

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 7:22:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tierra Bartolotti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i State Senators,

My name is Tierra Bartolotti, I am a Senior student in the Sustainable Community Food Systems program at the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu. I stand in full support for proposed bill SB2990 relating to Sustainable Agriculture. This cost-reimbursement pilot program for cover crops, is not only a great incentive for farmers to transition towards making healthier land management practices, but will help to alleviate the financial burden for local farmers whom already integrate & utilize cover-cropping techniques. Investing in the health of our soils is essential to ensure the longevity of our environment & local agricultural production. Cover-cropping is specifically important for mitigating erosion, increasing organic matter, improving soil structure, and nutrient holding capacity. I greatly appreciate that this bill has been introduced.

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 3:33:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This would be a wonderful support to farmers who work to take care of the soil and use regenerative and sustainable methods like cover cropping. #fixourfoodsystem

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 10:45:06 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-2990

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 12:50:27 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-2990

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 2:50:27 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anne Borman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this measure as it will incentivize our farmers.

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 2:54:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2990.

Cover crop, composting and other sustainable agricultural practices are necessary for continued crop production. Without agriculture increasing production with the same amount of land, Hawaii will not be able to feed its population. Sustainable agricultural practices maintains and enhances soil health thus producing quality crops without reducing production. Farmers need financial assistance for sustainable practices that enables a safe food production to continue.

Please support SB2990.

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:12:18 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sharon Shields	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

#fixourfoodsystem. Farmers need help to utilize this essential key to healthy future crops. Please pass this bill for the future of our community!!

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 10:28:14 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support and **#fixourfoodsystem.**

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 12:16:19 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rivah Winter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill, which will help to empower Hawaii's food system.

#fixourfoodsystem

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 12:27:14 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anna Symonds	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Soil health is all of our health! #fixourfoodsystem

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 12:35:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lisa DeSantis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2990.

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 12:48:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerry Ross	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We have been using compost and cover crops to build soil on our farm for 15 years. It totally works and is the way forward for food production in Hawaii.

SB-2990

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:49:45 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Chelle Galarza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this 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.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2990 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of SB 2990 on establishing a cover crop reimbursement pilot program to be administered by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

Soil health and agriculture sustainability has been shown to be dependent on protecting, maintaining and increasing soil organic matter. Cover cropping is one tool that has shown to be effective in building soil organic matter which results in maintaining soil stability during a fallow period, increasing soil water retention capacity, increasing soil nutrient retention and release capacity, and enhancing soil microorganism biodiversity. Cover cropping can be a tool in a cropping system that has value during a fallow period or can also be an intra-rotation crop with its own economic value. The bill establishes a temporary position to manage the program, recognizing that HDOA is suffering from lack of sufficient personnel.

This bill establishes a three-year pilot program to reimburse producers for some of the costs of cover cropping run by HDOA. We recommend the following concept be added to the purpose of the pilot program: For producers to evaluate the economic cost-benefit of cover cropping to prepare for the time when subsidies end. Further, that producers use this pilot program to evaluate profit producing cover crop opportunities; as it would add to the post-subsidy and economic viability of cover cropping that will be necessary in the long-run.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent and language of SB 2990 and have provided comments on additional language. We defer to HDOA as to whether the amount of temporary staff and subsidy funding is sufficient to allow the department to meet the stated goals.

SB-2990

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 10:15:28 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
yuko ishimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill to encourage good farming practices!

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 2:49:45 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tabatha Aiko Knudson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We must prioritize the sustainability of our crops, soil and overall environment. I strongly support this bill!

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 5:09:19 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. I am in support of sustainable agriculture and protection of the land which cover crops help with.

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 2:54:33 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kilia Purdy-Avelino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Kilia Purdy-Avelino. I am a 4th generation homesteader from Molokai. Additional support for farmers, especially small, local farmers, is welcome and supported. Mahalo!

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 5:10:04 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

What a thoughtful bill. SB2990.

It is long overdue to support proper farming methods that easily create resorative soils. aiding in water retention, erosion benifitting not only the envrionment but making it easy for a farmer to do a proper planting. Building the soil will produce more nutritious food and rely on less purchased fertalizers. It's a win-win.

Thank you for concidering healthy soils for our islands. The benifits are many..including reducing carbon emmissions.

Pamela Burrell

Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 3:14:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
April Petersom	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support Bill SB2990.

Mahalo's,

April Peterson.

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 3:51:15 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maureen Datta	Testifying for Adaptations Inc	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 6:03:03 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am a registered voter in Hakalau HI 96710. Please support this bill. Mahalo

SB-2990

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 7:42:14 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Merideth	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our soil health is the same as our health. When our soils nutrients is leached and we used heavy amount of pesticides the nutritional value of food is significantly reduced and pesticides can be long term harmful. We need a healthy balance of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium in order to sustain our soil health and crop yields. #Fixourfoodsystem

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 6:56:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill! Mahalo!

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 10:51:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robert Bence	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

aloha cover crops are amazing for farm sustainability please support SB2990

mahalo

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 8:17:33 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and AEN Committee Members,

I support this bill for Hawaii's farmers, families, and 'āina. In conjunction with bills supporting farm-to-table programs, composting, carbon sequestration, healthy soils, and other aspects of sustainable agriculture, SB2990 can advance public, ecological, and even economic health.

Mahalo,
Dylan Ramos

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:53:45 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
lauren bell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Supporting farmers with support our community. #fixourfoodsystem

SB-2990

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 10:18:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
shantee brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

i support this



To: The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 1:00 pm

In strong support of SB2990

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Committee members of AEN;

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 SB2990**.

