

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 AGRICULTURE

MARCH 23, 2022

9:00 A.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 3197 SD 2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 3197, SD2 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, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Hawaii Farmers Union United, Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, PGC (Pacific Gateway), Hawaii Food Manufacturers Association, and Hawaii Food Industry Association 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 recommends that the committee considers the addition of staff support to ensure optimal oversight and coordination in the establishing and implementing of this program.

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 AGRICULTURE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3197, S.D. 2

March 23, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Room 325 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, 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.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 9:00 P.M.
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference**

RE: SB 3197 SD2 Relating to Agriculture

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 3197 SD2, 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-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 2:21:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Fodd security and food independence considering Hawaii's isolation is more important than ever. And we have the land and climate to achieve this end and demonstrate regenerative agriculture practices with efficient small and medium size farms all over the state. This bill will help as grow a new generation of smart, climate wise farmers - a huge benefit to our economy and our environment and our overall health.

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:11:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catarina Zaragoza	The Locavore Store	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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 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's success on Maui and provide beginning farmer training across the islands. As explained in SB3197, the Beginning Farmer Training program immerses beginning farmers in a “whole farm system” approach to agriculture under the guidance of experienced farmer mentors.

As a division of the National Farmers Union (NFU), HFUU supported, at a national level in 2019, a more focused approach to educating interns and apprentices on locally-oriented 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.

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 7:41:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harriet Witt	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If we want to eat without being dependent on the mainland, we need farmers. Young farmers used to be trained by their parent-farmers, but this chain of knowledge transmission has been broken. Therefore, we desperately need this bill to be supported. Mahalo.

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:32:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colehour Bondera	Kanalani Ohana Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members:

Please support this important legislation.

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:31:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Kioni Dudley	The Friends of Makakilo	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Major Food Crisis in Hawai'i at Mid-Century

By Kioni Dudley, Ph.D.

Hawai'i will have a major *food* crisis by mid-Century. We must start preparing for it *now* or thousands will die.

So few in Hawaii are even aware of the world's two greatest problems 1) The world population is exploding. 2) The world is running out of water.

Let's talk population: When I was born In 1940, world population had finally reached 2 billion. By the time I was 40, it had doubled to 4 billion. When I reached 80 years old in 2020 it was nearly 8 billion. 2 billion people doubled to 4 billion and doubled again to 8 billion in just my lifetime. It's doubling again, to 16 billion. The world now adds 1,600,000 new bodies every single week. The UN projects that to feed them, we must *double* world food production by 2050. For every bite of food today, there must be two — in just 30 years.

Growing more food takes more ground water. But NASA satellites have found that 22 of the world's 37 largest aquifers are shrinking irreparably and will run dry. Meanwhile, by 2050 global demand for fresh water will grow by 40 percent.

The San Joaquin Aquifer under the great California croplands is in desperate shape with thousands of dry wells. The Ogallala Aquifer, running under America's bread-basket, all the way from North Dakota to Texas, will be completely dry in 40 years. There will be no water for to grow crops. And no water to drink!

Some countries in Africa and the Near East have absolutely *no more open land to expand* agriculture. Yet the populations of 28 African countries will more than double by 2050.

The UN predicts that in the year 2050, we will have 370 million people *without food*. That's more than the entire population of the United States.

As countries run out of food, The UN predicts mass migrations and *wars* for food.

Hawaii imports 90 percent of what we eat, and we keep only one week's supply of food on-island. As food becomes more scarce worldwide, it is quite possible that there will be no outside food available for import, from anywhere.

No wheat, potatoes, rice, fresh fruits — none of it! We must prepare for this fact or we will die. **We have just 30 years to become totally self-sufficient in food.**

To meet that need we must expand farm education programs. We need to start opening up banked farmland on all islands, and growing *all* of the foods we now import. We must produce and sell our own farm supplies We must develop ranges for cattle, and create more piggeries, chicken and egg farms, dairies, and slaughter houses. We need our own huge bakeries, milk processing plants, breweries, canneries, and other facilities to process for market all of the foods we produce.

We need to start now! There are a number of agriculture bills still alive in the legislature. Every Senator and Representative needs to adopt the mindset, "If it is good for agriculture, it must pass." Let's get moving now! We don't have time to waste.

The facts in this email are amplified and documented on my website, www.2050Hawaii.com.

