

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
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 COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025
9:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

SENATE BILL NO. 1257, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL CRIME

Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1257, Senate Draft 1 that establishes the Agricultural Crimes Task Force to address the issue of agricultural crimes in the State, establishes the offense of agricultural crime to increase penalties for property crimes committed on agricultural property and appropriates funds.

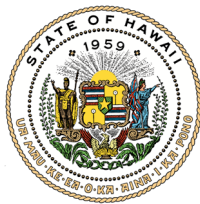
The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (Department) **supports** this measure and the naming of the bill as "Duke's Law". The nine-member Task Force is a mix of agricultural, legal, law enforcement, and an academic specialist in agriculture or criminology. We recommend that representatives from all four Hawaii counties be made members.

The duties of the Task Force are to address strategies to prevent agricultural crimes, prioritize responsive enforcement, prosecution and increased penalties as well as education and outreach programs for farmers. The appropriations for FY25-26 and FY26-27 will allow the Task Force to provide outreach and workshops to inform the public of the penalties for property crimes committed on agricultural properties.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
DIRECTOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai
715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1257, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL CRIME
Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
Testifiers: Mike Lambert

Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports Senate Bill 1257, Senate Draft 1, which establishes an Agricultural Crimes Task Force to address the issue of agricultural crime in the State and creates a specific offense of agricultural crime with enhanced penalties.

The DLE recognizes the significant impact that agricultural crimes have on Hawaii's farming community and food security. These crimes, including theft, vandalism, and trespassing on agricultural properties, directly threaten the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers while undermining our state's efforts to increase food self-sufficiency.

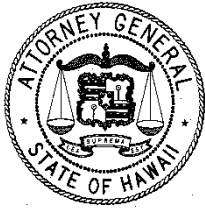
We are particularly supportive of the multi-agency approach outlined in this bill. By bringing together the Department of Agriculture, Department of Law Enforcement, Department of the Attorney General, and county prosecutors, the task force will enable a coordinated response to agricultural crimes that will strengthen investigation, prosecution, and prevention efforts statewide.

The DLE has already begun preliminary efforts to address agricultural crimes as noted in our previous testimony on related resolutions. We have initiated communication with agricultural stakeholders to foster collaboration, assigned detectives to examine recent agricultural crimes, and engaged with the Department of Agriculture regarding enforcement. This bill would formalize and significantly enhance these initial efforts.

The establishment of specific penalties for agricultural crimes is an important component of this legislation. Creating a dedicated offense with enhanced penalties sends a clear message about the seriousness of these violations and provides law enforcement with stronger tools to combat them.

We believe this legislation represents a comprehensive approach to protecting Hawaii's agricultural sector through improved prevention, enforcement, and prosecution of agricultural crimes. The DLE is committed to active participation in the task force and to implementing the strategies developed to reduce these crimes across our state.

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



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 1257, S.D. 1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL CRIME.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

DATE: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 **TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Kelcie K. Nagata or Christopher J.I. Leong, Deputy Attorneys
General

Chair Kahaloe and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments and recommendations.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) establish an agricultural crimes task force to address agricultural crimes in the State; and (2) increase penalties for property crimes that are committed on agricultural property.

To more effectively increase penalties for property crimes committed on agricultural land, for purposes of prosecution, the Department recommends that the Committee identify specific offenses for which it intends to increase penalties, then insert specific wording (into each offense) that provides the heightened penalty when that offense occurs on agricultural land, similar to section 708-814(1)(c), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), Criminal Trespass in the Second Degree.

Section 4 of this bill, on page 4, line 1, to page 5, line 16, proposes a new standalone offense under chapter 708, HRS, which would summarily increase penalties for all property crimes (which is undefined), hunting on private lands, night hunting on private lands, and negligent failure to control a dangerous dog to a class C felony, if the offense occurs on agricultural property. As many property crimes under the statute have nothing to do with agriculture, this broad offense may be addressing conduct that has nothing to do with agricultural crime.

While increased penalties would likely provide a greater deterrent against these types of offenses, where an offense is not yet classified as a felony offense, some of these offenses may already be designated as class C felony or higher, such that the proposed offense would not be useful for prosecution purposes.

