

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2023
3:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**SENATE BILL NO. 86, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY**

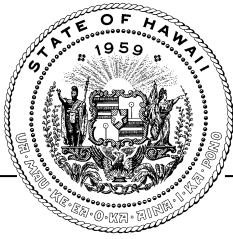
Chairperson Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 86, SD1, HD1. This bill requires the Department of Agriculture (Department) in coordination with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) to update the State Agriculture Functional Plan (Plan) to include other agricultural economic updates that expand the State's priority on food by increasing local food self-sufficiency and exports. The updated Plan, and any proposed legislation, is to be submitted prior to the convening of the 2026 Legislature. The Department supports this measure and offers additional comments.

The Department and OPSD will need time to determine the process to update the Plan update as defined in Section 226-55 and identify the resources needed to complete this significant and complex task. The Department's preliminary thoughts are that the Plan will contain a comprehensive overview of Hawaii agriculture but be narrowly focused and with precise actions to increase local food self-sufficiency and exports. The Plan will identify lead and assisting organizations, establish implementation dates, and budget estimates to carry out the actions. The Plan will focus on Hawaii's agricultural producers who are the backbone of Hawaii's "food system".

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
INTERIM DIRECTOR

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Statement of
SCOTT GLENN, Interim Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
SB86, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports the intent** of SB 86, SD1, HD1, which requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA), in coordination with the OPSD, to update the State Agriculture Functional Plan to include other agricultural economic updates, including seafood sustainability, that expand the State's priority on increasing local food self-sufficiency and exports.

To comply with sections 226-55 and -56, HRS, DOA will need to convene an advisory committee and work in close cooperation with the officials and people of each county. OPSD is happy to provide guidelines and support DOA.

Given the extensive scope of the work program mandated in Chapter 226-55, OPSD defers to DOA on the impact on the department's staff and programmatic resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-86-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 11:35:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ROBERT DUERR	Wailoa River and Reeds Bay Boating and Users Association 501(c)3	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly Support. SB86 Relating to Food Sustainability. Hawaii fishers fish for food not for sport. Sustainable food security is critical for Hawaii's ocean lawa'ia ohanas.

While chicken, eggs, pork, and beef are designated food, wild-caught fish is not.

The Dept of Ag does not track ocean caught fish data. So it is not recognized. More locally caught fish is consumed in Hawaii that all the local chicken, eggs, pork and beef COMBINED. Ranchers and farmers get various state supports while fishers get bolohead- which when fishing means catch nothing.

Let's hui up and change this. Recognize that Hawaii's ocean caught fish is food.

Mahalo, Robert Duerr

Wailoa and Reeds Bay Boating and Users Association Inc. 501(c)3

Hilo, Hawaii



March 27, 2023

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday March 29, 2023

TIME: 3 pm.

Regarding: SB 86 Food Sustainability

Strong Support.

HFACT is a not-for-profit, IRS 501c(5) organization, that advocates for small boat commercial, non-commercial, and recreational fishermen throughout Hawaii. HFACT board members sit on a number of federal fisheries management and endangered species advisory committees as well as state marine and coastal zone advisory committees; and, HFACT is thoroughly familiar with and participates in ocean and marine resource management in Hawaii and the central Pacific.

HFACT strongly supports SB86. In 2012, the state published a report entitled “INCREASED FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY, A STATE STRATEGIC/FUNCTIONAL PLAN”. While HFACT applauds the plan, the 2012 plan did not address fish and seafood. Nowhere in the plan was there recognition of fish and seafood as part of food security and food self-sufficiency.

HFACT asks that the committees support SB86 so that a plan could be developed to set forth objectives, policies and actions to increase the amount of locally caught fish that is food consumed by Hawaii’s residents.

It is already recognized by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture that the economic impact of food import replacement is significant. The 2012 report cites that “replacing just 10% of the food Hawaii currently imports would amount to approximately \$313 million dollars which would remain in the State”. The 2012 report further recommends actions to market “Buy Local/It Matters” and to brand and label local food products. HFACT agrees on both counts.

Also identified in the 2012 report is that “a critical factor towards successful implementation will be building partnerships with the increasing number of organizations involved in food self sufficiency/food security.” HFACT stands ready to assist the state in this regard.

In 2017, sustainability and self-sufficiency discussions focused on agriculture and omitted the **state’s largest food producing entity, *which is fishing***. Hawaii’s commercial fishing vessels land about \$110 million of seafood. Eighty to 90 percent of the locally caught fish stay in

Hawai’i Fishermen’s Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, Inc.

75-796 Hiona Street, Holualoa HI 96725

our islands as food for our people and visitors. By comparison, according to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, cattle production is valued at about \$65 million with only 24 percent kept in the state. Sugarcane is valued at about \$54 million with less than 5 percent kept for local consumption. Algae production is worth \$33 million with 0 percent retained locally. Papayas are worth \$11 million with half of the production staying in the state. All of the banana, milk, lettuce and taro produced in Hawaii are consumed locally, but together these local products are valued at about \$31 million, which is less than a third of the value of local commercial fish landings.