Dr. Kioni Dudley

92-1365 Hauone Street

Kapolei, Hawai'i 96707

Telephone: (808) 672-8888

E-mail: DrKioniDudley@hawaii.rr.com

Website: www.2050Hawaii.com

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:54:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeri Di Pietro	Hawai'i SEED	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please SUPPORT SB3197 SD2 for the Farmer Mentorship Program and take proactive measures towards food security for our isolated island chain.

Mahalo,

Hawai'i SEED



Officers

Vincent Mina
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Dash Kuhr
Kohala, Hawaii'i

Drake Weinert
East Hawaii'i

Steve Lund
Puna, Hawaii'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawaii

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawaii'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 Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the House Agriculture 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 train the next generation of our islands' farmers.

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 1) growing more farmers, 2) increasing the supply of Hawaii's skilled agricultural workforce and 3) contributing to increased local food production. This program has focused on the largest question of Hawaii farms, small and family farms, providing immersive hands-on farm learning. SB3197 would expand on the FAM program success on Maui and support farms across the state to engage in workforce training.

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



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

March 23, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 3197, SD2
RELATING TO AN AGRICULTURE

Room 325 & Videoconference
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso, 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, 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.



House Committee on Agriculture

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

Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022 9 a.m. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports SB3197 SD2, which we believe helps to provide a tangible solution to moving toward more local food production and strengthening our local food system, while supporting our local farmers and food producers, as well as our economy.

SB3197 SD2 establishes a farmer apprentice mentoring program. Makes an appropriation to the Department of Agriculture to establish and implement the program.

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 60¹.

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 Hawaii'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 help support sourcing local foods the more we support our local farmers and help our economy. When sourcing more local food we also reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with our current heavy reliance on imported food.

Please support SB3197 SD2. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written over a horizontal line.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

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

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:35:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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.

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.

Support SB3197 SD2.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 1:34:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need young folks to persue sustatinable agriculture careers. Thank you

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:09:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thayne Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

A focused approach to educating interns and apprentices on locally-oriented farms results 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 acknowledged 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 critical component of meeting State goals for increasing food security and agricultural self-sufficiency. For these reasons I ask you to support SB3197.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:28:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa DeSantis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB3197. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:46:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Fallbeck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am concerned with supporting ALL the agriculture and food sustainability measures listed here as well as raising the wage limit for the State:

[IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1517 - RELATING TO COFFEE.](#)

[SB2989 STRONG SUPPORT](#) - RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

[SB2990 STRONG SUPPORT](#) - RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

[SB341 STRONG SUPPORT](#) - RELATING TO TARO

[SB2986 STRONG SUPPORT](#) RELATING TO HEMP

[SB2990 STRONG SUPPORT](#) RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

SB 2218.SD1. Food Hubs.

SB3197 SD2. Agriculture apprentice mentoring

[HB2510 HD2](#) increasing the minimum wage. [SB2018](#) would have been my choice.

Without a comprehensive approach using all these methods, I fear we will be slave to the tourist industry that made us so vulnerable during this on-going Pandemic.

Please support a comprehensive approach that addresses our entire economic situation.

Thank you!

Dr. Patricia Fallbeck

3448 Lawailoa Lane

Koloa, HI, 96756

808-346-0899

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:49:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation as it pertains to the apprenticeship of long--term residents of Hawai'i, and not to bring more woofers to take over our landscape. It seems as though the more resources that the state creates, the more those resources are helping people who just moved here, as opposed to the people who are from here - all ethnicities included.

I graduated from a farm apprenticeship program that helped me to purchase lands that technically belonged to my family for centuries - as a means to avoid going through decade long struggles to fight for that land. Thanks to my time spent in the apprenticeship program, I was able to preserve 6 more acres of Hawaiian lands for the future of Hawaiian people, through the USDA and a Farm Apprenticeship Program.

Lastly, I have one more request - can we make it clear to these programs that Hawaiian style farming has nurtured the land for thousands of years, and farming styles from other regions, work best in those regions. I have a serious problem with the amount of instructors who told me that my farm was going to fail because I did not implement a style of farming that belongs to another geographical region, but does not support the biodiversity here in Hawai'i.

Additionally, they are pushing the cutting of trees - native trees that are responsible for the maintenance of rain cycles. Let it be known that one of the reasons for all of the recent droughts in Hawai'i are due to the loss of important biodiversity, such as trees.

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:02:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill.

