

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 HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MARCH 16, 2022

9:30 A.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 225 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 2960 SD1
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Chairpersons Hashem and Quinlan and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2960 SD1. This measure requires the Department of Agriculture (“Department”) to partner with a Hawaii to establish and implement a food safety certification training program to help small- and medium-sized farms comply with federal food safety certification mandates and appropriates funds for that purpose. The Department supports the intent of this measure and offers comments.

The Department has a cooperative agreement with the USDA that allows the Department, pursuant to licensing by USDA, to conduct food safety audits for Hawaii farmers statewide, on a fee-for-service basis. Adding and consolidating GAP certification training for farmers to the Department’s regulatory compliance responsibilities may create a potential conflict of interest if the training is also conducted



by the same Departmental staff involved in administering the USDA Harmonized GAP certification program. Combining both the auditing and training programs in the Department could compromise the independence and objectivity of the food safety certification program's audits. It is highly advisable that the educational functions of the program be segregated from the enforcement and auditing functions to mitigate the risks presented by arrangement. As such, the Department supports Section 3 of the measure which provides an appropriation placed under the general administration of agriculture (AGR192) to establish and implement the food safety certification training program. This would separate funding for education from the funding for enforcement by the Quality Assurance Division.

The Department notes that UH-CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service has a food safety program to educate and train Hawaii farmers to comply with federal food safety regulations. Their Extension Agents work with farmers statewide and they have the GAP food safety technical expertise in training farmers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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 HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2960, S.D. 1

**March 16, 2022
9:30 a.m.
Room 325 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

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

Senate Bill No. 2960, S.D. 1, requires the Department of Agriculture to partner with the State's agricultural communities to establish and implement a food safety certification program for the purpose of providing small to medium sized farms with direct assistance to obtain a Good Agricultural Practices certification from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This bill also appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to establish and implement the program.

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-2960-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 10:21:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/16/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	Hawaii Department of Agriculture	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Staff will be present via videoconference to answer questions.

SB-2960-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 3:19:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/16/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglass S. Adams	Research and Development, County of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Hashem and Quinlan, Vice-Chairs Perruso and Holt, and Members of the Committees on Agriculture and Economic Development:

The need to provide food safety certification training is vital to building capacity for food security on Hawaii Island and a key component of the County of Hawaii Agricultural Coalition's application to the US Economic Development Administration's Build Back Better Regional Challenge. We encourage the committees' support for and forwarding of SB2960 SD1 to the full House with a positive recommendation.

respectfully

Douglass S Adams, Director, County of Hawaii Dept of Research & Development

SB-2960-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 10:39:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/16/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Administrator of Mahiku A'o Mai - a Native Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this initiative as it relates to the support of struggling farmers. Having built a newly established farm using no heavy machinery or physical budget, I have a rather large sweat equity team of teens and young adults who are entering the agriculture industry through my intervention program - that currently operates without funding or support of any kind. These kids are wanting to build a future in farming - which answers our kahea for a younger farmer demographic, reduces truancy related community issues, I could certainly benefit from helping at least a few of them to build our processing facility. Every farmer in East Maui could use a similar hand-up to empower us as a whole, to strengthen our local economy from the bottom-up. From the young farmers at Mahiku A'o Mai, we fully support this bill.



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

Executive Officers

Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Chair*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Vice Chair*
Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
John Schliff, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor*
Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO:

Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

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

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 16, 2022

TIME: 9:30am

PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: SB2960 SD1 Relating to Food Safety

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.

HFIA is in support of this measure requiring the Department of Agriculture to partner with the Hawaii agricultural community to establish and implement a food safety certification training program to help small to medium sized farms comply with federal food safety certification mandates. Increasing local food production is a goal we all share. Our local farmers and food producers face a range of challenges and need the support of our State to succeed. This program is a common sense way to ensure that our small and medium sized local farms have the resources they need to meet Federal requirements and continue to grow local food for Hawaii consumers. We encourage you to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



67-332 Kaiea Pl.
Waialua, HI 96791-9501
808-383-4481
www.NSEVP.org

March 14, 2022

House Committees on Agriculture and Economic Development
Wednesday March 16, 2022, 9:30 am

SUBJECT: Support for SB2960 – RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Dear Chairs Hashem and Quinlan, Vice-Chairs Perruso and Holt, and members of the Committees:

On behalf of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (North Shore EVP), I would like to extend our full support of SB 2960, which will require the Department of Agriculture to partner with the Hawaii agricultural community to establish and implement a food safety certification training program to help small to medium sized farms comply with federal food safety certification mandates.

