

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. 2990  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Dela Cruz 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.

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. 2990

**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. 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 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.

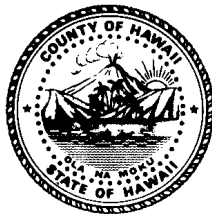
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- 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.

REBECCA VILLEGAS  
Council Member  
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267  
FAX: (808) 323-4786  
EMAIL: [Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov)

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy. Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 22, 2022

### TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL ON SB 2990, RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 10:05am

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2990. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management Committee.

The purpose of this Act is to establish and appropriate moneys for a 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 use of cover crops, green manure, and compost increases agricultural productivity and aligns with the State's integrated sustainability goals. Plants used for this purpose, including grasses, legumes, and forbs, add nutrients to the soil, act as windbreaks, assist with water retention, provide habitats for beneficial insects, and help to prevent soil erosion.

It is in the interest of the State to incentivize the use of management practices that enhance the quality and sustainability of Hawaii's agricultural lands.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Ways and Means to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas  
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:28:33 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>          | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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 SB2990**

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 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

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

SB2990, 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 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.





**Officers**

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State President  
HFUU

Anabella Bruch  
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Maui

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 supports the intent of SB2990 to incentivize conservation agriculture practices and offers comments.**

SB2990 is similar to bills in previous sessions to support multiple conservation practices however **we recommend a specific cover crop program that reimburses by acreage, as articulated in [SB2675](#)**, 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



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

February 23, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2990**  
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 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 Hawai'i. 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 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, 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.



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

**SB2990**  
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 SB2990** to establish 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.

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







## **Senate Committee on Ways & Means**

### **Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB2990**

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 SB2990, relating to sustainable agriculture, which would establish a cover crop reimbursement pilot program to provide up to 75% cost reimbursement to farming operations in the State for acquiring cover crop seeds, green manure, or compost.

HAPA believes that SB2990 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.

SB2990 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 <sup>[1]</sup>.

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

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 <sup>[3]</sup>. 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 <sup>[4]</sup>.

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 SB2990 have been successfully implemented in other states and work to incentivise cover crop planting and growth<sup>[1,2]</sup>.

HAPA strongly supports SB2990 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](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/07/business/cover-crops-a-farming-revolution-with-deep-roots-in-the-past.html?_r=0)

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:04:01 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b>                | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Susan B Roberts Emery | Testifying for Green Party Hawai'i | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

SB2990

The Senate Ways and Means Committee,

The Green Party of Hawai'i asks you to support SB2990 relating to cover crop reimbursement pilot program to provide up to 75% cost reimbursement to farming operations in the state for acquiring cover crop seeds, green manure, and/or compost. The passage of SB2990 supports our farmers and future generations. Please support SB2990.

Mahalo,

Green Party of Hawai'i

Co-Chair GPH Susan Roberts Emery

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:11:51 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: SB2990 **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 SB2990.**

This bill would establish a cover crop reimbursement pilot program to provide up to seventy-five per cent cost reimbursement to farming operations in the State for acquiring cover crop seeds, green manure, or compost. The bill also would fund a cover crop reimbursement pilot program manager position within the Department of Agriculture to administer the program. **Cover crops green manure, and compost should be encouraged as they reduce carbon emissions, replenish the soils, and reduce erosion and non-point source water pollution.**

**Please pass this bill!**

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)





# Food+ Policy Internship 2022

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

February 22, 2022

Subject: **In support of SB2990 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 SB2990 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 SB2990 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. Ideally the cover crop reimbursement program would also offer higher reimbursement incentives for the appropriate use of native plants as cover crops.

Mahalo,  
Kelsey Amos & the Food+ Interns  
#fixourfoodsystem

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**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-2990**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:26:06 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>               | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sylvia Dolena       | Testifying for Pele Lani Farm LLC | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

I strongly support SB2990

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 12:16:40 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                           | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| laurel brier        | Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Cover crops are a key part of regenerative agriculture which is of utmost importance in addressing the climate crisis and at the same time restoring the soil of Hawaii for a more vibrant local agriculture economy.