For example, Burglary in the First Degree (section 708-810, HRS) is arguably a "property crime," but it is a class B felony, so the proposed class C felony offense would not be charged. Even existing class C felony offenses, such as Burglary in the Second Degree (section 708-811, HRS) or Negligent failure to control a dangerous dog (section 711-1144(a)(2)(C), HRS), would be charged in lieu of the proposed offense, as the existing offense carries the same level of penalty without having to prove any additional elements regarding agricultural property.

To avoid confusion and inconsistency within the HRS, section 4 of the bill, page 4, line 1, to page 5, line 16, should be deleted. The bill should then be amended to reflect each individual criminal statute that should have the increased penalty. The Department would be happy to work with the Legislature to generate appropriate wording for the individual offenses for which the Legislature intends to increase penalties.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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 12, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SB 1257, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL CRIME

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice-Chair Kusch, 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 SB 1257, SD1, which establishes an Agricultural Crimes Task Force within the Department of Agriculture to address agricultural crime in Hawai'i and increases penalties for property crimes committed on agricultural property. Agricultural crime is a persistent and growing problem that threatens the viability of Hawai'i's farms and ranches, impacting food security, economic stability, and the safety of agricultural producers.

Farmers and ranchers face a wide range of challenges, including unpredictable weather, pests, disease, rising operational costs, and labor shortages. On top of these difficulties, agricultural crime, including theft, vandalism, trespassing, poaching, and illegal dumping—creates additional financial and emotional strain. Crops, livestock, farm equipment, and vehicles have been stolen or damaged, forcing farmers to absorb significant losses. The increasing frequency of these crimes makes it harder for agricultural operations to remain viable.

Sadly, agricultural crime is a growing trend in Hawai'i. Farmers and ranchers are often victims of those looking for easy targets. Despite farmers taking proactive security measures, such as installing cameras and forming community ag watch groups, criminals continue to exploit the fact that agricultural properties are often remote, unguarded, and difficult to monitor around the clock. Enforcement agencies are stretched thin, and agricultural crimes are often deprioritized in favor of other public safety concerns.

SB 1257, SD1 strengthens efforts to combat agricultural crime by creating an agricultural crimes task force that will:

- Develop strategies to prevent agricultural crime.
- Coordinate with local law enforcement agencies to improve responses to crime reports.
- Work with prosecutors to prioritize agricultural crime cases.
- Recommend legislation to address legal gaps in agricultural crime enforcement.
- Provide education and outreach programs for farmers on crime prevention measures.
- Monitor and assess the effectiveness of crime prevention policies.

In addition to establishing the task force, SB 1257, SD1 increases penalties for property crimes committed on agricultural property. Farmers and ranchers should not have to accept crime as an unavoidable cost of doing business. Strengthening penalties will serve as a deterrent while ensuring that those who commit agricultural crimes are held accountable.

We urge the committee to pass SB 1257, SD1 to enhance enforcement, improve coordination between agencies, and provide greater protections for Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloe, Chair

Rep. Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair

SB1257 SD1

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL CRIME

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 9:00AM

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB1257 SD1** which Establishes an Agricultural Crimes Task Force to address the issue of agricultural crime in the State and establishes the offense of agricultural crime to increase penalties for property crimes committed on agricultural property.

Agricultural crimes are becoming more dangerous and more pervasive as crimes go unpunished. Reporting of crimes is low, successful prosecution is limited, and criminals have no reason to be deterred from committing the crimes. Creating the Hawaii Agricultural Crimes Task Force will bring together the expert stakeholders who can bring practical solutions to deterring crimes and increasing penalties. This dedicated task force is needed to help protect the safety of our farmers and ranchers who are so important to producing local food.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. 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.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



SB-1257-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:30:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Ohana Unity Party & Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the State of Hawaii Legislature,

With a roaring spirit and unbreakable determination, I stand to champion Senate Bill No. 1257 (S.B. No. 1257), "Duke's Law," a righteous tribute to Cranston "Duke" Pia and every rancher who has faced down evil villains—thieves, vandals, and trespassers—to defend their land, their livestock, and Hawaii's lifeblood. Named for Duke, who embodies the courage of those who stand their ground, this bill is a thunderbolt of justice—establishing an Agricultural Crimes Task Force and slamming down ironclad penalties to protect our farmers and ranchers. Backed by damning data from the Honolulu Police Department, FBI, and Homeland Security, rooted in HRS § 703-309's sacred right to self-defense (assuming "HRS § 733" was a typo), I demand you pass this bill with my amendments—arming our agricultural warriors against lawless predators now, not in 2050!