The North Shore EVP was formed in 2015 as a result of a comprehensive, community-based economic analysis that identified the need for a regional food hub to fill serious gaps in the food supply chain of the region. Our work has expanded statewide to include a USDA GroupGAP (Good Agricultural Practices) food safety training and certification program (Hawaii GroupGAP) that lowers the cost and effort of attaining Harmonized GAP certification to farms anywhere in Hawaii. Hawaii GroupGAP is currently responsible for 65% of all Harmonized GAP certified farms and 23% of all GAP certified farms in the state!

This bill, however, perpetuates the notion that food safety certification is both 'burdensome and expensive' (page 3, line 2). Nothing could be further from the truth. Hawaii GroupGAP is among the least expensive GAP certification programs in the country and like any new process, the effort in attaining GAP certification is largely front loaded. Once farmers learn how to incorporate GAP practices and record keeping, it just becomes part of how that farm is run. No extra effort needed.

I would also argue that the demand for locally grown food is not driven by 'anticipated farm closures' (page 4, line 6) but now by new markets created by this Legislature in Acts 175 and 176 (2021) that require DOE and state agencies to purchase 50% of their food from local sources. DOE alone has a \$45M food budget that should serve as an incentive for farmers to get GAP certified and highlights the need for more food safety training and certification across the state.

I ask that your committee consider changing the purpose of this Act from 'establishing a food safety certification training program' to 'establishing a food safety training AND certification program'. Our experience working with small Hawaii farmers indicates that small farms need continuing technical assistance and support especially with record keeping and preparing for USDA audits. GAP training already exists in CTAHR however because the mission and the relationships of their extension agents with farmers, they are not an appropriate organization to additionally audit and certify farms. The real need is for training to culminate in certification on a continual basis.

Lastly, your committee passed **HB1499** that would require the Department of Agriculture to partner with a Hawai'i entity to establish a pilot USDA Harmonized GAP food safety training and certification program. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. We believe that bill, if passed, would provide a more permanent home for food safety training and certification in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kevin M Kelly, President



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Rep. Sean Quinlan, Chair

Rep. Daniel Holt, Vice Chair

SB2960 SD1

Relating to Food Safety

Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 9:30 AM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chairs Hashem and Quinlan, Vice Chairs Perruso and Holt, and Members of the Committees,

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 SB2960 SD1** to require the Department of Agriculture to partner with the Hawaii agricultural community to establish and implement a food safety certification training program to help small to medium sized farms comply with federal food safety certification mandates.

Achieving food safety certification is an important aspect for sustaining Hawaii's ability to provide local food. We support this assistance to producers with the costs associated with becoming food safety compliant.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Wednesday, March 16, 2022 — 9:30 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 2960 SD 1, Relating to Food Safety.

Dear Chair Hashem, Chair Quinlan, 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 SB 2960 SD 1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to partner with the Hawai'i agricultural community to establish and implement a food safety certification training program to help small- to medium-sized farms comply with federal food safety certification mandates.

Ulupono supports food safety certification training across the State for small to medium sized famers. According to the 2017 USDA NASS Census of Agriculture, of Hawai'i's 7,328 farms statewide, 66%, or 4,868 farms, are between 1–9 acres and 78%, or 5,701 farms, produce less than \$25,000 in sales. Hawai'i's agricultural producer majority is small farmers. Many of these small farmers struggle to enter the marketplace that is heavily driven by food safety compliance. Working off of such tight profit margins, local farmers are in need of support to meet grocer and food distributor demands such as food safety. Measures such as this seek to provide local producers with an opportunity to earn the necessary certifications in order to provide communities with fresh, Hawai'i grown products.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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

March 16, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2960, SD1
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY**

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:30 AM

Aloha Chairs Hashem and Quinlan, Vice-Chairs Perruso and Holt, 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 SB 2960, SD1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to partner with the Hawai'i agricultural community to establish and implement a food safety certification training program to help small to medium-sized farms comply with federal food safety certification mandates.

HFB appreciates the support by the legislature in our past efforts to help Hawai'i's farmers achieve compliance with the FDA Food Safety and Modernization Act. As the actual rule has been rolled out by FDA the immensity of the task has become evident.

Foodborne illnesses can be serious, and we should seek ways to reduce risk. This bill will provide that assistance to our farmers for the costs they will incur to become food safety compliant.