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:17:39 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Deborah Umiamaka    | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

**I strongly support SB2990.**

**Sincerely, Deborah Umiamaka.**

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:17:48 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ken Stover          | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

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

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:37:19 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| John NAYLOR         | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Aloha

I support SB 2990

Mahalo,

JN Makawao

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 5:26:18 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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-2990**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:45:23 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Barbara Barry       | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB2990.

Mahalo,



**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:48:29 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dennis O'Shea       | 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.

Pleasd support this bill.

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:09:49 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ashley Lee          | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB2990.

We need to impliment a cover crop reimbursment program that is managed by the Department of Agriculture. Establishing a reimburment program for one of the Best Management Practices widely used in agriculture for nutrient loss reduction and soil consevation would enahance our local food production tremendously.

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. With a reimbursment program more small farmers will receive additional resources needed to implement, be successful and encourage more of these practices.

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.

With Aloha,  
Ashley Lee

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:13:17 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Shannon Rudolph     | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Ag land deserves every support we can muster.

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:33:35 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Michal Stover       | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

I support SB2990. 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-2990**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:00:52 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sherryl Royce       | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

I fully support this bill with the amendment that use of non-GMO seeds should be required

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:10:52 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| jeanne wheeler      | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Please pass this bill - Mahalo, JW

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:40:54 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Elizabeth Hansen    | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

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

Mahalo.

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:42:51 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Shannon Lush        | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

In Support.



**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:03:51 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rodger Hansen       | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

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

Mahalo.

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 11:16:10 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sandra Herndon      | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Please pass this bill; our farmers need it!

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 12:01:39 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| tlaloc tokuda       | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Aloha WAM Chair and Committee,  
[SB2990](#) 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-2990**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 12:43:41 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Janet L Pappas      | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Dear WAM members,

I strongly support SB2990 which establishes a cover crop/compost/green manure reimbursement program to provide reimbursements to farmers and ranchers. Hawaii needs to strongly encourage these types of programs to divert green waste from landfills to farmlands where this waste can be used to reduce CO2 and methane emissions (greenhouse gases). Additionally, compost reduces farmers' costs for fertilizer and pesticides by producing healthier soil and thus healthier plants. Finally, support for growing cover crops, utilizing green manure and composting all encourage the growth of small local businesses.

Please support this bill this session.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:20:35 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Nancy & Zeb Jones   | Individual          | 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 SB2990, which expands on the language of a similar Senate Bill, but specifies an up to 75-percent cost reimbursement to Hawai`i's farm operations for acquiring cover crop seeds, green manure or compost. In addition to appropriating funds for a managerial position and requiring reports to the Legislature, this bill also expands the purview of the Hawai`i Department of Agriculture to screen and rate applicants on the quality of their cover crop, green manure, and composting practices.

As 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 these above reasons, we urge your honorable committee to please pass SB2990 out of your committee. Mahalo again for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting SB2990.

Warm aloha,

*Nancy & Zeb Jones*

Hydroponics Alternatives LLC

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 6:37:58 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                                | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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 SB2990. 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-2990**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:55:21 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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-2990**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:28:19 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dennis F Lokmer     | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

I urge strong support for this bill.



**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:57:49 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| cybil moran         | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Yes, also please incentivise native plants!!

Disallow reimbursement for invasive or fast spreading grasses for cover crops!

Mahalo!

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:11:26 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Laura Ramirez       | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Aloha,

My entire ohana full of farmers and myself strongly support SB2990.

Cover crops should be encouraged and the seeds, green manure, and compost funded to make it possible for all farms. Native plants rather than invasive species and fast spreading grasses should be prioritized and incentivized.

We urge you to do what's best for the land and people to be able to feed ourselves and the community of Hawai'i and pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Laura Ramirez and the Bettencourt family

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:25:34 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Cara Oba            | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

I support this bill. Please encourage regenerative agriculture that is also low risk (please no GMO-seeds or plants that have high invasives risk).

**SB-2990**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 4:23:29 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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.