

SB-2960

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 3:28:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill.

SB-2960

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 6:45:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to help the small farmers so we have food sustainability and health, especially if we are encouraging more people to move to our islands.

SB-2960

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 10:54:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

SB-2960

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 1:18:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Paola Abaro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Paola Abaro, and I am in my third and final year of Doctorate in Nursing Practice at the University of Hawaii in Hilo. I am writing a letter of testimony about SB 2960 Relating to Food Safety.

The Food and Drug Administration Food Safety Modernization Act requires 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. I support this bill.

Foodborne illness is a frequent, costly, yet preventable public health concern. A critical point to consider when it comes to food is its quality, and food safety training is crucial. Food safety and cleanliness are vital to operating a thriving foodservice industry. Food security is a responsibility shared by producers, sellers, managers, and handlers. Providing adequate food safety training to everyone who handles food in your business is essential to protecting the community from food poisoning, allergic reactions, and other health risks from eating contaminated food.

Most foodborne illnesses can be avoided if food is appropriately handled and proper hygiene and cleaning/sanitization techniques are followed. This bill will help address many issues, including appropriate personal hygiene, preventing cross-contamination, how to receive and store produce, proper cooking and holding temperatures, and food safety certification, to name a few. Other important areas include contaminated food and illnesses commonly transmitted, hazardous conditions to avoid, proper washing/drying, and sanitization techniques.

Thank you for permitting me to communicate my testimony with you today.

Paola Abaro

UH Hilo DNP Student



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 and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 2, 2022
TIME: 1pm
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: SB2960 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

January 30, 2022

House Committee on Agriculture and the Environment
Wednesday February 2, 2022, 1:00 pm

SUBJECT: Support for SB 2960 – RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and members of the Committee:

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.

Lastly, 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kevin M Kelly, President



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 — 1:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 2960, Relating to Food Safety.

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

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, 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

FEBRUARY 2, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2960
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 2960, which requires 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.

HFB appreciates the support by the legislature in our past efforts to help Hawaii'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. Hawaii 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 Hawaii with abundant safe food.

Hawaii 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.

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 AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2960

February 2, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Room 224 and Videoconference

RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

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

Senate Bill No. 2960 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 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

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 11:27:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Senators Gabbard, Nishihara, Acasio, Rhoads, and Fevella,

I just wish to voice my general support for this bill. Food security is a major issue for Hawaii as the bill itself clearly states. Providing the support as detailed by the bill to the small to medium size farm operations is helpful in reducing some of the existing challenges moving forward as well as removes potential perceived barriers to entry. Providing education that encourages professional development for farmers and simultaneously supports general community health is a positive outcome all around. From a risk management perspective, setting up this kind of program helps to develop a training infrastructure that may be of use in the future. We are in a period where risk mitigation should be part of all of our plans as we are likely to see new challenges to crop yield and food safety due to our changing climate (new issues due to plant diseases, parasites, etc.). I see this bill as an opportunity to develop the roles and practices for information communication, direct training, and ongoing professional development for the small to medium farms through the DOA. The experience gained by setting up and deploying this training program will be worthwhile for fortifying our agriculture industry as a whole.

Thank you for allowing me to share my comments.

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
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

FEBRAURY 2, 2022

1:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 2960
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2960. This measure requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA) 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 and appropriates funds for that purpose. The Department supports the intent of this measure and offers comments.

DOA has a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) wherein DOA staff are licensed 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 DOA's responsibilities may create a potential conflict of interest if the training is also conducted by DOA staff involved in



administering the USDA GAP certification program. Having both the auditing and training programs in the DOA may adversely affect the food safety certification program's ability to remain independent and objective and provide unbiased audits. It is highly advisable that the educational functions of the program remain separate from the enforcement and auditing functions.

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. As such, UH-CTAHR would be a more appropriate partner for Hawaii agricultural community to implement a food safety certification training program to help Hawaii farmers comply with a USDA GAP certification.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.