pdf.aspx?productID=1026>

[4] The New York Times: Strom, Stephanie (2016) *Cover Crops, a Farming Revolution with Deep Roots in the Past* https://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/07/business/cover-crops-a-farming-revolution-with-deep-roots-in-the-past.html?_r=0

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:33:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing: SB2675 **RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE.**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 10:05 a.m., Rm. 211 and by videoconference

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

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis and encouraging Hawai'i to lead the world towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. **The Climate Protectors Hawai'i SUPPORTS this bill and the similar bill SB2090!**

This bill establishes a three-year cover crop reimbursement pilot program to provide reimbursement to farming operations in the State for costs related to cover cropping. The bill establishes a cover crop reimbursement pilot program manager position within the department of agriculture to administer the program.

Cover crops should be encouraged as they reduce carbon emissions, replenish the soils, and reduce erosion and non-point source water pollution!

This bill appears to be narrower than the similar bill SB2990 that also references reimbursement for "green manure" crops and compost. SB2675 has more specific reimbursement formulas by acreage than SB 2990, which provides reimbursement for up to 75% of costs.

The Committee should pass a cover crop reimbursement pilot program measure that combines the best qualities of these two similar bills.

Mahalo!

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

February 22, 2022

Subject: **In support of SB2675 Relating to Sustainable Agriculture**

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Senate Members of the WAM Committee,

We stand in support of SB2975 establishing a cover crop reimbursement program and program manager because of the benefits of cover crops in healing our soil and giving our 'āina the rest and mālama that it needs.

Cover crops are a natural way to suppress weeds, reduce runoff, reduce erosion, house pest predators, attract pollinators, sequester carbon from the atmosphere, and fix atmospheric nitrogen into the soil. Cover crops can help farmers lessen or eliminate their use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides while also conserving water and counteracting climate change. We love that this bill rewards and incentivizes farmers for doing the right thing for the 'āina they farm.

To ensure the safety and regeneration of our local ecosystems, we are also **recommending that SB2675 be amended** to remove invasive and/or fast-growing grasses (such as bermuda grass) from the acceptable definition of a cover crop or green manure.

Mahalo,
Kelsey Amos & the Food+ Interns
#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

LATE

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:25:06 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for Pele Lani Farm LLC	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB2675

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:11:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB2675.

Sincerely, Deborah Umiamaka.

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:16:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support a three-year cover crop reimbursement pilot program to provide reimbursement to farming operations in the State for costs related to cover cropping.

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:35:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

I support SB 2675

Thanks,

JN Makawao

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 5:25:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill.

Cover crops improve water quality, soil health, and build resiliency in the face of climate change. They are one of the most common, accessible agricultural strategies for improving soil health and water retention. They also prevent nitrogen pollution in water and erosion to the benefit of both the environment and the farmer.

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:43:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB 2675.

Mahalo,

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:46:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I ask you all to support this bill.

Cover crops improve water quality and soil health as they are one of the most common, accessible agricultural strategies for improving soil health and water retention. They also prevent nitrogen pollution in water and erosion to the benefit of both the environment and the farmer.

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 9:45:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ashley Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB2675.

Similar cover crop reimbursement programs have been successfully implemented in other states and work to incentivize cover crop planting and growth. Cover crops are considered a Best Management Practice widely used in agriculture for nutrient loss reduction and soil conservation

Cover crops improve water quality, soil health, and build resiliency in the face of climate change. They are one of the most common, accessible agricultural strategies for improving soil health and water retention. They also prevent nitrogen pollution in water and erosion to the benefit of both the environment and the farmer. Cover Crops will assist in preventing runoff from impacting Hawaii's environments, water sources, nearshore reefs, and fisheries.

Cover crops are crucial to the nutrient cycle and the development of fertile soil. Because of this trait and how they're used to manage a range of soil macronutrients and micronutrients, they are sometimes referred to as "green manure". Of the various nutrients, the impact that cover crops have on nitrogen management has received the most attention from researchers and farmers because nitrogen is often the most limiting nutrient in crop production.

