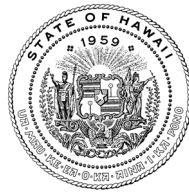


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
*Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kāla*  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

**WRITTEN ONLY**

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 1457

**February 15, 2023**  
**10:30 A.M.**  
**Room 211 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST KOHALA MOUNTAIN FISH COMPANY, LLC.

The Department of Budget and Finance offers the following comments on Senate Bill No. 1457 which authorizes the issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds (SPRB) to assist Kohala Mountain Fish Company, LLC, a Hawaii domestic limited liability company, for the establishment of The Village project, a diversified agricultural park and processing facility on Hawaii island to produce, package, cook, and freeze products year round for both local consumption and value added export pursuant to Part X, Chapter 39A, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Department would like to inform the Legislature and prospective SPRB parties that should the legislation be approved, approval of the SPRB issuance and conduit loan will require further review of the financing proposal to ensure compliance with all federal, state and credit underwriting requirements. Additionally, the Department would like to note that Act 182, SLH 2022 states "unless requested by the governor and approved by the legislature, no special purpose revenue bonds requiring

an allocation of annual state ceiling under section 39B-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be authorized after June 30, 2022 and before December 31, 2028". A Governor's Message will be required to permit the authorization during this session for the issuance of SPRBs that require an allocation of annual state ceiling under section 39B-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes. For additional information, please consult our FAQ located at the following link: <http://budget.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/SPRB-FAQ.pdf>.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

---

**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 1457, RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST KOHALA MOUNTAIN FISH COMPANY, LLC.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 15, 2023      **TIME:** 10:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 211

**TESTIFIER(S):**      **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**

(For more information, contact Randall S. Nishiyama,  
Deputy Attorney General, at 808-586-1267)

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Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

This bill authorizes the issuance of \$100,000,000 in special purpose revenue bonds (SPRBs) pursuant to part X, Assisting Agriculture Enterprises, chapter 39A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to assist the Kohala Mountain Fish Company, LLC, for the establishment of a diversified agricultural park and processing facility on Hawaii island.

Under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the proposed SPRBs require an allocation of the State's annual ceiling for tax-exempt private activity bonds.

We note that section 4 of Act 182, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, provides that, "[u]nless requested by the governor and approved by the legislature, no special purpose revenue bonds requiring an allocation of the annual state ceiling [of private activity bonds] under section 39B-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be authorized after June 30, 2022 and before December 31, 2028."

Consequently, a Governor's Message will be required to permit the authorization of this bill by the Legislature.

We respectfully ask the Committee to consider our comments.

**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 HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2023  
10:30 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 423**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1457  
RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO  
ASSIST KOHALA MOUNTAIN FISH COMPANY, LLC**

Chairpersons Holt and Gates and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 691. This bill authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Kohala Mountain Fish Company, LLC, for the establishment of The Village project, a diversified agricultural park and processing facility on Hawaii Island to produce, package, cook and freeze products year-round for both local consumption and value-added export. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) supports the intent of this measure provided it does not impact the priorities set in the Governor's executive biennium budget.

The department supports bona fide attempts to grow agriculture in the state. The authorization of special purpose revenue bonds will allow the development of new infrastructure with minimal impact to the State's finances. The company proposes new and exciting products that would positively help the State move toward better food security.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**JAMES J. NAKATANI**  
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

235 S. Beretania Street, Suite 205  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

**TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**BEFORE THE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
Wednesday, February 15, 2023  
10:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 211  
Videoconference

**SENATE BILL NO. 1457**  
**RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS**  
**TO ASSIST KOHALA MOUNTAIN FISH COMPANY, LLC.**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1457. The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports this measure, which authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Kohala Mountain Fish Company, LLC, for the establishment of The Village project.

Kohala Mountain Fish Company's Village project is an all-encompassing project that provides solutions to key challenges facing agriculture. This project presents a huge opportunity to boost Hawaii's agriculture industry. We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**SB-1457**

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 10:17:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/15/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglass S. Adams	Testifying for Research and Development, County of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of SB1457, 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 Committee to forward the bill with a positive recommendation for passage by the Senate.

very respectfully

Douglass S Adams

Director, Dept of Research & Development

County of Hawaii



67-332 Kaiea Pl.  
Waialua, HI 96791-9501  
808-383-4481  
[www.NSEVP.org](http://www.NSEVP.org)

**February 12, 2023**

Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
*Wednesday February 15, 2023, 1:30 p.m.*

SUBJECT: Comments on SB1457– RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST KOHALA MOUNTAIN FISH COMPANY, LLC.

