

**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  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023**  
**ROOM 224**  
**1:00 P.M.**

**SENATE BILL NO. 776**  
**RELATING TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gabbard and Member of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 776. This measure is to amend the composition of the board of agriculture by requiring representation from the islands of Molokai and Lanai and expanding the board from 10 to 12 members. The Department of Agriculture supports this bill with comments.

Pursuant to section 26-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Board of Agriculture consists of ten members. Three members must be a resident of the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai, respectively. Three members are ex-officio members, the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources, the director of business economic development and tourism, and the dean of the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources or their designated representatives. Four members are at large members selected by the Governor. The Governor also selects one of these members as the Chair of the Board of Agriculture.

This measure would add two additional board members, one of whom shall be a resident of the island of Molokai and one of whom shall be a resident of the island of Lanai.

The Department comments that the term of the representative from the County of Maui will end on June 30, 2024. If this measure is not enacted, the Governor could select a resident from Molokai or Lanai for this position.



Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Officers**

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Fawn Helekahi-Burns  
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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 Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment 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 SB776.**

Our organization is all about fostering sustainability, resiliency, and self-sufficiency for our local farmers, ranchers, and fishers. As such, our members firmly believe that including members who can represent the agricultural interests of Molokai and Lanai on the Board of Agriculture is essential to move our mission forward. By expanding the board to include those two islands we can bring a much needed diversity, perspective, and expertise to the group.

HFUU believes that by increasing the representation of the boards of these two island, we can ensure comprehensive, equitable access to and information about important resources like USDA grants, research and development, and other agricultural programs. This is an essential step forward in ensuring that all people in Hawaii have access to the same benefits that the Board strives to afford. By strengthening representation of these two islands on the board, we can move closer towards our goal of creating economic opportunities for all of our agricultural workers and businesses.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

**SB-776**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:23:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christian Zuckerman	Testifying for Kuwale Ridge Farms	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of bill SB 776. Moloka'i and Lana'i are important players in the agriculture sector and need to be represented on the Board of Agriculture.



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND  
ENVIRONMENT

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

**SB776**

RELATING TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 1:00 PM  
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB776** which amends the composition of the Board of Agriculture by requiring representation from the islands of Molokai and Lanai.

Each of our islands faces unique challenges, and it is important to have representation added for Molokai and Lanai. While these islands have historically been represented under the Maui County representative, there are complex challenges on Molokai and Lanai that would be better addressed with appropriate representation on the Board of Agriculture.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director



**SB-776**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 12:39:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brian Miyamoto	Testifying for Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	In Person

Comments:

**SB-776**

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 2:16:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB776.

**SB-776**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:37:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
sydney smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

The needs of Lana'i and the needs of Moloka'i are very different from the needs of Maui island. I wholeheartedly support them having their own representative on the Department of Agriculture.

Please consider the unique characters of these islands and the difficulty of finding a representative who would know all three island's issues, soil makeup, invasive species, labor challenges and the needs of the residents when you make your decision.

With respect,

Sydney Smith

Maliko Estate Coffee Farm

Makawao



**SB-776**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:11:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hugh Starr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members:

I support SB 776. Molokai and Lanai are unique stand-alone Islands and would benefit having direct informed advocacy regarding State lands matters

Thank you, Hugh Starr

Olinda Maui

**SB-776**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:24:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I support SB 776.

Mahalo nui Rosie

**SB-776**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 11:52:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Faith Tuipulotu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 776.

**SB-776**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 5:23:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support