In the same way that allelopathic properties of cover crops can suppress weeds, they can also break disease cycles and reduce populations of bacterial and fungal diseases and parasitic nematodes. For example, species such as mustards have been shown to suppress fungal disease through the release of naturally occurring toxic chemicals. Similarly, some cover crops are used as so-called "trap crops" to attract pests away from the crop of value and intentionally toward the cover crop.

With Aloha,
Ashley Lee

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:11:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Ag land deserves every support we can muster.

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:32:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michal Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2675. The State needs to incentivize the planting of cover crops as a means of improving water quality and soil health and build resiliency in the face of climate change. Cover crops also prevent nitrogen pollution of water and erosion, which protects the environment. Mahalo.

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 11:36:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jesse Kealiinohomoku	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Mai Ways and Means Committee

I stand in Support of SB2675 that establishes a three-year cover crop reimbursement pilot program to provide reimbursement to farming operations in the State for costs related to cover cropping. It is very important that we start investing in sustainable agriculture practices as these practices work together to advance a sustainable food system that we need.

#Fixourfoodsystem

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:04:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sherryl Royce	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill with the amendment that only non-GMO seed be used.

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:08:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this good idea bill :) Mahalo, JW

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:39:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a registered voter in Hakalau HI 96710, and a small farmer, I support this bill.

Mahalo.

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:45:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Lush	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In support of Cover Crop reimbursement

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:03:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a registered voter in Hakalau HI 96710, and a small farmer, I support this bill.

Mahalo.

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 11:14:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sandra Herndon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill as a step forward to help sustain our farmers

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 11:57:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha WAM Chair and Committee,
SB2675 is a very good bill and the money spent on it will pay dividends by slowing soil erosion, improve the profile of the soil, improve the micro biome of the soil and improve water retention in the soil. The bill will give practical ways of improving the soil in a sustainable way. The program will promote a more sustainable agriculture. The program will also create positive feedback loops so that the farmers who haven't used the practice before would include cover crops in the future. We should also see new farmers using cover crop protocol in the future.

Mahalo,

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 6:34:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Drew Wilkinson	Testifying for Growing Together Edible Landscaping	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

As owner and operator of Growing Together Edible Landscaping and owner of a small 5.5 acre farm, I fully support SB2675. Cover crops have been an essential part of building soil health, combating invasive weed species, and are extremely helpful to use in cropping systems for food production. This bill would make it financially feasible for more people to use these techniques that can be easily adapted on a larger scale. Please support this measure and enable farmers better tools to grow healthier crops and produce more food.

thank you,

Drew Wilkinson

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:54:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Cover crops improve water quality, soil health, and build resiliency in the face of climate change. They are one of the most common, accessible agricultural strategies for improving soil health and water retention. They also prevent nitrogen pollution in water and erosion to the benefit of both the environment and the farmer.

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:27:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge strong support for this bill.

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:55:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
cybil moran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need cover crops to help prevent runoff! Coral scientists say this is the biggest killer of our reefs, we must promote regenerative agriculture and crop cover!!

Mahalo nui loa,

Cybil

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:03:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laura Ramirez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Everyone in my farming family and I all strongly support SB2675. Cover crops are important and needed and must be encouraged and funded to protect our precious Hawaiian soil and attract the pollinators we need to keep growing the vegetables and fruit that feed us!

Cover crops allowed and reimbursed in the program should be native plants not invasive species and fast spreading grasses.

We urge you to please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Laura Ramirez and the Bettencourt family

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:39:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:46:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Emmaleah Stauber	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Cover crops are an invaluable tool for creating a sustainable future for agriculture in Hawaii. I strongly support this bill.

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:08:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear WAM members,

Please pass this composting bill to help farmers, small businesses and the environment. Our time to make a difference on disastrous climate changes are limited and we need to start now.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

LATE

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:26:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cara Oba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support regenerative agriculture infrastructure

LATE

SB-2675

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 4:20:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I absolutely support this program and believe this is an important way to improve our soil, and to help climate change. This will help with regenerative farming, and help keep our soil healthy and in turn have our crops contain more nutrients than they would otherwise. Please support this bill.

Mahalo for taking the time to listen to my views.