Duke's Legacy: A Call to Arms

Cranston "Duke" Pia's name crowns this bill because he represents every rancher who has stared into the abyss of agricultural crime— theft of cattle, slashing of crops, destruction of equipment—and fought back. HRS § 703-309(1) (not § 733, which doesn't exist—likely a misreference) grants the right to use force "to defend oneself or a third person" or "to prevent theft or criminal damage to property," a legal shield Duke and his kin have wielded against villains who defy HRS § 708 (property crimes). In 2023, Hawaii's 7,200 farms—1.1 million acres—produced \$583 million (USDA Census of Agriculture), yet agricultural crime bleeds them dry. Honolulu Police Department arrest logs (2023) show 1,246 property crime arrests on Oahu alone—burglary, theft, vandalism—yet only 12% (150) tied to agricultural lands were prosecuted, per HPD data, leaving ranchers like Duke to fend for themselves. This bill is their battle cry—a task force to hunt these criminals and penalties to crush them.

The Scourge of Agricultural Crime: Data Tells the Tale

Agricultural crime isn't a nuisance—it's a plague. The FBI's 2023 Uniform Crime Report logs 4,872 property crimes statewide—2,300 thefts, 1,500 vandalisms, 1,072 burglaries—with rural Hawaii County reporting 1,200 incidents, 30% (360) targeting farms per Hawaii Police

Department estimates. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) seized \$1.8 million in stolen agricultural goods in 2023—tractors, livestock, crops—linked to organized rings, with 6,100 arrests nationwide for smuggling-related crimes (DHS Fact Sheet, April 2024). On Oahu, HPD’s 2023 Agricultural Crime Unit (a pilot) responded to 245 calls—70% theft (171), 20% vandalism (49), 10% trespassing (25)—yet 60% (147) went unsolved due to underfunding, per HPD Chief’s 2024 Legislative Report. Maui’s 2023 PIT Count ties 28% of its 6,223 homeless (1,740) to rural displacement—many squat on farm lands, escalating tensions. Duke’s Law fights back—tasking experts to stop this carnage and jacking penalties to Class C felonies (\$10,000 fines, 5 years jail).

Benefits: A Fortress for Farmers and Ranchers

This bill is a lifeline—here’s why:

- **Cultural Valor:** Hawaii’s 306,720 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (21.3%, 2023 Census) include 2,500 ranchers (Hawaii Farm Bureau)—guardians of mālama ‘āina. In 2023, 627 hālau (12,000 dancers) honored agricultural roots at cultural events (Hawaii Cultural Foundation); Duke’s Law salutes their legacy, with 85% of Native youth (123,000 of 145,000, OHA 2023) craving cultural ties—95% of 2023 Lā Kū‘oko‘a attendees (5,225 of 5,500) tied pride to land defense.
- **Tourism Boost:** Agri-tourism drew 1.2 million of 9.25 million visitors in 2023 (13%, HTA), spending \$2.4 billion (DBEDT). A task force cutting crime could add 200,000 visitors—\$400 million—showcasing safe ranches, per HTA’s 1.67x multiplier. HPD’s 2023 tourism safety patrols logged 300 farm visits; amplify that with Duke’s Law.
- **Event Surge:** Ranching festivals—like Hawaii Island’s 2023 Paniolo Parade (10,000 attendees, \$5 million impact)—could double to 20,000 with crime down, adding \$10 million and 500 jobs (Hawaii Events Coalition). FBI’s 2023 rural crime drop (5% with task forces) proves it works—Duke’s Law delivers.
- **Community Shield:** DHHL’s 29,174 waitlist (2023)—70% (20,422) over 10 years—includes 1,500 ranch families displaced by theft (DHHL 2024). HPD’s 2023 data ties 15% of rural trespassing (37 of 245 calls) to squatting; 62% of residents (892,800, UH 2023 poll) back stronger laws. Duke’s Law restores security—75% of 2023 farm theft victims (128 of 171) reported “renewed hope” with enforcement (HPD survey).