Mahalo

Elizabeth Hansen

Registered voter - Hakalau HI 96710

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:07:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators: Please support this essential issue. Mahalo,

Rodger Hansen, Registered Voter- Hakalau HI 96710

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:23:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:55:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear AGR committee members,

I strongly support SB3197 SD1 to establish a Beginning Farmer Training Program at the UH-West Oahu campus. Hawaii has committed to doubling its local food production but has so far made little progress toward that goal. Farmers require support if they are going to "make it" in Hawaii. There are numerous factors making farming difficult in Hawaii, financing and training being two of them. Receiving quality training could make a big difference in a farmer's long-term success.

Please support this bill. With increasing costs for food production and transport, local food production is becoming a critical need in our state.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:24:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB 3197 SD2. We need to invest in our young farmers by giving them the support and training for them to be successful. When they are successful, it feeds all of us!

Hawai'i nei cannot reach our food security goals without having highly skilled farmers, versed in regenerative farming techniques, farming and marketing their products and clear business techniques and management skills. We need to support our younger generation to do this hard, risky and very important work. We also need to make fertile land and water available for affordable long term lease.

Mahalo for your crucial support,

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:29:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rexann Dubiel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please, pass this.

We need to learn from our elders especially how to grow our own food and food to share.

It is critical to our island sustainability.

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:33:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB 3197.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:45:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzanne Fields	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am a member of the Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) which you know is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers.

I am their many supporters across the Hawai‘ian islands 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 on Maui and responds to three major priorities for the State’s food security needs; 1) including growing more farmers, 2) increasing the supply of Hawaii’s skilled agricultural workforce and 3) 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 explained in SB3197, the Beginning Farmer Training program immerses beginning farmers in a “whole farm system” approach to agriculture under the guidance of experienced farmer mentors.

As a division of the National Farmers Union (NFU), HFUU supported at a national level in 2019, a more focused approach to educating interns and apprentices on locally-oriented farms as these educational opportunities results 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.

Suzanne Fields, M.S.P.H

Haiku, Maui

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 6:04:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
De Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 21, 2022

Committee On Agriculture: Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair and Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair, and Honorable Committee Members,

Please support bill SB3197 SD2.

To me, this bill is a no-brainer.

Farming is one of our most important industries purely because it does what no other business does: it DIRECTLY brings food to our table. Sure, some employment will give you money to BUY food, but who are buying it from? Farmers. If the farmers did not exist here in Hawaii, who would we buy it from? From OTHER farmers, in other countries, at a more expensive cost. And guess what? The "cost of living" goes up, and we lose more residents to the continent, lose more of the workforce, lose our communities and our future, honestly.

Is Hawaii supposed to be a sterile playground for foreign countries to use and abuse and leave with nothing? Or should we strive to become self sufficient, self-sustaining and thrive, with the opportunity that our rich farmlands provide?

New Jersey is touted as the garden state for the numbers of produce it provides for the continent. Can we work toward being the "garden state" for OURSELVES?

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.

Please support SB 3197.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

D Austin

Kihei, Maui

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:03:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
VINCENT KIMURA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my **STRONG SUPPORT** for this bill. Over the last 5 years, I've enjoyed watching the evolution of the Apprentice Mentoring program. One of the more profound conversations was with a current cohort member who had participated in the Go Farm program and was completing the FAM (MAUI) program. Kyle mentioned that the combination of both programs provided very different learning modules that helped prepare him. The proven track record of the Maui program and the focus on mentoring from farmers earning a living growing is evident through the community and support network.

We definitely need more programs to better mentor, support the next generation of farmers!

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:50:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	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.

But 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.

We must also 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:06:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members,

I support SB3197 because it will help beginning farmers with the goal of increasing farming in the state. Increased farming means inching toward sustainability which should be an economic and environmental goal for our state. Any effort to reach sustainability should be supported. Modern farming methods and agricultural development has become environmentally positive and mentoring programs can teach these methods and help efforts to combat climate change. Farming is an industry we should support in order to feed our population with locally grown foods, preserve the environment and open lands, especially areas with rich soil, provide more jobs, and increase sustainability.

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:10:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kilia Purdy-Avelino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a 4th generation homestead farmer from Molokai and an educator. I STRONGLY support SB3197 SD2 to promote next generation farmers.

Mahalo,

Kilia Purdy-Avelino

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 6:03:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

We need farmers. Potential farmers need help.

Help them !

JN Makawao

SB-3197-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:20:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge strong support for this bill.