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

On behalf of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (North Shore EVP), I would like to extend strong support for SB1457, which authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Kohala Mountain Fish Company, LLC, for the establishment of The Village project.

Since 2016, North Shore EVP has been working to prepare farmers to fully and equitably participate in Hawaii's commercial and institutional markets by providing food safety training and certification through our USDA GroupGAP program. In our work building food safety certified value chains in Hawaii, we are continually amazed at the disregard for compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act especially on how it impacts the ability of farming operations to access new markets.

We are therefore very enthusiastic about The Village project, its emphasis on engaging local farmers, and its focus on food safety certified products. There is high demand for locally grown, food safety certified crops across the state and The Village will be well positioned to access these markets, including purchasing by the Department of Education and other state agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kevin M Kelly, President

February 15, 2023, 10:30 AM  
Conference Room 211  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Testimony in Support of SB 1457, Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Kohala Mountain Fish Company, LLC**

February 13, 2023

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

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

I'm writing today asking for your support for SB1457 in the Hawaii State Legislature. Over the past 20 years we have all been to seminars, conferences, hearings, and workshops discussing and analyzing the issues and problems facing Hawaii's farmers and ranchers as well as food security for Hawaii. Issues such as making feed from local products, to supporting ranching in Hawaii as an alternative to shipping cattle from the mainland, to creating a way for farmers to better provide for local markets, and for local markets to work better with farmers. But it has been difficult.

SB1457 addresses many of the concerns and solutions that have resonated with the industry and its managers. We hope to do it with a coordinated effort through 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspections for Food Safety, workforce housing, and alternative markets and opportunities to operate. The Village creates a model for ownership rather than just a paycheck.

The Village will act as a Resilient Food Hub for farmers, ranchers, and processors to co-mingle efforts and work together. The processor will buy all the product grown then clean, certify it, and package it for the local fresh market. By having a 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspect the product and a facility to clean and package it, it addresses one of the obstacles that has prevented larger retailers and wholesalers from using many of the products from smaller farms here in Hawaii. This is extended way beyond the fence line of the Village. All farmers and ranchers will have access to the Village production line as long as their products meet the standards set.

The processor will also process value added products. A product of the US. Grown in Hawaii. They will process and package the product for a frozen market that can be sold to the Department of Defense and the USDA as well as the private sector. The fastest growing market in the food industry today is RTE's, Ready to Eat Meals.

<https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/ready-meals-market>



The global ready meals market size was valued at USD 159.15 billion in 2019 and is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.5% from 2020 to 2027. Shifting consumers food preferences towards ready-to-eat food products, owing to the busy lifestyle of working individuals as well as hectic work schedules of college grads and students, is expected to be a key factor for the market growth. Why ship cattle to the mainland when we can cook it here? Only 4% of the total US beef market is grass fed because of consumer preferences for steaks and prime cuts of beef. However, now, grass fed beef mixed with local products can be cooked, packaged, frozen and sold worldwide.

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 in AG. It uses precision farming techniques such as hydroponics, aquaponics, and things already working very well here in Hawaii. 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 agricultural goods can't grow on such as lava fields and rocky terrain. It doesn't need dirt but rather simply needs the subsurface water traveling under these lava fields unused into the ocean.

Kohala Mountain Fish is seeking this support so it can empower farmers and ranchers to create a venue for them all to co-mingle efforts and benefit in a global market. We have proven that we can build a processing facility on the side of a volcano, off the grid and still get the highest certification in the world from the US Dept. of Commerce Seafood Inspection for our fish. This allows us to sell to all federal agencies and the Farm to School program. Billions of dollars a year are spent on proteins for these programs and they are very excited at the prospect of adding grass fed, free range organic beef stew, curry and other dishes from the Villages' processing center.

