

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. No. 612, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Relating to Taxation

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Friday, March 31, 2023
TIME: 9:45 a.m.
LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Taxation ("Department") offers the following comments regarding H.B. 612, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, for your consideration.

H.B. 612, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, adds a new section to chapter 235, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to create a nonrefundable income tax credit equal to 15 percent of net farm income for eligible farmers with less than \$250,000 in net farm income or 10 percent of net farm income for taxpayers with net farm income greater than \$250,000 but less than \$1,000,000. The term "eligible farmer" is defined as a taxpayer who provides proof of at least two-thirds of excess federal gross income from farming or ranching, as shown by federal Form 1040 Schedule F or from fishing, as shown by federal Form 1040 Schedule C. The bill has a defective effective date of June 30, 3000 and applies to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.

The Department appreciates the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment's amendments to the measure, which removed the "qualified expenses" language and provide the Department time for implementation.

The Department suggests additional amendments to the measure as follows:

First, the Department notes that subsection (b) is ambiguous as to whether the amount of the tax credit is equal to a percentage of "tax liability," as indicated on page 2, line 11, or a percentage of "net farm income," as indicated on page 2, lines 13 and line 17. If the intent of the bill is for the amount of the tax credit to be based on a percentage of "net farm income," the Department suggests deleting "tax liability based on" from line 11 of page 2 so that subsection 2 reads as follows:

(b) The amount of the tax credit shall be equal to a percentage of the eligible farmer's net farm income as follows:

Second, the Department suggests that subsection (e), which applies to refundable credits, be deleted to avoid ambiguity.

The Department estimates a revenue loss to the general fund as follows (\$ millions):

| FY 2024 | FY 2025 | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | FY 2028 | FY 2029 |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| - | -5.1 | -5.3 | -5.4 | -5.6 | -5.7 |

Finally, the Department notes that it can implement this bill, with the amendments noted above, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 29, 2023

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, and
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 31, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 612, HD2, SD1, RELATING TO TAXATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to establish an income tax credit for local food producers.

The Maui County Council adopted Resolution 23-43, "URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT AND ADOPT THE PRIORITY FOOD POLICIES RECOMMENDED BY THE TRANSFORMING HAWAII'S FOOD SYSTEMS TOGETHER INITIATIVE," in support of this measure. Therefore, I offer this testimony on the Council's behalf.

The Maui County Council **supports** this measure for the following reasons:

1. This measure will provide much-needed support to local farmers, ranchers, and fishers by helping to alleviate the high costs of food production they face.
2. This measure advances the following Maui County General Plan policy: "Assist farmers to help make Maui County more self-sufficient in food production."
3. This measure advances the goal of empowering farmers and supporting the production of local food in Hawai'i, as outlined in Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge and the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations.

For the foregoing reasons, the Maui County Council **supports** this measure.



March 29, 2023

Hawai'i State Senate
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

RE: SUPPORT of HB612 HD2 SD1

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee,

This bill would create tax credits for farmers, ranchers, and fishers, helping to offset the high costs of production that create barriers to making farming/food production economically viable in Hawaii. Support for our local food producers will allow them to invest more in their businesses.

This bill will provide much needed support to grow and sustain our agriculture sector. Please support HB612.

Mahalo,

Anna Camacho, co-founder

GOOD FOOD
movement



Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB612 HD2 SD1

Friday, March 31, 2023 9:45 a.m. Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

HAPA Supports HB612 HD2 SD1 which would create an income tax credit to alleviate the high costs of production for farmers, ranchers, and fishers and incentivize growth in the agricultural sector in the State.

This bill would create tax credits for farmers, ranchers, and fishers, helping to offset the high costs of production that create barriers to making farming/food production economically viable in Hawai'i. It is also important to note that this bill defines "eligible farmer" as a taxpayer that provides proof of at least two-thirds of excess federal gross income from farming or ranching. Therefore this bill specifically targets food producers whose livelihood is primarily earned from local food production, targeting support where it can be most impactful.

Support for our local food producers will allow them to invest more in their businesses and will provide much needed support to grow and sustain our agriculture sector.

Please support HB612 HD2 SD1.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



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

March 31, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 612, HD2, SD1
RELATING TO TAXATION

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
9:45 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 HB 612, HD2, SD1, which creates an income tax credit to alleviate the high costs of production for farmers, ranchers, and fishers and incentivize growth in the agricultural sector in the State.

Farming is a tough business. High production costs are a major driver of narrow profit margins for Hawai'i's farmers. Land, water, labor, taxes, transportation, utilities, inputs, invasive species, and food safety regulations are all costs of doing business that often results in our farmers just being able to break even. HFB supports any initiative that reduces the cost of production so that locally produced goods can compete with imported products, strengthening our local economy.

Hawai'i Farm Bureau Policy states:

“State tax and monetary policies should be designed to encourage private initiative to help stabilize farm economics in the State of Hawai'i, to promote employment and economic growth, and to distribute the tax burden equitably. Further such policy should be used by the state, when appropriate, to encourage agricultural growth and expansion.”

