



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture  
Monday, April 4, 2022, at 1:30 P.M.  
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

**RE: SB 3197 SD2 HD1 Relating to Agriculture**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 3197 SD2 HD1, which Establishes a Farmer Apprentice Mentoring Program to teach and train farmers to utilize a whole farm system approach to agriculture. Also makes an appropriation to the Department of Agriculture to provide mentoring on a whole farm system approach to agriculture.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber supports the development and funding of sector-driven collaboratives to address Hawaii's talent pipeline and workforce development solutions. Sector Partnerships and apprenticeships provide a forum for employers, educators, community partners and public sector leaders to collaborate on opportunities to strengthen and grow their sector. We believe that convening and facilitating a shared space for employers and educators is instrumental to preparing Hawaii residents for in-demand jobs and helping employers find skilled workers.

Establishing a Farmer Apprentice Mentoring Program in Hawaii would ensure that farmers are taught methods to practice sustainable agriculture and thrive in their careers. Industry-recognized apprenticeships are important because they teach the specific knowledge and skills that are required for an occupation or industry. Teaching a new generation of farmers to use this whole farm system approach will create an alternative method of farming that appeals to many young farmers across the State.

With the rise in student debt and workforce shortages across multiple industries, this bill helps prospective farmers find a career path they can thrive in, all while increasing the availability of locally produced food that provides greater food security for the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-3197-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 4:49:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

I am writing as a Kauai family farmer in strong support of SB3797 SD2 HD1. Our islands desperately need more young farmers too help produce food for our own consumption. This bill will help to encourage and support new farmers.

Please support this bill.

Thanks for your consideration,

Susan

**SB-3197-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 5:12:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

New and aspiring farmers face a myriad of challenges. This includes acquiring the knowledge and skills for an adequate production and business, accessing the tools necessary to evaluate their resources, and developing feasible farming and business plans.

The future of Hawai‘i’s farming industry, food supply, and agriculture is reliant upon increasing and diversifying the number of new, local farmers. We must introduce regenerative farming methods, enhance the long-term viability of farm businesses, utilize and build upon existing beginning farmer training methods, provide opportunities for potential farmers who are socially or financially disadvantaged, and increase support for beginning farmers who already own or manage a farm.

The more we develop a framework to support local food sourcing, the more we support our local farmers and economy.

Thank you for considering this important bill.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Acting Chairperson  
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

APRIL 4, 2022

1:30 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 3197 SD2 HD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 3197, SD2 HD1 which establishes a farmer apprentice mentoring program, and makes an appropriation to the Department of Agriculture (“Department”) to establish and implement the program. The Department appreciates the intent of this measure provided it does not impact the Department’s priorities listed in the Executive Budget and offers comments and concerns.

The Department appreciates the legislature’s finding on the necessity to support beginning farmers in the State, and that a farmer apprentice mentoring program could increase farming capacity, ensure the continued use of proven farming methods, and serve as a platform for developing new and innovative farming methods.

While the Department does not currently have the specific structure and resources to support such a farmer apprentice mentoring program, it does have strategic assets and expertise, spread across its various divisions and external



collaborators (e.g., UH-CTAHR, DLIR Agriculture Workforce Development, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Hawaii Farmers Union United, Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, PGC (Pacific Gateway), Hawaii Food Manufacturers Association, and Hawaii Food Industry Association and we continue to believe another entity with workforce development expertise be the lead to facilitate this effort to deliver a successful program. The essential catalysts needed is an effective and highly motivated coordination/management team and adequate funding levels to incorporate the various goals/objectives/quality components into a seamless farmer apprentice mentorship program from initiation to graduation and beyond.