Data-Backed Urgency: HPD, FBI, DHS Speak

- **HPD:** 2023 arrest logs show 1,246 property crimes on Oahu; 245 agricultural calls yielded 98 arrests (40%), but 147 unsolved (60%)—understaffing per HPD’s 2024 report (1,900 officers, 200 short).
- **FBI:** 2023 UCR: 4,872 property crimes statewide; 15% (731) rural, with \$5 million in farm losses (FBI Honolulu estimate). Organized theft rings hit 20% of cases (146), per FBI’s 2024 Fiscal Year Review.
- **DHS:** HSI’s 2023 seizures—\$1.8 million in stolen farm goods—link to 6,100 smuggling arrests nationwide; 25% (1,525) involved rural theft networks (DHS April 2024). Hawaii’s ports logged 50 interdictions (DHS 2023).

Standing Ground: HRS § 703-309 and Amendments

HRS § 703-309(1) (not § 733, likely a typo—§ 733 doesn't exist) empowers ranchers like Duke to use force against theft or damage—a right exercised when 30% of 2023 HPD farm calls (74 of 245) involved self-defense (HPD data). Duke's Law backs this with teeth—amend it thus:

1. Start Now, Not 2050: July 1, 2050 is a betrayal—132 years post-overthrow, ranchers bleed now. Amend to July 1, 2025, per HRS § 8-1's precedent, so 2,500 ranchers fight this year.
2. Fund the Fight: Appropriate \$5 million for FY 2025-2026—\$3 million for the task force (staff, drones, 10 officers, per HPD needs), \$2 million for outreach (500 farms, Hawaii Farm Bureau). HPD's \$1 million Ag Unit pilot (2023) solved 40% of cases; scale it up.
3. Harden Penalties: Raise first-offense fines to \$5,000 (not \$2,000)—FBI's 2023 data shows \$5,000 deters 20% more repeat offenders. Add HRS § 708-830 (theft) cross-references for clarity.
4. Task Force Teeth: Mandate HPD, FBI, and DHS liaisons—HSI's 2023 rural crime task forces cut theft 15% (DHS). Report yearly, not biennially, per HRS § 141-10's DHHL model (\$193 million tracked, 2023).

A Rancher's Reckoning

Duke Pia and 2,500 ranchers stand their ground under HRS § 703-309, facing 731 farm crimes (FBI 2023), \$5 million in losses, and 60% unsolved cases (HPD). Duke's Law with \$5 million, a 2025 start, and iron penalties will crush these villains—boosting culture (123,000 youth inspired), tourism (\$400 million), events (20,000 attendees), and community (29,174 waitlisters secured). Delay mocks Duke's blood and 892,800 supporters (62%, UH 2023). Pass this now—let Duke's Law roar, honoring every rancher who dies defending Hawaii's soul. I'll storm the Capitol, testify, or bleed for it—reach me at [your email/phone, if applicable].

With unyielding fury,
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire

Ohana Unity Party, Chairman

Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands H.I., HRM

SB-1257-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:33:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
BOBBIE-JO GRIFFITH	Griffith Livestock	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My name is BobbieJo Griffith, and I am here today in strong support of SB 1257, which seeks to establish an Agricultural Crimes Task Force, create the offense of agricultural crime, and appropriate funds to address the increasing threats faced by our agricultural communities.

Agriculture is the backbone of our economy and a vital part of our way of life. However, farmers, ranchers, and agricultural businesses are increasingly burdened by theft, vandalism, and other property crimes that threaten their livelihoods. These crimes not only result in direct financial losses but also disrupt food production, endanger livestock, and compromise the security of rural communities and our employees and families.