The many criteria associated with FSMA to be compliant should not be an impediment for safe food. Hawai'i cannot afford to further lose farmers as we strive to increase local food production. We want to incentivize our farmers' ability to continue their operations and provide Hawai'i with abundant safe food.

Hawai'i Farm Bureau appreciates any effort which will assist farmers with expenses to become compliant with the Food Safety Modernization Act.

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



Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

House of Representatives,
Committee on Agriculture and Committee on Economic Development
March 16, 2022, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 325

SUBJECT: Support for SB2960 SD1 – RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Dear Chair Hashem, Chair Quinlan, and members of the committees:

Lanakila Pacific strongly supports SB2960 relating to the establishment of a food safety training and certification pilot program, to help small to medium farms comply with federal food safety certification mandates and appropriating funding for its administration.

Lanakila Pacific is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides services and social enterprise programs to build independence and improve the quality of life for individuals with cognitive, physical, social, or age-related challenges. In 2019, Lanakila Pacific embarked on an endeavor to utilize more local produce in the 576,000 meals that we delivered through the Lanakila Meals on Wheels program. Due to cost constraints, the opportunity to achieve this goal requires working with farmers to build their production capacity and ability to safely handle the produce. To that end, we partnered with the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (NSEVP) as one of the first steps to understanding and prioritizing food safety – in light of the vulnerable seniors we feed.

Investing in food safety training is a sustainable way to support greater food self-sufficiency in the state and help institutional feeding organizations, like Lanakila Pacific increase their utilization of local produce. As we pave the way for local producers to provide more food to the local market, the State’s agricultural producers must be prepared to show evidence that they meet food safety guidelines, outlined as “using Good Agricultural Practices.” The vast majority are not food safety certified, creating a liability risk of liability should a customer become ill due to foodborne illness.

At this time there are only 30 operations whose growing and/or packing procedures are certified USDA GAP/GHP or USDA Harmonized GAP compliant in the state of Hawaii. To date, NSEVP’s GroupGAP program has certified 12 producers in USDA GAP and HGAP food safety certification. Lanakila Pacific’s Food Service Director has audited the program.

Making food safety certification more accessible and affordable for small and medium producers is a food security strategy that should be developed. We strongly urge you to pass this legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rona Yagi Fukumoto", written in a cursive style.

Rona Yagi Fukumoto
President & CEO

SB-2960-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 7:46:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/16/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

Testimony of Bruce Silverglade in Support of passage of SB 2960

March 16, 2022

I am Bruce Silverglade, former legal director (retired) of the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) writing in support of passage of SB 2960.

This testimony is submitted in my personal capacity; I served as Director of Legal Affairs of CSPI from 1981 to 2010. (I now consult on food and agriculture legal and regulatory issues). During that period, CSPI helped lead the fight for the enactment of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), including provisions dealing with produce safety.

CSPI is an independent non-profit consumer advocacy organization that supports policies aimed at keeping our food supply free of dangerous pathogens like Salmonella, E. coli, and Listeria. We helped lead the fight for the national legislation that ultimately became FSMA. The law modernized food safety protection and promises a safer food supply.

The enactment of FSMA's produce safety provisions followed numerous food safety outbreaks in which dozens of Americans died and thousands were stricken ill. FSMA was strongly supported by numerous non-profit consumer and environmental protection organizations. The resulting FDA produce safety regulation was promulgated and full notice and comment rulemaking proceedings.

The intention of the FDA's produce safety regulation was to bring FDA food safety regulation into the 21st century. In that sense, FSMA has been successful.

In retrospect, however, it is clear that supporters of FSMA like me, did not fully appreciate the economic and social impact that the FDA's produce safety regulation would have on small to very small produce farms including more than 6,500 such operations in Hawaii.

As a permanent full-time resident of the State of Hawaii since 2019, I can now understand first-hand the unintended consequences of FSMA's produce safety rule on the State's economy. If the clock could be turned back, I would have used my best efforts to see that FSMA provided sufficient technical assistance to small and very small farms to ensure that they could comply with the FDA's produce safety regulation that is mandated by FSMA.

That is why the passage of SB 2960 is so important. The legislation fills many of the gaps in the federal law regarding the need for technical assistance. The bill is a “win-win” for both the public which deserves safer produce, and the thousands of Hawaiian farms that need to modernize in order to succeed and thrive in today’s marketplace.

I urge the committee to ensure that this bill is enacted. Thank you for consideration of my views.

