

**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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
AND ENERGY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2023  
1:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224  
AND  
VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1583  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Chairpersons Gabbard and DeCoite and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1583. This bill appropriates funds as a grant-in-aid to the county of Hawaii for the support of the Village, a diversified agricultural park, community, and learning center that aids in the development of a sustainable and secure agricultural industry in the State by growing and producing food for local consumption and exports, providing RTE meals for the military and department of education, and housing and training families and individuals that show interest in sustainable agriculture and food security farming provided that no funds shall be expended unless matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis from either private or other government resources.

The Department supports this measure and looks forward to assisting the county of Hawaii with this effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**SB-1583**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:52:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/15/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Endreson	Testifying for Kohala Mountain Fish Company	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

We are writing today in strong support for SB 1583

1. Gives the County much needed support that will benefit the entire State. Food Security and more options for consumers is a critical component to the viability of many businesses and the lives of the residents of Hawaii.
1. Village will act as a Resilient Food Hub for farmers, ranchers and processors to comingle efforts and work together. processor will buy all the product grown. Clean, certify it and package it for the local fresh market. A product of the US. Grown in Hawaii.. y will also process and package the product for a frozen market that can be sold to the Farm to School program, Dept of Defense and the USDA as well as the private sector.

The Village incorporates the farming techniques used in the Netherlands making the Netherlands the 2nd largest exporter of AG in the World behind the United States.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/11/netherlands-dutch-farming-agriculture-sustainable/>

The Netherlands which is only 4 times the size of the Big Island, exports over \$110 Billion dollars a year of AG. It uses precision farming techniques. Hydroponics, aquaponics and things already working very well here in Hawaii. And by using these techniques, they produce 10 times more than conventional farming per acre and use 90% less water doing it.

The Village isn't going to be built on fertile farmland. The competition for this type of land is extraordinary in Hawaii now with farmland costing upwards of \$50-60K per acre. The Village will be built on land things can't grow on. Lava fields and rocky terrain, because the Village doesn't need dirt, but rather simply needs the subsurface water traveling under these lava fields unused into the ocean.

This Bill will allow the County to work with the private sector and the Federal Government so it can empower farmers and ranchers and create a venue for them all to comingle efforts and benefit in a global market.

This is a way to keep future generations engaged in a new technology of farming and processing and enhance Hawaii's food security. Longer shelf life for local AG products on Hawaii's shelves for consumers grown here in Hawaii.

Mahalo

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

**SB 1583 - Support**

Relating to Agricultural Development

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

1:00 PM

Conference Room 224

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and DeCoite, Vice Chairs Richards and Wakai, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Scott Enright and I stand in strong support of this measure, SB 1583. I have worked with Bob Endreson and his Kohala Mountain Fish Company with the development of the agricultural initiatives that form "The Village" project. Mr. Endreson and Kohala Mountain Fish Company have a proven record of success with the State's largest tilapia aquaculture operation and with the Department of Defense contracts to purchase their output. "The Village" concept will build on this success and with the incorporation of the latest proven technology's in precision agriculture will develop the type of enterprises that will move Hawaii's agricultural sector into the future and thus contribute to the State's agricultural security initiatives.

Again, I strongly support SB 1583 and encourage the Committee to move this measure forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott Enright



Testimony Presented to  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism  
Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 1:00 PM, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference  
by  
*Ron Weidenbach, Co-owner/President, Hawaii Fish Company Inc., Waialua, HI*

Re: SB1583 Relating to Agriculture

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and DeCoite, Vice Chairs Richards and Wakai, and Committee Members,

Hawaii Fish Company, established in 1978, and Hawaii's oldest land-based fish farm, supports SB1583 which appropriates funding contingent upon matching fund availability for the support of The Village, a diversified agricultural park, community, and learning center that aids in the development of a sustainable and secure agricultural industry in the State by growing and producing food for local consumption and exports.

The establishment of The Village project, as proposed, appears to be a means to further expand and diversify Kohala Mountain Fish Company's existing operations and engage other producers in a collaborative and beneficial manner. This project is a larger-scale version of what our company continues to work towards with community support on the North Shore of Oahu, and sets a positive example of what can be achieved when an innovative vision and relevant expertise is supported by government and enabled to move forward.

Our state needs such integrated agricultural projects if we are serious about local food production, food security, and food safety. These efforts have a high financial price tag if they are to be carefully planned and successfully executed, and the requested matching funds will be beneficial to such efforts. We therefore support this request for State to appropriate a grant-in-aide to the County of Hawaii to help support this endeavor as proposed in SB1583.

Respectfully,

Ronald P. Weidenbach  
Co-owner and President  
Hawaii Fish Company Inc.

**Sustainability. Innovation. Quality.**

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**SB-1583**

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 11:05:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/15/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Freeman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Holt, Vice Chair Lamosao, Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committees on Economic Development and Agriculture and Food Systems,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB691, which authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Kohala Mountain Fish Company, LLC, for the establishment of The Village project. The County looks forward to community participation in the creation and establishment of an economically revitalizing project that is based on traditional local business activities.

We encourage the Committees to forward the bill with a positive recommendation for passage by the House.

very respectfully

Douglass S Adams

Director, Dept of Research & Development

County of Hawaii