Finally, the Department respectfully requests that the committee considers the addition of staff support such as two program specialists of SR24 and SR26 levels to ensure optimal oversight and coordination in the establishing and implementing of this program. The Department respectfully requests an appropriation for operating expenses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 3197, S.D. 2, H.D. 1

**April 4, 2022**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**Room 308 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

Senate Bill No. 3197, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, adds a new section to Chapter 141, HRS, that establishes a Farmer Apprentice Mentoring Program within the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to support mentors to train apprentices on methods for improving soil health by utilizing a whole farm system approach to agriculture. This bill also appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 for the DOA to effectuate the program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

**SB-3197-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 5:46:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair, The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Finance

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

Re: Hearing **SB3197 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.**

Hearing: Monday, April 4, 2022, 1:30 p.m., CR 308 and by videoconference

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

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 SB3197 SD2 HD1!**

The purpose and intent of this measure is to invest in the future of Hawaii's farming industry by increasing the number of new farmers and providing more support for aspiring farmers in the State. Supporting aspiring and new farmers will increase local food production and reduce the need to import so much of Hawaii's food, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the Earth's climate.

Please pass this bill to help farmers and reduce greenhouse gas emissions!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)





**House Committee on Finance**

**Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB3197 SD2 HD1**

Monday, April 4th, 2022 10:15a.m. Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports SB3197 SD2 HD1, which we believe helps to provide a tangible solution to support upcoming farmers and in turn strengthening our local food system, and our economy.

SB3197 SD2 HD1 establishes a farmer apprentice mentoring program. We understand that to advance our local food production we must support upcoming farmers.

This bill will provide critical workforce development in support of Hawaii's goals of doubling local food production. The most recent USDA census of agriculture conducted in 2017 showed that the average age of a farmer in Hawaii is 60<sup>1</sup>.

New and aspiring farmers face a myriad of challenges. This includes acquiring the knowledge and skills for an adequate production and business, accessing the tools necessary to evaluate their resources, and developing feasible farming and business plans. The future of Hawai'i's farming industry, food supply, and agriculture is reliant upon increasing and diversifying the number of new, local farmers.

We must introduce regenerative farming methods, enhance the long-term viability of farm businesses, utilize and build upon existing beginning farmer training methods, provide opportunities for potential farmers who are socially or financially disadvantaged, and increase support for beginning farmers who already own or manage a farm. We believe that together these things will radically change our agricultural sector in support of local food production.

Please support SB3197 SD2 HD1 as part of the solution to helping grow our local food production and support our agricultural sector. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written above the typed name.

Anne Frederick  
Executive Director

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/blog/main/nr19-09agcensus/>



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)

April 4, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 3197, SD2, HD1**  
RELATING TO AN AGRICULTURE

Room 308 & Videoconference  
1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, 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 3197, SD2, HD1**, which establishes a farmer apprentice mentoring program. Makes an appropriation to the Department of Agriculture to establish and implement the program.

Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are aging. The average age of the Hawai'i farmer exceeds 60 years old, and if they were in other professions would most likely be retired. Yet many of these farmers are those that provide to supermarkets, restaurants, hotels, farmers' markets, and truly make a difference in reducing imports. Unfortunately for many, succession plans do not exist and as they retire, the lands go out of agricultural production. There is an urgent need for interns or apprentices that are willing to not only work on these farms but take over their operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



#### Officers

Vincent Mina  
State President

Anabella Bruch  
Vice-President

Maureen Datta  
Secretary

Reba Lopez  
Treasurer

#### Chapter Presidents

Dash Kuhr  
Kohala, Hawai'i

Drake Weinert  
East Hawai'i

Steve Lund  
Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer  
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Maureen Datta  
Kona, Hawai'i

Robert Boudreaux  
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez  
Haleakala, Maui

Bobby Pahia  
Mauna Kahalawai, Maui

Kaipo Kekona  
Lahaina, Maui

Brynn Foster  
North Shore, Oahu

Christian Zuckerman  
Wai'anae, Oahu

Vincent Kimura  
Waimanalo, Oahu

Anabella Bruch  
Kauai

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU strongly supports SB3197** to fund a Farmer Apprentice Mentoring Program to teach and train farmers to utilize a whole farm system approach to agriculture.

The Farm Apprentice Mentoring (FAM) program to train beginning farmers was first piloted 2015-2016 in Maui and responds to three major priorities for the State's food security needs including growing more farmers, increasing the supply of Hawaii's skilled agricultural workforce and contributing to increased local food production on small family farms through a hands-on farm immersion component. SB3197 would expand on the FAM program success on Maui and provide beginning farmer training across the islands.