The Village will provide a safe place for farmers to deliver and sell their products. As a processing hub for farmers and ranchers, it will enhance Hawaii's food security.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Bob Endreson

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

**SB 1457 - Support**

Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Kohala Mountain Fish  
Company, LLC

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

10:30 AM

Conference Room 211

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

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

My name is Scott Enright and I stand in strong support of this measure, SB 1457. 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 1457 and encourage the Committee to move this measure forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott Enright



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS  
Wednesday, February 15, 2023 — 10:30 a.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports SB 1457, Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Kohala Mountain Fish Company, LLC, for the Establishment of The Village Project.**

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 SB 1457**, which authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Kohala Mountain Fish Company, LLC, for the establishment of The Village project.

Ulupono supports the State's goal to increase local food production, which includes expanding opportunities for local producers to become economically viable. The Village project will seek to provide local farmers with resources for hands-on education and training, processing and packaging, distribution, and workforce housing. By providing this support, the Village will directly address some of the most pressing issues facing Hawai'i agriculturalists.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



Testimony Presented to  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 10:30 AM, Conference Room 211 & Via Videoconference  
by  
*Ron Weidenbach, Co-owner/President, Hawaii Fish Company Inc., Waialua, HI*

Re: SB1457 RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST KOHALA MOUNTAIN FISH COMPANY, LLC.

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

Hawaii Fish Company, established in 1978, and Hawaii's oldest land-based fish farm, supports SB1457 which authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Kohala Mountain Fish Company, LLC, for the establishment of The Village project. By all accounts that we are aware of, the Kohala Mountain Fish Company has done an outstanding job in developing the State's largest tilapia farm and in developing a processing facility and local and export markets for their Hawaii farm-raised aquaculture product.

The establishment of The Village project, as proposed, appears to be a means to further expand and diversify the company's 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. However, these efforts also have a high financial price tag if they are to be carefully planned and successfully executed. Kohala Mountain Fish Company appears to have a strong start and track record in this regard. We therefore support this request for State support by issuance of special purpose bonds to assist with this endeavor, as proposed in SB1457.

Respectfully,

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

**Sustainability. Innovation. Quality.**

P.O. Box 740 | Waialua, HI 96791 USA | [info@hawaiifishcompany.com](mailto:info@hawaiifishcompany.com) | [hawaiifishcompany.com](http://hawaiifishcompany.com)

February 14, 2023

**David Fuertes**  
**Kahua Pa'a Mua**  
[dcfuertes808@gmail.com](mailto:dcfuertes808@gmail.com)  
P O Box 896  
Kapaau, HI 96755

**SUBJECT - Support For SB 1457 – Senate Committee on Ways and Means**  
**Hearing: 10:30 AM, Wed., Feb. 15, 2023**

Aloha,

My name is David Fuertes from Kohala on Hawaii Island. Retired Agriculture teacher for 35 years at Kohala High School, served on SOH Dept of Agriculture Board and Commission for 2 terms and currently Executive Director for a nonprofit 501c3 Kahua Pa'a Mua. We train our youth and families as New Farmers in diverse Agriculture including crops, poultry, rabbits, hogs and cattle.

The concept of a "Village Food Hub for Farmers" as this bill would support, is needed on our Hawaii Island and can be a model for others. This will enhance agriculture production, processing, valued added products, and marketing, while preserving our agriculture Industry, and our precious Hawaii and Hawaii Island culture.

The cattle industry of shipping a majority of our 500# weans to the mainland for fattening is just one example. Creating new innovative products and markets locally of a percentage of total cattle production will help farmers and ranchers do our part to achieve food security for our island and state.

In the 4 years our Kahua Pa'a Mua has worked with Kohala Mountain Fish Company, they have donated fingerling tilapia to more than 20 families for their Aquaponic systems. The systems in turn have provided each family with lettuce, green onion, watercress and other vegetables weekly. Their partnership has allowed our families to be part of the "backyard revolution."

This "Village Food Hub for Farmers" will open new markets for farmers and ranchers as well as backyard producers.

Please consider passing SB 1457. MAHALO.

**SB-1457**

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 11:23:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/15/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rick Gaffney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill represents the kind of out-of-the-box, progressive thinking that agriculture in Hawaii has lacked for too long.

This vital, entrepreneurial proposal, expands on the solid success of Hawaii's largest aquaculture endeavor, Kohala Mountain Fish, and builds on the huge demand they have created for frozen ready-to-eat fish, by building the facilities necessary to leverage and grow the Big Island's agricultural and ranching production, to meet the expansive demand for healthy ready-to-eat meals, locally, nationally and internationally.