The alternative to a viable local fishery is increased dependence on much less regulated foreign imports. Up to a third of these imports are considered to be from illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries and less than 2 percent of the imports are inspected.

HFACT believes that the argument to create and publish a functional plan for seafood sustainability is very compelling, therefore, we ask the committee for your support.

HFACT thanks the chairs vice-chair, and committee members for this opportunity to provide comment and to assist in providing food to the people of Hawaii and to assist in the conservation of Hawaii's natural resources.

Sincerely and Aloha,



Edwin Watamura
Executive Director
watafishing@gmail.com

SB-86-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 6:12:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Latkiewicz	Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB86 SD1 HD1 Requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, to update the State Agriculture Functional Plan to include other agricultural economic updates that expand the State's priority on food by increasing local food self-sufficiency and exports. Requires the Governor to submit the updated plan to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2025. Action such as stated above is critical if we are to make systemic change towards our vision of food security. For that reason, I support and urge you to support this legislation.



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March 29, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 86, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, 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 86, SD1, HD1, which requires the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, to update the State Agriculture Functional Plan to include other agricultural economic updates that expand the State's priority on food by increasing local food self-sufficiency and exports and requires the Governor to submit the updated plan to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2025.

The State's Agricultural Functional Plan was last updated in 1991. Since it was last updated, Hawai'i's agricultural industry has transitioned from plantation agriculture to a more diversified agriculture sector. Diversified agriculture in Hawaii includes flowers and nursery products, vegetables and melons, macadamia nuts, cattle, milk, fruits poultry, eggs, forest products, hogs, coffee, taro, ulu, cacao, other livestock, and aquaculture.

Updating the state agriculture functional plan will help to provide guidance for agricultural development in Hawaii that considers how agriculture has changed over the past thirty-two years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

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

Chapter Presidents

Madeline Ross
Kohala, Hawai'i

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 and seeks to amend SB86.**

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawai'i

Having access to sustainable sources of food is paramount for island life, and this bill provides an avenue to guarantee just that. By updating the State Agriculture Functional Plan, last produced in 1991, we will be able to address equity in and the impacts of the use of our shared natural resources. Supporting traditional and modern agriculture will create additional jobs and opportunities for local farmers, and help build a stronger economy within our state.

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Chantal Chung
Kona, Hawai'i

The mission of the 1991 plan was to increase agricultural development based on the Hawaii State Plan objectives for agriculture. At the time, and now, the top two objectives were (1) Viability of Hawaii's sugar and pineapple industries and (2) Growth and development of diversified agriculture throughout the State. As HB305 sought to update these objectives, **HFUU seeks an amendment to SB86 to incorporate language from HB305** to ensure that the plan developed addresses Hawaii nei.

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

SECTION X. Section 226-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) Planning for the State's economy with regard to agriculture shall be directed towards achievement of the following objectives:

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

~~[(1) Viability of Hawaii's sugar and pineapple industries.~~

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

~~(2)]~~ (1) Growth and development of diversified agriculture throughout the State.

Brynn Foster
North Shore, O'ahu

~~[(3)]~~ (2) An agriculture industry that continues to constitute a dynamic and essential component of Hawaii's strategic, economic, and social well-being.

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki
Kauai



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Agriculture & Food Security Committee

Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 3:00 pm

House Committee on Finance

SENATE BILL 86 – RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

Position: Strong Support, with proposed amendment

Me ke Aloha, Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

SB86 requires the Department of Agriculture, with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, to update the State Agriculture Functional Plan to extend the State's priorities on food to increase local food self-sufficiency and to incorporate aquatic resources.

The Agriculture & Food Security Committee enthusiastically supports measures that assist in promoting food security in all possible ways. The previous Agricultural Functional Plan was written when sugar and pineapple exports dominated agricultural activity; this needs to be amended to emphasize relief from the importation of 85-90% of our food supply, to provide appropriate attention to aquatic resources, and to incorporate language from current HB305 (2023), striking references to sugar and pineapple from appropriate sections of State Plan chapter HRS 226 .

SB86 makes a great addition to our view of food security by incorporating the realities of local working family dependence on nearshore fisheries. With climate change, our nearshore fisheries have additional challenges beyond overfishing and non-point source runoff pollution – although these factors will see increased stress in the months and years at hand. Now, however, the State Plan for sustainable food must also address increasing nearshore contamination threats from inadequate handling of dangerous chemicals such as those emanating from military and industrial facilities, as well as leachates from aging landfills, to remedy the fragility of our island habitats. For this reason, our Committee also recommends participation of the Department of Health and the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, to fully depict the reach and scale of the challenges to our food security.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this matter.

/s/ Charley Ice Acting Chair, Agriculture and Food Security Committee
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party

SB-86-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 5:41:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Comments	In Person

Comments:

Please align this bill with the food system planning priorities outlined in SB420.

SB-86-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 6:52:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Food self sufficiency on islands is vital

SB-86-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 4:29:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support - but - Please consider evaluating and meeting local needs first before looking to optimize our natural resources when we face threats imposed by climate change.

SB-86-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 9:06:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB86 SD1 HD1.