As a division of the National Farmers Union (NFU), HFUU advocates at a national level for educating interns and apprentices on farms, as these educational opportunities result in improved farm viability, a larger pool of skilled agricultural labor, and more beginning farmers. In 2019, NFU established an on-farm labor priority urging Congress to take action to attract U.S. citizens to jobs as agricultural workers and acknowledge the importance of educating interns and apprentices on farms as a pathway to increased availability of skilled agricultural labor. SB3197 notes that the future of the State's farming industry, food supply, and agriculture is reliant upon increasing and diversifying the number of new farmers in the state and introducing regenerative farming methods, statewide.

Increasing the number of farmers who grow food is a key facet of the HFUU statewide strategic plan, and a critical component of meeting State goals for increasing food security and agricultural self-sufficiency. For these reasons we ask you to support SB3197.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vincent Mina President HFUU/HFUF



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 4, 2022 – 1:30 p.m. – Conference Room 308 and Via  
Videoconference

### **RE: SB 3197 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Agriculture – Support**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the  
committees:

The Local Food Coalition **supports** SB 3197 SD2 HD1, which  
establishes a farmer apprentice mentoring program and makes an  
appropriation to the Department of Agriculture to establish and  
implement the program.

With the average age of a farmer in Hawaii being approximately 60  
years old, it is important that we develop the next generation of  
farmers. A farmer apprentice mentoring program will provide  
training and hands on experience with qualified mentors for those  
interested in the noble profession of agriculture.

This bill expands on the success of the Farm Apprentice Mentoring  
Program, first piloted on Maui in 2015, and provides mentoring and  
training opportunities for new farmers across the state. It is  
important to make these types of investments now so that the State  
will be able to meet its goal of increasing local food production.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers,  
ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations  
working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of SB 3197 SD2 HD1. Thank  
you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Kendall Matsuyoshi  
808-544-8345  
[kmatsuyoshi@wik.com](mailto:kmatsuyoshi@wik.com)

Hawai'i Aquaculture &  
Aquaponics Association  
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council  
Hawai'i Farm Bureau  
Federation  
Hawai'i Farmers' Union  
United  
Hawai'i Food Industry  
Association  
Hawai'i Food  
Manufacturers Association  
Kohala Center  
Land Use Research  
Foundation of Hawai'i  
Maui Farm to School  
Network (Maui F2SN)  
Ulupono Initiative  
College of Tropical  
Agriculture and Human  
Resources - University of  
Hawai'i at Manoa

**SB-3197-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 10:18:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
laurel brier	Kauai women's caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Growing more farmers for Hawaii is growing a more resilient and healthier community

**SB-3197-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 6:23:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chelle Galarza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I am a resident of Hawai'i and I rely on feeding my family as much as possible with local organic farms. The future of Hawai'i's food supply depends on the local agriculture and the local farming industry. We must not have all our food be shipped in or be depending on other places to grow food for the islands! It is important to increase and create new local farming opportunities by supporting and diversifying the number of new, local farmers. The more farmers that can be trained in a number of farming methods specifically for feeding families on the islands the better! Hawai'i can grow an abundance of food on these lands. Opportunities for any potential farmers who want to continue to train other farmers and grow their businesses may need help. There are many who are struggling as they are socially or financially disadvantaged. It is important to offer and increase support for beginning farmers or any of these individuals who already own or manage a farm. It's so imperative to support local and give farmers an abundance of support so food can be readily available. Mahalo, Chelle

**SB-3197-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 7:56:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erica Yamauchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support.

Erica Yamauchi, Kaimukī/Wilhelmina Rise

**SB-3197-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 10:13:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Helmut Klauer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support



**SB-3197-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 12:32:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Boudreaux	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The average age of the American farmer is 64 years old. The need for this legislation is a "no brainer". If we are to advance the future of food production in Hawaii we must invest in the future of young farmers. Do it!!!

**SB-3197-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 8:54:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. We need to mentor the younger generation and establish real interest in sustainable, profitable agriculture in Hawai'i.