Bruce Silverglade

3920 Wyllye Road, Unit 12

Princeville, HI 96722

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MAR.16, 2022, 9:30AM, RM. 325

BY : DEAN J. OKIMOTO

SUBJECT: Support for SB2960 ---RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

To: Chair Mark Hashem, Vice-Chair Perusso, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture and
Chair Sean Quinlan , Vice- Chair Holt, and members of the committee on Economic Development

My name is Dean Okimoto and I was president of Nalo Farms, Inc, and a farmer for 35 years. I was also President of the Hawaii state Farm Bureau from 2003-2014, and I currently work as an Ag consultant for a couple of farms, and am Chair of the Hawaii Agricultural Foundation. My testimony reflects my experiences as a farmer and I do NOT represent the Farm Bureau or the Hawaii Agricultural Foundation. When I quit farming in 2018, we were one of only about 60 farms that were food safety certified and compliant. Today there are only about 50 farms that are food safety certified out of over 5,000 farms in Hawaii.

There has been an increased demand for more locally grown farm products across the state, and we constantly hear about how we need to make our state more sustainable and not so dependent on importing over 85% of our food. I feel so frustrated when I hear this, as there is such a lack of understanding of agriculture when people say this without understanding that the first step to increasing our locally grown food supply, after getting the land, water, and labor is to obtain food safety certification and knowledge. Increasingly the buyers such as Hawaii Food Service Alliance(which all the supermarkets), and distributors such as Y. Hata, not to mention most of the hotels and an increasing amount of restaurants are requiring food safety. This is not to mention that the federal government through the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) is going to require farm food safety certification for most of our food producing farms. Without it farmers are facing a shrinking market for their products, and how do we increase sustainability and grow more of our local food supply?!? This is not to mention that it is the right thing to do to protect the public from food bourne illnesses to larger degree by having food safety.

We will also be providing more food to government institutions including our schools as mandated by this Hawaii State Legislature, which is great, but for farmers to access this market food safety should also be mandated.

If we want to save our small farms (which 85% of our farms in Hawaii are smaller than 5 acres) also it is imperative to create programs that make it cost effective for them to comply with food safety, and this group GAP program needs the support of our government and our people to up the production of our farms and increase sustainability. Increased funding to have more people training and helping farmers with this daunting task of food safety is critical for the survival of food production ag in our state.

Many farmers will need ongoing help to comply with food safety rules as it a lot of work to keep all the records that need to be kept and creating the systems for compliance are easy to develop or comply with. Gone are the days where anyone can go into ag and just grow and sell. Technical skills are needed to deal with all the tools needed to comply.

Dedicated funding to provide training and support within a USDA Group GAP program is critically needed and needed funding is right away! The longer we put off hiring and training trainers to help the farmers, the smaller the market will be for these farmers products and the more unsustainable our agricultural industry will become.

I advocated for money for food safety to start over 15 years ago, so we would not be in this critical situation today. Today...if we delay any longer we will surely start to see a decrease in what the ag industry can do to make us more food self sufficient.

I STRONGLY support HB1499, if we are to talk about food sustainability, and increasing our local food production, this is the first and one of the most critical steps in moving in that direction. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Dean J. Okimoto

March 14, 2022

Representatives Hashem, Perruso, Lowen, Marten, Matayoshi, Todd, Tokioka, Matsumoto, Quinlan, Holt, Belatti, Kobayashi, Onishi, Sayama, Takayama and Okimoto

I am in support of the bill and the amendments proposed in the testimony of Kevin Kelly, President of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership:

- Clarify Hawai'i GroupGAP is a high impact, low-cost program that requires the commitment of farmers to improve their practices.
- Revise increasing demand for locally grown food is not driven by "anticipated farm closures" (page 3, line 9), but by new markets created by this Legislature in Acts 175 and 176 (2021) that require DOE and state agencies to purchase 50% of their food from local sources.
- Change the purpose of this Act from "establishing a food safety certification training program" to "establishing a food safety training AND certification program"

Passing this bill is critical to enhance the resilience of Hawai'i's economy to changing global conditions. The bill would take the important steps of establishing responsibility and funding to support small and medium-sized farm's efforts to implement critical food safety and record keeping procedures. Implementation will improve produce safety, traceability and marketability. Furthermore, undertaking GAP and required documentation can improve overall operations as well as offer insight into output, which will benefit the supply chain and consumers.

I appreciate your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Buerge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "B".

David John Buerge
Honolulu, Hawai'i

SB-2960-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 7:32:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/16/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Kealiinohomoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in Support of SB2960

#fixourfoodsystem