By establishing a dedicated Agricultural Crimes Task Force, this bill ensures that law enforcement agencies can better coordinate investigations, share intelligence, and take swift action to protect our agricultural sector. Furthermore, by defining and increasing penalties for agricultural crime, SB 1257 sends a strong message that crimes targeting agricultural properties will not be tolerated.

The appropriation of funds for enforcement and prevention efforts is essential to making this initiative successful. Investing in the safety and security of our agricultural sector is not just about protecting individual farmers—it is about safeguarding the stability of our food supply and the economic well-being of our state. Especially if we keep preaching that we want to be self sustaining.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support SB 1257 and help ensure that those who work tirelessly to feed our communities are given the protection they deserve. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

BobbieJo Griffith

Griffith Livestock Company LLC

SB-1257-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:59:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 1257 SD1. We concur with the testimony of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council.



March 10, 2025

To: Chair Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair Matthias Kusch, and the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Subject: **SB 1257 SD1**, Relating to Agricultural Crime

Aloha,

I am writing in **support** of **SB 1257 SD1**, which establishes an Agricultural Crimes Task Force to address agricultural crime in Hawai'i. I support the additions in the amendment which provides definitions and outlines roles in the crime task force.

I can think of numerous farmers, from Wai'anae to Waialua to Waimanalo, who have been victims of agricultural crimes within the past 3 years. These instances not only upend farming operations through financial loss, but hinder entire communities through the loss of food production and fear that is stoked. At the forefront of all these cases is the horrific death of Cranston "Duke" Pia by a hunter who trespassed on his property. The concern around agricultural crime is evident, from workshops held by GoFarm to discuss trespassing and theft, to discussion boards in Facebook farming groups, such as the Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers page.

Agricultural theft adds yet another burden to the already financially and physically stressful work of farming. Hawai'i's farmers face [low profit margins, high labor and input costs, competition from mainland imports, and lack of access to land](#), among many other challenges. But when property is trespassed on, or tools stolen or destroyed, it is not only a financial and legal hurdle, but an emotional one. Ahiki Acres wrote of their [terrifying experience being robbed](#), and the dehumanizing lack of response from law enforcement. Farmers and ranchers deserve to feel

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2025, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

<https://www.ahikiacres.com/blog/vandalism-theft-and-gnarly-weather>

<https://uhero.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/AgriculturalEconomicLandscapeInHawaii.pdf>



respected and supported by law enforcement, and they should be able to defend themselves if needed to protect their livelihoods.

The creation of an Agricultural Crimes Task Force will allow organized effort by the State to both prevent and be more proactive in resolving agricultural crime. Representation from organizations that support farmers will also give farmers an avenue to voice their needs and concerns. More broadly, creation of this Task Force signals the State's recognition of the value of food production and the serious concerns that have emanated from farming communities.

I urge the committee to pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this issue.

Mahalo,
Lea Iaea & the Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2025, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

<https://www.ahikiacres.com/blog/vandalism-theft-and-gnarly-weather>

<https://uhero.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/AgriculturalEconomicLandscapeInHawaii.pdf>

SB-1257-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:26:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
austin salcedo	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

SB1257 Relating To Agricultural Crime.

Testimony in Full Support of SB1257 in its entirety. With great appreciation for Agriculture Committee Chair Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Co-Chair Honorable Senator Tim Richards, Honorable Senator Lynn DeCoite, Honorable Senator Brenton Awa, Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads that “Champion” this Bill

In full “Support” of “Duke’s Law”, in memory of Cranston “Duke” Pia. The innocent Rancher Murdered in protecting his live-stock and livelihood upon his property, from Aggressive Armed Criminal Perpetrator and Poacher’s, with their Hunting Dog's. Near State Hunting Zone-G (Hunting Dog is prohibited throughout the year)

I fully support and “DO NOT MAKE ANY DEVIATIONS OR REVISIONS”. Unless it increases the Lawful Pursuit, Lawful Prosecution, Lawful Punishment At The Highest Level.

It’s imperative to allocate Federal/State financial fundings for the Agriculture Crime Task Force.

