

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
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023
9:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

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

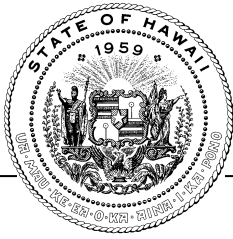
Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 86, SD1. 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
DIRECTOR

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Statement of
SCOTT GLENN, Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Friday, March 17, 2023, 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
SB 86, SD1
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloe, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) supports the intent of SB 86, SD 1, 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.



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March 17, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SB 86, SD1
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, 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, 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.



March 15, 2023

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

DATE: Friday, March 17, 2023
TIME: 9:30 a.m

Regarding: SB 86, SD1 RELATING TO 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, SD1. 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, SD1 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.

Hawai'i Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, Inc.
75-796 Hiona Street, Holualoa HI 96725

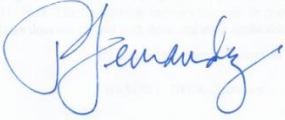
In 2017, sustainability and self-sufficiency discussions focused on agriculture and omitted the **state's largest food producing entity**, *which is fishing*. Hawaii's commercial fishing vessels land about \$110 million of seafood. Eighty to 90 percent of the locally caught fish stay in our islands as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



Phil Fernandez
President



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Madeline Ross
Kohala, Hawai'i

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East Hawai'i

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Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

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Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

Brynn Foster
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki
Kauai

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports SB86.**

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.

HFUU recognizes that food security is a critical factor to consider and is proud to stand behind the Agriculture Functional Plan and its support of sustainable food sources. We urge the legislature to consider this bill, and ensure that Hawaii takes the necessary steps to update policies relative to our food sources. We must provide a more secure and sustainable agricultural foundation to sustain our island life on a firmer food-sourced foundation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

SB-86-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 10:18:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB86 SD1.

SB-86-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 6:16:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of SD1. Thank you.

SB-86-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 9:29:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cara Oba	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou Chair Gates and Members of the House Agriculture Committee,

Food security is an issue for Hawaii and while we should learn about the opportunities that we have within our local waters to support our community food needs, the language of this bill suggests that exports are equally important. Fish numbers will decline if we do not care for our waters, reef, and manage fishing. Promoting sustainable fishing, allowing for the continuation of subsistence fishing, and understanding the role that low-impact fishing can play in our food security equation is responsible. Looking at export markets is a very different consideration. Please consider evaluating and meeting local needs first before looking to optimize our natural resources when we face threats imposed by climate change. We don't want to maximize what our oceans provide and metrics along those lines may set us up to undervalue and overfish our resources. I would feel better about this bill if I felt that it was looking to promote longer term resilience of our food systems. The original version felt less questionable.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Cara Oba

SB-86-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 5:53:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shyla Moon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support for food sustainability in all Hawaii islands. There's so much abundance and healthy food we can gather from land and ocean. Please support all efforts to improve our lives. Fishing means food!

thank you

Shyla