Agriculture has been foundering in Hawaii for a generation with small-kine, old-school thinking preventing the kind of expansive growth the industry is capable of, particularly here on Hawaii island.

The issuance of the special purpose revenue bond will deliver: quality jobs, reasonable cost housing, fresh opportunities for independent farmers and ranchers, a significant investment in agricultural infrastructure development, and perhaps most importantly will cement the reputation of Hawaii's farming and ranching brands on the world market.

Please support this bill and by doing so help to transform Hawaii's struggling agricultural industry.

Mahalo

**TJ Leonard**

# **THE SENATE**

KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Testimony on SB1457

Relating to the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Kohala Mountain Fish Company LLC.

I strongly support this bill. As a mentor to small businesses on Hawaii Island, many of whom are in the agriculture sector, I have long recognized the need for a project like the Village, a resilience hub where farmers, value add processors and food distributors all have access to the facilities, training and culture that supports them to maximize the return on their investments of both time and money. As an example, we have long needed a certified kitchen, available to all who agree to abide by a set of food safety standards. The Village concept is a way to support future generations to be engaged in the new technology of farming and processing and to enhance Hawaii's food security.

Sincerely,

*Tom Leonard*

**SB-1457**

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 1:46:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/15/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa H. Gibson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1457 towards the creation of The Village, An Agricultural Community. The concept is both innovative as well as delivers a range of solutions to a complex set of issues facing Hawaii's ag industry. A thriving ag industry is critical to the future of this state. Please support SB1457.



**SB-1457**

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 1:57:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/15/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maria Haws, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha:

I would like to express my support for establishment of an Agriculture Village in partnership with Kohala Mountain Fish. This initiative will help overcome long-standing obstacles to increased agriculture such as lack of agricultural worker housing, processing, consolidation and many other key support factors for agriculture. The lack of these facilities and services has been a well-known barrier to increase agriculture and aquaculture in Hawai‘i and for Hawai‘i Island for many years. Hawaii Island is the prime location in the State to expand aquaculture and agriculture given the land and water resources. However, we are often overlooked when it comes to funding for cutting-edge initiatives. Hawai‘i Island is also a great location to test this concept which could be replicated throughout the State.

Kohala Mountain Fish has been a good private sector citizen and has supported education and training in many ways on Hawai‘i Island. Although I am writing this testimony as a private citizen, I have worked in aquaculture and agriculture for 23 years as a faculty member of the University of Hawaii Hilo. Lack of housing and other support services/facilities has been a major impediment in our efforts to place student interns and graduates in agriculture and aquaculture jobs, particularly on the West side of Hawai‘i Island. Many of our graduate will leave the state unless support mechanisms can be put into place so they can remain and become employed here. The processing facilities and some of the other services that would be offered would benefit many agricultural concerns in Hawai‘i.

Please consider supporting this innovative initiative so that our agriculture and aquaculture sectors can grow and so that our young people can remain in Hawai‘i. Thank you.

**SB-1457**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:55:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/15/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patti Cook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this initiative by a strong collaborative, community-driven team including private sector funders and Kohala farmers, ranchers and food producers.

Kohala Mountain Fish Company has a strong proven track record for safe, large volume food production and being an environmentally and community-connected business. MAHALO.

Patti Cook 808-937-2833 - Waimea, Island of Hawai'i

**SB-1457**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 1:34:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/15/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dwayne Cypriano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of Senate bill 1457. it will have a positive impact on my beef operations and sustainability for the state of Hawaii

**SB-1457**

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:12:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/15/2023 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I have personally seen the KMFC team working over the years on thier farm. They always strive to achieve the best results in their work, and constantly have an eye on improvement. The way they keep their fish/ process thier fish is outstanding and very smart. I think this company would be a good steward of land and resources and should be helped to achieve their goals of making our food system on hawaii island more sustainable. This team shows a commitment to excellence, and they have goals of making more products here on the big island. I support this measure SB1457 and pray for their continued success.

**LATE**

**SB-1457**

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 1:38:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/15/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Liz Akina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1457 the Village project is a brilliant idea that will greatly increase our local food production, create many jobs, and fulfill the dream of many local people's hoping to have more local food production.