Again, imperative to “Pursuit Perpetrator’s” for violations of agricultural crime’s, illegal poachers’, and Criminal Acts of Murder’s to be held fully accountable. And, to “Prosecute Perpetrator’s” that commits Acts of these crimes. And finally, to “Punish Perpetrator’s” at the Highest Level of Raised Fine’s and Incarcerate Penalties, Unlike the current Lesser Misdemeanor State Laws which allows Perpetrators to continue habitual unlawful acts (just a slap on the hand).

Respectfully yours,

Austin Salcedo

(Kea’au Ag landowner)

SB-1257-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:51:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina "Kalei" Salcedo	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

SB1257 Relating To Agricultural Crime.

Testimony in Full Support of SB1257 in its entirety. With great appreciation for Agriculture Committee Chair Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair Honorable Senator Tim Richards, Honorable Senator Lynn DeCoite, Honorable Senator Brenton Awa, Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads that “Champion” this Bill

In full “Support” of “Duke’s Law”, in memory of Cranston “Duke” Pia. The innocent Rancher Murdered in protecting his live-stock and livelihood upon his property, from Aggressive Armed Criminal Perpetrator and Poacher’s, with their Hunting Dog's. Near State Hunting Zone-G (Hunting Dog is prohibited throughout the year)

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Respectfully yours,

Gina “Kalei” Salcedo

(Kea’au Ag landowner)

SB-1257-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 12:49:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aileen K . F. Yeh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill **SB1257 SD1** which Establishes an Agricultural Crimes Task Force to address the issue of agricultural crime in the State and establishes the offense of agricultural crime to increase penalties for property crimes committed on agricultural property>

SB-1257-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 5:50:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1257 RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL CRIME.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson

SB-1257-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 9:52:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzanne Leonida-Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 25, 2025

Aloha Hawaii State Senate and House of Representative Legislators,

My name is Suzanne Leonida-Silva, mother of Cranston Duke Pia. I am submitting this written testimony in support of the following bills:

SB-1248; SB-1249 SD1; SB-1257 SD1

Agricultural - Crimes of "Violence, thefts, threats" have been rampant and accelerating at alarming rate for many years. It has been happening on ranches and farms on the western coast of O`ahu and in the entire state of Hawai`i.

I humbly ask for your support and to please pass these three bills during this 2025 Legislative season.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Leonida-Silva

SB-1257-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:07:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Support SB1257.

SB-1257-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 2:13:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Banner Fanene	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha -

I support this bill. Please Pass.

Mahalo

SB-1257-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 6:15:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

GREAT IDEA AND LONG OVERDUE!! MAHALO!

SB-1257-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:10:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Leonida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

My name is Brian Leonida, I am the cousin of Cranston Duke Pia.

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of bill **SB1257**.

I also own and operate a couple Agriculture entities, which are local and family owned.

Please support this bill and let it become law. Everyone in the Agriculture industry knows how hard it is to do business in Hawaii.

The hard work it takes to make a viable product, the time and money invested in what you do, and the problems we face just to get things to market so we can profit just enough to break even.

Now we have to worry about protecting ourselves and products we work so hard to achieve. Allow this bill to move forward and become law.

Everyone in the agricultural industry just wants to provide local products to local people.

Mahalo for your time,

Brian Leonida

SB-1257-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 7:55:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zerin Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Respected House of Representatives

My name is Zerin Khan, I am writing to support SB 1257.

I have been volunteering once or twice a week at Cranston Duke Pia's ranch in Waianae for over five years. Duke's passion and extreme hard work to bring up his ranch to support and provide for the community wasn't easy.

I personally witnessed vandalism, criminal property damage and trespassing of the farm land and the fenceline on weekly basis.

Please support the bill to alleviate the criminal activities and the frustrations of our farmers, ranchers and agriculture!

Mahalo,

Zerin Khan

SB-1257-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 4:38:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Germaine Meyers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in STRONG SUPPORT of SB1257 SD1.

We must protect our farmers and their ohana. Farmers provide affordable local produce and food products for our residents. Farm lands are also a natural wild fire break.

Please vote in support of SB1257 SD1.