This measure falls in the “encourage agricultural growth and expansion.” category.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 9:58:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Lourdes millan | Testifying for Green islands acres llc | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this bill



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Friday, March 31, 2023 —9:45 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 612 HD2 SD1, Relating to Taxation.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports HB 612 HD2 SD1, which creates an income tax credit to alleviate the high costs of production for farmers, ranchers, and fishers and incentivizes growth in the agricultural sector in the State.

Ulupono supports the State's goal to double local food production and the sustainable growth of the agricultural industry here in Hawai'i. According to the 2017 USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Census of Agriculture, 66% of Hawai'i's 7,328 farms statewide, or 4,868 farms, are between 1-9 acres. In addition, 78%, or 5,701 farms, produce less than \$25,000 in sales. This measure will support local producers with the many high costs associated with doing agriculture here in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 7:08:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Colehour Bondera | Testifying for Kanalani Ohana Farm | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members:

Please support this needed legislation to help farmers.

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

Honaunau, HI

colemel2@gmail.com



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
March 31, 2023 – 9:45 a.m. – Conference Room 211 &
Videoconference

HB 612 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO TAXATION

SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of
the Committee:

Hawai'i Aquaculture &
Aquaponics Association
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council
Hawai'i Farm Bureau
Federation
Hawai'i Farmers' Union
United
Hawai'i Food Industry
Association
Hawai'i Food
Manufacturers Association
Kohala Center
Land Use Research
Foundation of Hawai'i
Maui Farm to School
Network (Maui F2SN)
Ulupono Initiative
College of Tropical
Agriculture and Human
Resources - University of
Hawai'i at Manoa

The Local Food Coalition **SUPPORTS** HB 612 HD2 SD1, which creates an income tax credit to alleviate the high costs of production for farmers, ranchers, and fishers and incentivize growth in the agricultural sector in the State and applies to taxable years beginning after 12/31/2023.

This tax credit will help those who farm for a livelihood offset some of the high costs associated with farming and help the state reach its goal of doubling local food production.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprised of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of HB 612 HD2 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Kendall Matsuyoshi
808-544-8345
kmatsuyoshi@wik.com



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

HB612, HD2 SD1
RELATING TO TAXATION

Friday, March 31, 2023, 9:45 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 HB612 HD2 SD1** which creates an income tax credit to alleviate the high costs of production for farmers, ranchers, and fishers and incentivize growth in the agricultural sector in the State

Increasing costs of doing business is a constraining factor for Hawaii's agriculture sector. The cost of land, labor, equipment, and utilities continue to climb, reducing an already small profit margin. In addition, ranchers contend with environmental factors such as drought and invasive species which can have negative impacts on their bottom line. We support an income tax credit to alleviate these high costs of production and incentivize agricultural production growth.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Madeline Ross
Kohala, Hawai'i

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Chantal Chung
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 Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means 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 strongly supports HB612.**

As the legislature has recognized, increasing local food production for local consumption is of vital importance to the state of Hawaii. The high costs associated with agricultural production in Hawaii present a significant challenge to our local food producers. By implementing an income tax credit, we can help alleviate these financial burdens and encourage growth within the agricultural sector. This tax credit would provide essential support to our local farmers, fishers, and ranchers, ensuring the viability of their operations and contributing to the state's progress toward the goals outlined in the Aloha+ challenge.

This bill would create tax credits for farmers, ranchers, and fishers, thereby alleviating the high costs of production that disproportionately burden these sectors of the economy. It will give these businesses a much-needed debit in their fiscal ledger, allowing them to invest more in their enterprise and increase their yields, providing better livelihoods and potentially larger profits. This bill could be a major boon for local agriculture, allowing for more growth and sustainability in the sector.

As a credit, the benefits would accrue solely to livelihood producers and not hobby farms, ensuring efficient use of state resources. Furthermore, this can function as a tool to encourage lifestyle operations to make the leap to full time production.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 1:41:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cards Pintor | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 1:51:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Samuel M Mitchell | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This bill would create tax credits for farmers, ranchers, and fishers, helping to offset the high costs of production that create barriers to making farming/food production economically viable in Hawaii. Support for our local food producers will allow them to invest more in their businesses and will provide much-needed support to grow and sustain our agriculture sector.

Please support HB612.

Thank you for your consideration

Samuel Mitchell Maikiki NB-10

HB-612-SD-1

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

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michele Nihipali | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This bill would create tax credits for farmers, ranchers, and fishers, helping to offset the high costs of production that create barriers to making farming/food production economically viable in Hawaii. Support for our local food producers will allow them to invest more in their businesses and will provide much needed support to grow and sustain our agriculture sector.

Please support HB612.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 5:12:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ezgi Green | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

This bill would create tax credits for farmers, ranchers, and fishers, helping offset the high production costs that create barriers to making farming/food production economically viable in Hawaii. Support for our local food producers will allow them to invest more in their businesses and provide much-needed support to grow and sustain our agriculture sector.

Please support HB612.

