

**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 COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**  
**and JUDICIARY**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023**  
**ROOM 224**  
**1:00 P.M.**

**SENATE BILL NO. 831**  
**RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Gabbard, Rhoads and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 831. This measure grants the Department of Agriculture (Department) the statutory power to own land and property for immediate or future use. The Department supports this measure to the extent it complements our existing agricultural land, irrigation, and agricultural enterprise programs that are meant to increase agricultural production by providing stable tenure and access to agricultural resources for commercial agricultural producers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 22, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**TESTIMONY ON SB 831**  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 224 & Via Videoconference  
1:00 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Rhoads, Vice Chair Richards and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

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 strongly supports SB 831**, which grants the Department of Agriculture the statutory power to own land/property for immediate or future use.

HFB believes that in order for agriculture to flourish in Hawai'i and reach its full potential, land availability, and long-term leases at affordable and predictable lease rental rates are critical. Authorizing HDOA to acquire, acquire by grant, or purchase any real, personal, or mixed property will significantly increase the available agricultural land under the State's control and will provide farmers with long-term leases that will enhance the economic viability of Hawai'i's agriculture industry.

The success of ranchers and farmers is a key component in the State's goal to double local food production. Farmers and ranchers need long-term leases in order to prudently invest in infrastructure improvement on the leased land. HDOA rules are set up to encourage agriculture and make it practical to do so.

We believe this is an opportunity to further support and expand the state's ability to provide and improve agricultural lands for farmers, which is consistent with the State's goal of increasing self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

**SB-831**

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 8:57:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/22/2023 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 with the exception to DOA Not purchasing lands titled, {"Kuleana" lands awarded during Mahele between 1845-55 and Not Hawaiian Homestead lands/leases.