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-2990

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:15:01 AM

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

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

Comments:

Support cover crops to improve soil health.

We need to do everything we can to grow our own food.

SB-2990

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 7:47:02 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Cover crops protect the soil, add valuable materials for decomposition when tilled under, protect soil microbes and earthworms, preserve moisture and depending on what is being used, can fix nitrogen in the soil. Cover crops are very important.

Please support SB 2990.

Mahalo,

Ms. Barbara Barry



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 2990
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

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 2990, which establishes a cover crop reimbursement pilot program to provide up to seventy-five percent cost reimbursement to farming operations in the State for acquiring cover crop seeds, green manure, or compost and creates 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 and green manure 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 Hawaii. Many of our farms add compost made off-site as well as utilize short-term fallow between crop cycles to increase organic content in their soils. HFB recognizes and supports the diversion of discarded food and other useful wastes away from landfills. The benefits of this and of composting are well-known.

Farming is a tough business. High production costs are a major driver of narrow profit margins for Hawaii'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, with a 75% match, cover crops seeds, green manure, and compost material. 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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

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. 2990

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

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

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

Senate Bill No. 2990 requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to establish and implement a three-year cover crop reimbursement pilot program to reimburse qualified farmers or ranchers up to 75% of the costs for cover crop seeds, green manure, or compost; establishes 1.00 exempt temporary pilot program manager position that may receive a salary not to exceed \$50,000 annually; and requires the DOA to 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 an undetermined maximum amount may be used for the program's administrative costs.

B&F also 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-2990

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:17:04 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Steven Whaley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-2990

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:21:27 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ashley Lee	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.

Cover crops are considered a Best Management Practice (BMP) widely used in agriculture for nutrient loss reduction and soil conservation.

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](#)[3], 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.

The many benefits of cover crops include:

- Growing our agriculture sector through cover crop seed production
- Supporting sustainable farming practices and healthy soil
- Remediating depleted soil from industrial farming systems
- Building organic matter (soil quality) and improving soil fertility (nutrients)
- Reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers and saving farmers' money in inputs
- Supporting native species and biodiversity
- Increasing water infiltration and water retention
- Suppressing weeds, resulting in less herbicide use
- Providing disease and pest management
- Reducing wind and water erosion and conserving top soil
- Preventing runoff from impacting sensitive environments, water sources, nearshore reefs, and fisheries

Similar cover crop reimbursement programs have been successfully implemented in other states and work to incentivize cover crop planting and growth.

SB-2990

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:22:00 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Reba Lopez	Testifying for Birds With Arms Farms & Haleakala Chapter of HFUU	Support	No

Comments:

As president of the Haleakala Chapter of the Hawaii Farmers Union United, and a family farmer at Birds with Arms Farms, I would like to testify in support of this bill. Mahalo.

SB-2990

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 10:23:07 AM

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

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

Comments:

I support SB2990 because 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.

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

SB2990, Sustainable Agriculture
Senate AEN Hearing
Wednesday, February 2, 2022
1:00 pm

Testimony by: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Sen AEN 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 produce 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.

SB-2990

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 11:45:14 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

I am writing in support of SB2990. The application of cover crops, along with compost and green maure, are invaluable tools for increasing local agriculture production in ways that return nutrients to the soil, extending the longevity and value of this precious natural resource. Providing farmers with reimbursements for these expenses will encourage and incentivize more farmers to adopt these practices that will help Hawai‘i's agricultural sector thrive for decades to come.

Mahalo,

Jess

SB-2990

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 11:53:22 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Havilah Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our island soils are substantially different than those found on the mainland and they face a multitude of challenges in our tropical climate. Without proper care, we're at risk of losing this precious resource, which is not so easily replaced (scientists say that it takes approximately 100 years to form just 1 inch of topsoil!). Without healthy soil, we cannot grow healthy food. A focus on funding and supporting soil health and farmer education and training will place our islands in the best possible position to transition into a more food secure future where we are able to utilize best soil management practices and regenerative agriculture to grow healthy food for our communities and protect and care for the environment.

SB-2990

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 1:03:06 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dave Mulinix	Testifying for Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 5,000 members and supporters we stand in support of SB2990 that increases and supports sustainable agriculture.

Mahalo for your kind attention,

Dave Mulinix

Our Revolution Hawaii



Officers

Vincent Mina
State President
HFUU

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President
HFUU

Maureen Datta
Secretary
HFUU

Reba Lopez
HFUU Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Dash Kuhr
Kohala, Hawai'i

Drake Weinert,
East Hawai'i

Steve Lund
Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
K'au, Hawaii

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawai'i

Robert Boudreaux
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Bobby Pahia
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Mau

Brynn Foster
North Shore, Oahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, Oahu

Vincent Kimura
Waimanalo, Oahu

Anabella Bruch
Kauai

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

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 Hawai'ian islands. **HFUU supports the intent of SB2990 to incentivize conservation agriculture practices and offers comments.**

SB2990 is similar to bills in previous sessions that support multiple conservation practices, however **we would like to see a specific cover crop program that reimburses by acreage, as articulated in SB3005**, following the mechanism employed by the USDA NRCS and multiple other states, instead of the seed cost share in SB2990.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vincent Mina President HFUU/HFUF

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Vincent Mina", written in a cursive style.

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 AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022
1:00 P.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2990
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2990. 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 made comments on a similar measure, SB3005, which the Department considers the preferred vehicle for establishing a cover crop reimbursement pilot program. 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 in this matter. 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-2990

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 2:05:26 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joseph Kohn MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Support SB2990 Cover Crops

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SB-2990

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:36:56 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
joann sarubbi md	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

#FIXOURFOODSYSTEM