I appreciate your consideration,

Ezgi Green, Kaimanu/Waialua

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 5:57:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Helmut Klauer | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Strongly support

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 5:59:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sara Gilligan | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support Bill HB612 to support Hawaii's farmers and to alleviate the high costs they incur in providing local food for the state. This will incentiveize the much needed growth of ag in our state.

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 6:29:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HB612 HD2 SD1.

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 6:41:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Susan Stayton | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support HB612.

Thank you for your consideration,

Susan Stayton, Lawai, Kauai, HI

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 7:15:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Vince Kana`i Dodge | Testifying for `Ai Pohaku- The Stone Eaters | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha kakou!

Writing in strong support for HB612 HD 2SD1 as a small business owner and a part-time farmer. The local food production economy needs government support to grow and thrive to play its ever increasing role in food security here in our islands.

if you support it, it will grow. There has been a lot of supportive testimony for this bill. Please pass HB612 HD 2SD1.

Mahalo Nui!

Vince Kana'i Dodge

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 7:29:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara Barry | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this important legislation.

Mahalo,

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:08:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Raphiell Nolin | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

In strong support

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:19:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary Lu Kelley | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha.

This bill is so important! It would create much needed tax credits for farmers, ranchers, and fishers, helping to offset the high costs of production that create barriers to making farming/food production economically viable in Hawaii. Support for our local food producers will allow them to invest more in their businesses and will provide much needed support to grow and sustain our agriculture sector.

Please support HB612!

Thank you for your consideration, Please do the right thing.

Mary Lu Kelley

Kapa'a, Kauai, H

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:55:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Thomas Brandt | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Strong support!

Ag exporters have long been exempt from GET, and so local farmers who want to reduce our dangerous over-dependency on imported food should enjoy the same exemption..

But in the absence of GET exemption, the very least I think we should do is eliminate as much state income tax liability as possible for local farmers--especially if they sell in Hawaii, IMO, while also helping those who want to sell value added ag products out of state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha!

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:55:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Robert ZUckerman | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This is important as it will help the subsistence of the farmers, fishers, and ranchers, and ultimately the community.

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 6:55:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lynn J Ishii | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This bill would create tax credits for farmers, ranchers, and fishers, helping to offset the high costs of production that create barriers to making farming/food production economically viable in Hawaii. Support for our local food producers will allow them to invest more in their businesses and will provide much needed support to grow and sustain our agriculture sector.

Please support HB612.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lynn Ishii, Wahiawā

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:24:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nani Kahinu | Testifying for Na'ike LLC | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this bill especially for the island of Molokai.

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:32:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Troy Person | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this bill and the farmers who are seeking for the credit to cover 50% of the input transportation cost up to a maximum of \$20,000, and a total cap of \$5M.

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:52:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Naomi Melamed | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am a small farmer in a rural area and I support this bill to support more production and sustainability on the islands. Naomi and Yoav Melamed, Kapaau, HI

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:58:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| James Fleming | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing to support this bill. Farmers need all the help we can get.

Mahalo!

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 9:01:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ann Emmsley | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support HB612. My husband and I are small market farmers. We had been producing Ti Leaves, Kalo and Awa since 2009. We started growing vegetables in 2020 during COVID to help feed our neighbors. We have continued vegetable production and are now full time farmers. We have a CSA, sell some products on a food hub, and do a weekly farmer;s market. We can do this as we have a small pension to help with the bills and we have health care through our former employer. Younger farmers would have a harder time to get started to cover their expenses. Selling fresh produce has very low margins even selling at retail prices. Trying to make a living selling bunches of green onions or beets at \$3 is not the road to quick riches. Produce also has a short shelf life so it is high risk for loss. But it is satisfying to feed our community with healthy fresh food. Helping with a tax credit can assist a little bit with keeping those small profits as income. Limits on the credits for larger established farms that have high volume would be acceptable if \$ for the State are an issue. I think truly helping small farms be competative would behelpful especially for younger farmers trying to start up. We hope our kids will see the value in growing and earning from this 'aina and will take over some day.

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 9:17:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Roland Barker | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

In keeping with our statewide goal of developing greater food self-sufficiency, we need to help farmers stay in business and make it attractive to new farmers to set up shop as food producers. An income tax credit is a good start. Vote in favor of HB612

LATE

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 10:12:31 AM
Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dennis F Lokmer | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I urge strong support for this bill. DFL

LATE

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 10:29:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shaun Fleming | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please please support this very important bill. My family relies on farming to make a living. They are professional , farming Avocadoes, coffee, turmeric , organic mangos and other crops. Farming is a 7 day a week job, no days off, no retirement plan and the expense of doing business is outrageous !

I ask that you please support his very important bill. We have ben here for generations and hope to continue doing so..

Mahalo !

LATE

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 12:08:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Soo Sun Choe | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please Support HB 612 and reduce barriers to the high costs of farming in Hawaii!

LATE

HB-612-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 12:18:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nanea Lo | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Hello,

This bill would create tax credits for farmers, ranchers, and fishers, helping to offset the high costs of production that create barriers to making farming/food production economically viable in Hawaii. Support for our local food producers will allow them to invest more in their businesses and will provide much needed support to grow and sustain our agriculture sector.

Please support HB612.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili