

SB-3197

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 3:03:27 PM

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

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

Comments:

My name is Kilia Purdy-Avelino, a 4th generation homesteader from Ho'olehua, Molokai. My husband and I are currently in a Farmer Apprentice Mentorship program. We are experiencing the benefits of being in this program by learning from other farmers, practitioners, and/or educators. Please support this program. Mahalo!

SB-3197

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 3:56:33 PM

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

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

Comments:

This model for educating farmers is important for expanding our ability to feed ourselves as a state.

SB-3197

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 6:58:22 PM

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

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

Comments:

We don't have enough young people going into ag, mentoring will be a major encouragement.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 1:00 P.M.
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference**

RE: SB 3197 Relating to Agriculture

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 3197, 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.

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
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3197

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

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

Senate Bill No. 3197 adds a new section to Chapter 141, HRS, that establishes a farmer apprentice mentoring program within the Department of Agriculture to teach farmers how to utilize a whole farm system approach to agriculture. This bill also appropriates \$1,000,000 in general funds in FY 23 to effectuate the program.

B&F also notes that the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



Officers

Vincent Mina
State President
HFUU

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President
HFUU

Maureen Datta
Secretary
HFUU

Reba Lopez
HFUU Treasurer

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 with amendments** to fund a Farmer Apprentice Mentoring Program to teach and train farmers to utilize a whole farm system approach to agriculture.

Chapter Presidents

Dash Kuhr
Kohala, Hawai'i

Drake Weinert,
East Hawai'i

Steve Lund
Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
K'au, Hawaii

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawai'i

Robert Boudreaux
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Bobby Pahia
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Mau

Brynn Foster
North Shore, Oahu

In reviewing SB3197, **we are interested in having the language in the bill follow the original version of [SB2709 \(2020\)](#)**. The current SB3197 draft has HDOA Chair determining program curricula, our hope is that instead a set of topic areas are articulated and then program applicants can apply for funding, as outlined in SB2709.

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 in 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

Vincent Kimura
Waimanalo, Oahu

Anabella Bruch
Kauai

SB-3197

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:26:28 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Reba Lopez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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



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FEBRUARY 2, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 3197
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

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

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

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 3197, which establishes a Farmer Apprentice Mentoring Program to teach and train farmers to utilize a whole farm system approach to agriculture.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are aging. The average age of the Hawaii 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.

HFB strongly supports the concept of building soil structure and nutrient capacity. Caring for the soil is a cornerstone to having multigenerational farms that continue to provide for the people of Hawaii. However, soil health is only one aspect of being a successful farmer. Knowledge of regulations, finances and marketing are just a few of the areas that are required to ensure that farmers are viable. We respectfully request that the mentorship include other areas of training so the intern or apprentice will be provided a well-rounded experience of what it takes to be a successful farmer in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND THE ENVIRONMENT

FEBRUARY 2, 2022
1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 3197
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 3197, which establishes a Farmer Apprentice Mentoring Program within the Department of Agriculture to teach and train farmers to utilize a “whole farm system approach” which emphasizes the importance of soil health. There is an appropriation. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure provided it does not impact the Department’s priorities listed in the Executive Budget and offers comments.

The Department of Agriculture supports efforts to improve the capacity of new and existing farms to succeed in their endeavors. We support all forms of agricultural activities and practices. However, the Department of Agriculture is not structured for nor has any practical experience with establishing and implementing an agricultural educational program. As such, the Department would rely on the expertise that currently exists in the local community, such as the “Go Farm” program and the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



SB-3197

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 3:48:20 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Harriet Witt	Testifying for Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

We need farmers who know how to farm without depleting the soil and without polluting the atmosphere. Since our public schools are not teaching young people how to do this, we need this bill. Please support it. Mahalo, Harriet Wiutt, 43 Puu Koa Place, Haiku, Maui.