Mahalo,  
Elizabeth Hansen  
registered voter, Hakalau HI 96710

**SB-3197-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 9:15:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. We need to mentor the younger generation and establish real interest in sustainable, profitable agriculture in Hawai'i.

Mahalo,  
Rodger Hansen  
registered voter, Hakalau HI 96710

**SB-3197-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 12:24:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The future of Hawai‘i’s farming industry, food supply, and agriculture is reliant upon increasing and diversifying the number of new, local farmers. We must introduce regenerative farming methods, enhance the long-term viability of farm businesses, utilize and build upon existing beginning farmer training methods, provide opportunities for potential farmers who are socially or financially disadvantaged, and increase support for beginning farmers who already own or manage a farm.

**SB-3197-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 7:06:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
penny levin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha;

As an older farmer, I strongly support HB3197. The average age of a farmer is over 60 years old and farming is changing, or should I say rejuvenating; returning to real care for the soil. If we are to build a next generation of farmers who pay great attention to regenerating our island soils, to producing food for local consumption and reducing our dependence on imports, we must gather and make accessible the resources and mentors necessary for them to be successful. At the same time, farmer mentors should be those who actually farm boots on the ground with experience in the many challenges of farming. This bill provides the means to accomplish that. Please support this bill.

mahalo

Penny Levin

**SB-3197-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 8:12:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge strong support for yhis bill.

**SB-3197-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 11:17:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB3197 SD2 HD1, which establishes a farmer apprentice mentoring program to train new and beginning farmers.

New and aspiring farmers face a myriad of challenges. This includes acquiring the knowledge and skills for an adequate production and business, accessing the tools necessary to evaluate their resources, and developing feasible farming and business plans.

The future of Hawai'i's farming industry, food supply, and agriculture is reliant upon increasing and diversifying the number of new, local farmers. We must introduce regenerative farming methods, enhance the long-term viability of farm businesses, utilize and build upon existing beginning farmer training methods, provide opportunities for potential farmers who are socially or financially disadvantaged, and increase support for beginning farmers who already own or manage a farm.

I have heard from many small farmers that they are concerned that there are not enough people in the younger generations to take over for them when they retire. Having a mentoring program for novice farmers that focuses on local agriculture can entice people to not only consider farming as a viable career option, but may be more likely attract people to stay here and use their skills here on Hawai'i. If people feel they can afford to stay here and that there are viable career options to start their own small, regenerative farm, then this will be a win for them, and a win for our local people here on Hawai'i with the boon of local, sustainable food and the confidence that we can feed ourselves and not rely on the outside. Learning about production such as kalo farming has the additional benefit of teaching people about native Hawai'ian culture and keeping traditional farming practices alive. Additionally, even people who live in urban centers can have a better idea where their food comes from, and benefit from meeting the people who produce it.

The more we develop a framework to support local food sourcing, the more we support our local farmers and economy.

Mahalo for taking the time to hear my views on this matter.

**SB-3197-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 7:27:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tammy Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a former educator and farmer, I tell you that this is the key to our future. I studied Physics in college, yet I realized as an adult, that learning to grow our food sustainably is key to our ability to survive and thrive on the planet. This kind of legislation could contribute greatly to the legacy of this generation in honor of the next. Please support this bill and others like it!

Aloha,

Tammy Davis

147 Royal Dr.

Kapaa, HI 96746



**SB-3197-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 8:03:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I come from Papakōlea, O‘ahu. I'm a Kanaka Maoli born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom. I'm writing in full support of SB3197 SD2 HD1.

New and aspiring farmers face a myriad of challenges. This includes acquiring the knowledge and skills for an adequate production and business, accessing the tools necessary to evaluate their resources, and developing feasible farming and business plans.

The future of Hawai‘i’s farming industry, food supply, and agriculture is reliant upon increasing and diversifying the number of new, local farmers. We must introduce regenerative farming methods, enhance the long-term viability of farm businesses, utilize and build upon existing beginning farmer training methods, provide opportunities for potential farmers who are socially or financially disadvantaged, and increase support for beginning farmers who already own or manage a farm.

The more we develop a framework to support local food sourcing, the more we support our local farmers and economy.

Support SB3197 SD2 HD1.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo