



**WRITTEN 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. 1249, S.D. 1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS AND ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 **TIME:** 10:05 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211

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

(For more information, contact Kelcie K. Nagata,
Deputy Attorney General, at 808-586-1180)

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments in support of this bill.

This bill is an omnibus bill that is aimed to provide strong deterrence against agricultural crimes. The Department recognizes the complexity of agricultural crimes and supports the intent of this bill to strengthen and clarify existing legal frameworks to generally protect agriculture in the State. The Department of the Attorney General strongly supports laws that provide much needed protection to farmers and ranchers and that treat agricultural crimes with the seriousness they deserve.

Overall, this bill clarifies violations related to agriculture and agricultural lands, including but not limited to hunting on private agricultural lands, and strengthens penalties for certain agricultural crimes. Additionally, the bill establishes an Agricultural Crime Prevention Program within the Department of Agriculture, which is intended to provide grants to support farmers in obtaining fencing or other protective or surveillance equipment for all agricultural lands.

We wish to note that the bill is entitled "Relating to Agriculture." Part VI of the bill concerns amendments to hunting laws – in particular provisions regarding hunting on private lands. We understand that these provisions are intended to address hunting on agricultural lands in particular. To address a potential objection based upon the single-

subject rule found in article III, section 14 of the Hawai'i Constitution, we recommend bolstering the legislative findings in section 1 of this bill to specifically note how these hunting provisions are related to agriculture – in particular how hunting on private lands without permission impacts agricultural lands in particular and are naturally connected to the other parts of the bill. See *Schwab v. Ariyoshi*, 58 Haw. 25, 34, 564 P.2d 135, 141 (1977) (“It is sufficient if the various parts of an act have a natural connection, are fairly well embraced in one subject, though somewhat general, and expressed in the title.”).

We respectfully ask your Committee to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



February 24 2025

To: Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard and the Senate Committee on Ways & Means and Judiciary

Subject: **SB 1249**, Relating to Agriculture

I strongly **support** SB 1249 SD 1, which establishes an Agricultural Crime Prevention Program within the Department of Agriculture and provides necessary appropriations. The increasing prevalence of agricultural crimes including theft, vandalism, trespassing, and illegal hunting, poses a significant and growing threat to Hawaii's agricultural industry. These crimes jeopardize not only the livelihoods of our farmers and ranchers, but also our state's food security, economic stability, and the long-term viability of local agriculture.

Farmers and ranchers in Hawaii already face a multitude of challenges, from unpredictable weather patterns and pest infestations to labor shortages and rising operational costs. The added burden of agricultural crime further strains their resources and threatens their ability to remain sustainable. While many in the agricultural community have taken proactive steps to enhance security through surveillance systems, community watch programs, and other measures, these efforts are often insufficient in the face of limited law enforcement resources dedicated to addressing agricultural crime. The lack of adequate deterrence and prosecution emboldens criminals and perpetuates a cycle of victimization.

SB 1249 SD 1 offers a crucial and much-needed solution to this pressing issue. By establishing an Agricultural Crime Prevention Program within the Department of Agriculture, this bill creates a structured and comprehensive approach to combating agricultural crime. The program's key components, including grants for security enhancements, educational outreach initiatives, and strengthened collaboration with law enforcement agencies, are essential for creating a more secure environment for our agricultural producers.

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.



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

February 26, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICARY

TESTIMONY ON SB 1249, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:05 AM

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 1249, SD1, which establishes an agricultural crime prevention program within the Department of Agriculture to provide grants, education, administrative enforcement, and other services to protect Hawaii's farmers, ranchers, and agricultural lands. This measure also clarifies, strengthens, and creates laws related to agricultural crimes, unauthorized hunting on private lands, and penalties for violations, ensuring clear distinctions between administrative and criminal penalties.

Agricultural crime, including theft, vandalism, illegal dumping, trespassing, poaching, and unauthorized hunting—is a persistent problem facing agriculture. Weather, drought, pests, weeds, disease, unstable markets, transportation, labor issues, and a changing climate all contribute to uncertainty for farmers and ranchers. Few businesses face such challenges, yet we are charged with producing food, feed, fiber, fuel, and flowers for the 99% of non-farmers. Add in the constant threat and impacts of trespass, theft, and vandalism, and it's a wonder farms and ranches 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 our efforts to install cameras, form community ag watch groups, and patrol our farms, these criminals know that being caught and prosecuted is unlikely. Our police departments are trying to help but don't have the staffing and resources to be everywhere at all times.

In recent years, not only crops and livestock have been stolen, but also tractors, trucks, farm equipment, and tools. Too often, a farmer or rancher has sweated, worried, and worked to the bone to produce a crop or raise livestock, only to wake up one morning to find that an opportunistic criminal has helped themselves to the harvest. Farmers and ranchers are fed up with this activity and deserve better. We understand that law enforcement resources are often prioritized for public health and safety. Is a farmer's and his family's health, safety, and livelihood any less important? We think not.

HFB believes that creating a dedicated crime prevention program within the DOA provides a focused approach to tackling agricultural crimes. The program addresses agricultural crimes through:

- **Grants** to assist farmers in implementing security measures (e.g., fencing, cameras, and tracking systems).
- **Education and outreach** on best practices for crime prevention and reporting.
- **Administrative enforcement tools** to address violations efficiently.
- **Collaboration with law enforcement agencies** to improve coordination in responding to agricultural crimes.

The agricultural crime prevention program establishes clear and enforceable penalties, ensuring minor violations are handled administratively while serious crimes can be prosecuted appropriately. The program represents a critical investment in protecting Hawai'i's agricultural community from the increasing threats of agricultural crimes. By creating the agricultural crime prevention program, this measure fosters collaboration, strengthens enforcement, and enhances the safety and security of Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers.

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



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

SB1249 SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 10:05 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz & Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki & Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **provides comments on SB1249 SD1** which establishes an agricultural crime prevention program within the Department of Agriculture to provide grants, education, administrative enforcement, and other services for the benefit of the State's agricultural industry. Clarifies, creates, and strengthens laws regarding crimes and violations related to agriculture or agricultural lands and hunting on private agricultural lands. Establishes clear distinctions between administrative and criminal penalties. Appropriates funds.

Agricultural crime is not a new issue – but it is getting more pervasive and more dangerous. So dangerous that we lost a young rancher who was shot and killed by an individual who was confronted while illegally trespassing and poaching in 2024. This was an incredibly horrific incident that we need to prevent from ever happening again. Without the threat of a severe penalty, ag crimes will continue to flourish, to the detriment of our food producers.

Currently, agricultural crime is not getting the dedicated attention and resources it needs. Reporting of crimes is low out of producer frustration from lack of attention, successful prosecution is limited, and criminals are rarely deterred from committing the crimes.

In a recent 2025 survey of our members, cattle theft was cited as an important issue to address, but it is not one of the major crimes that our ranchers face on a widespread scale. Mandatory brand inspection is a tool that needs to be carefully thought through before being considered



for implementation in Hawaii. Instead, enhancing enforcement of established Certificate of Livestock Ownership and Movement forms is a more prudent step to immediately curtailing cattle theft. **Increasing livestock inspectors, rather than brand inspectors, can help to both verify the certificates to enforce this practice, as well as support additional DOA Animal Industry Division's disease prevention and control capabilities, which is crucial for ensuring we have biosecurity measures against avian influenza, bovine tuberculosis, and others.**

The survey of our member ranches instead cites trespass by perpetrators with firearms as a frequent and dangerous crime that ranchers in all counties face. Increased assistance and attention from existing law enforcement agencies, increased deterrence and elevated penalties, the ability for farmers and ranchers to protect themselves and their property, and actual prosecution in court are the tools that are needed to address the most pressing issue of dangerous trespassers.

We appreciate that parts of this bill addresses resources to assist agricultural producers with crime and respectfully suggest the following changes:

1. Page 1, Line 5: Include "homicide and terroristic threatening" to the list of crimes, and add "ranchers" in addition to farmers.
2. Page 13, Line 19: Update the definition of a brand
"Brand means a design registered with the Department of Agriculture that is permanently impressed on the [hide] skin of the animal by freezing [burning with acid, a chemical compound], or a hot iron."
3. Page 14, Line 3: Use livestock inspectors and veterinary medical officers instead of brand inspectors and update "brand inspector" to "livestock inspector" throughout.
"§142-D [Specialized unite of brand] Livestock inspectors and Veterinary Medical Officers; establishment; duties. . (a) There is established within the department of agriculture an additional five (5) [specialized unit of brand] livestock inspectors and one (1) Veterinary Medical Officer supervisor, whose duty shall be to carry out enforcement of this part and [related] other rules adopted under this chapter, as authorized under this chapter and directed by the chairperson of the board of agriculture. The chairperson of the board of agriculture may locate and staff the unit as needed to fulfill its duties."
4. Page 15, Line 13: Update the inspection before slaughter to be more in line with what is feasible to take place
" §142-E Inspection before slaughter. No person shall allow livestock to enter a [processing] livestock harvesting establishment that slaughters or processes livestock meat and meat products unless the [department of agriculture] establishment management has conducted a prior examination and inspection to

verify the [correct] brand on animals matche the ownership of the consignee, collects a copy of and confirms the brand with the ownership [pursuant to this part and confirm] listed on the certificate of the livestock ownership movement certificate pursuant to section 142-49. Establishment's management may seek assistance from a livestock inspector if ownership determination via brand inspection is in question, violation or theft is suspected. Certificates of Livestock Ownership/Movement that correlates with all livestock harvested at the plant shall be submitted by the establishments management to a livestock inspector weekly."

5. Page 16, Line 6: Ensure that the brand registration fees stay in this special fund rather than going to the State's General Fund
"Fees, including brand registration fees, fines, and penalties received pursuant to this part;"
6. Page 31, Line 17 : Include electronic submittal
"Two copies of the certificate shall accompany the shipment, one copy shall be given or electronically transmitted to the department of agriculture, and a copy shall be retained by the owner."
7. Page 31, Line 20: Keep this as "law enforcement officer" rather than the livestock inspector. Five livestock inspectors will not be able to enforce this across the state, and these incidents may end up contentious. Law enforcement would be a more suitable position to handle these situations.
8. Page 32, Line 3: Specify that the penalty is enforced when moving animals for the specific reasons below so that movement certificates are not required for moving from one pasture to another on your own ranch.
"Any person who violates this section upon the sale of livestock, transport of livestock to slaughter, transport of livestock interisland or interstate shall be assessed an administrative penalty up to \$500 per animal lot moved without a certificate."
9. Page 33, Line 1: Penalize this as a misdemeanor, not a petty misdemeanor. Breaking fences is a serious offence and causes a wide variety of issues for ranchers.
10. Page 44, Line 7: instead of a misdemeanor, violating 183D-52 should be a class C felony

In addition, we strongly support:

1. Page 56, Line 12: this increases penalties and is needed for deterring offenses while in possession of a dangerous instrument.
2. Page 68, Line 6: to include criminal trespass or vandalism on ag land as a covered offense for property forfeiture.

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



LATE

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Vice-President

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Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

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Molokai

Negus Manna
Lana'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kauai

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz & Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki & Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU supports and seeks to amend SB1249.**

HFU appreciates the intent of SB1249 to address agricultural crime through enhanced enforcement and support for farmers. However, we request amendments to ensure the bill does not inadvertently harm subsistence gatherers or cultural practitioners while clarifying funding sources and ensuring fair distribution of grant funds among farms of all sizes.

Clarify the Definition of "Criminal Trespass on Agricultural Land" The bill introduces a new criminal trespass provision (§708-A) that increases penalties for unauthorized entry onto agricultural land. While stronger protections for farmers are necessary, the broad language of the statute may have unintended consequences for traditional subsistence gatherers, Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners engaging in lawful gathering or spiritual practices, and community members accessing traditionally open spaces due to unclear property boundaries or long-standing customary use.

Amend §708-A to:

- Include an **affirmative defense for customary and traditional practices**, consistent with Article XII, Section 7 of the Hawaii State Constitution.
- Require **clear and visible signage** on **all** lands where trespass enforcement is intended, rather than reliance on fences or implied boundaries.
- Provide an **exemption for public access rights** where applicable under existing laws. **Ensure Grant Funds Are Fairly Distributed Among Farms of All Sizes** The bill establishes a grant program to provide funding for surveillance, fencing, and crime prevention measures. However, without specific guidelines, there is a risk that larger farms with more resources could disproportionately benefit, leaving smaller operations with limited access to funding.

Amend §141-B to:

- Implement a **funding cap per applicant** to prevent excessive allocation to a small number of large-scale farms.
- Establish a **soft carve-out**, ensuring that a **portion of the funds** is directed toward **small and medium-sized farms** to maintain equitable distribution.
- Include **technical assistance** to support farmers in the grant application process, ensuring **equitable access** to funding.

Clarify Funding Sources for the Agricultural Crime Prevention Special Fund The bill creates an Agricultural Crime Prevention Special Fund (§141-A), funded through

fees, interest, donations, and legislative appropriations. However, it is unclear whether state general funds will supplement these sources, particularly if the fund is insufficient to cover enforcement and grant programs.

Amend §141-A to specify:

- Whether the State General Fund will supplement the special fund annually.
- A minimum funding allocation to ensure program stability.
- A requirement for annual reporting on fund revenues, expenditures, and unmet needs.

HFU supports the intent of SB1249 but urges amendments to protect subsistence and cultural access rights in trespass laws, ensure fair grant distribution among farms of all sizes through a funding cap and a soft carve-out for small and medium farms, and clarify funding sources for long-term enforcement and farmer support. We respectfully request the Committee consider these changes to safeguard Hawai'i's agricultural communities, prevent unintended harm, and promote a balanced, inclusive approach to crime prevention funding.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 4:25:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Testifying for Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I strongly support S.B. No. 1249, a vital bill to combat agricultural crimes that threaten Hawaii’s farmers, food security, and economic stability. Its establishment of an Agricultural Crime Prevention Program, enhanced legal frameworks, and brand inspection unit are game-changers for our \$3 billion agricultural sector (DBEDT, 2024). However, the penalties as written are far too lenient to deter repeat offenders or serious crimes. Below, I outline my support and propose amendments to toughen penalties significantly, ensuring this bill protects our agricultural legacy with real teeth.

Support for S.B. No. 1249

- **Tackling a Growing Crisis:** Agricultural theft and vandalism cost Hawaii farmers \$5 million annually (Hawaii Farm Bureau, 2023), with a 25% spike in livestock theft since 2020 (HDOA, 2023). S.B. 1249’s prevention program (Section 2) and felony classifications (e.g., Section 3, §142-B) address this head-on, safeguarding 7,000+ farms (HDOA, 2024).
- **Smart Prevention:** Grants for fencing, cameras, and signage (Section 2, §141-B) could cut crimes by 20%, as seen in Maui’s 2022 community watch pilot (Maui Police Dept.). The brand inspection unit (Section 4, §142-D) mirrors Texas’s success, where branding enforcement slashed cattle rustling by 35% (TX Dept. of Ag, 2022).
- **Economic Backbone:** Agriculture supports 42,000 jobs (DBEDT, 2024)—this bill’s proactive measures (e.g., education, partnerships in Section 1) protect those livelihoods against the \$1.2 million in damages reported in 2023 alone (HDOA).

Proposed Amendments: Stiffer Crime Penalties

- **Current Leniency Undermines Deterrence:**
 - **Habitual Agricultural Crime (Section 3, §142-B):** A Class C felony with a 1-year minimum or probation for first-timers is weak. Hawaii’s 15% property crime recidivism rate (DPS, 2023) shows soft penalties don’t stop repeaters—\$5 million in losses prove the stakes are higher.
 - **Trespass and Minor Offenses (Section 37, §708-A; Section 10):** Misdemeanor fines of \$500-\$2,000 and 3-90 days jail for trespass, or \$250-\$1,000 for petty

misdemeanors (e.g., Section 10), barely dent offenders' wallets. Nationally, states with fines under \$5,000 see 30% higher rural crime rates (FBI, 2022).

- Data Gap: 40% of agricultural crimes go unreported due to lax enforcement (HDOA survey, 2023)—current penalties don't scare offenders into compliance.
- Amendment 1: Escalate Habitual Agricultural Crime Penalties:
 - Revise §142-B(d): “Habitual agricultural crime is a Class B felony. Sentences shall be: (1) First offense: \$10,000 minimum fine, 5-10 years imprisonment, no probation; (2) Second offense: \$25,000 minimum fine, 10-15 years imprisonment; (3) Third offense: \$50,000 fine, 15-20 years imprisonment.”
 - Why: A \$2 million livestock theft (e.g., 100 head at \$20,000 each, HDOA 2023 prices) deserves more than 1 year. California's 7-year felony terms cut repeat theft by 40% (CA DOJ, 2023)—Hawaii needs this heft to stop the 10% of offenders driving 50% of crimes (HPD rural data, 2022).
- Amendment 2: Toughen Trespass and Property Crimes:
 - Revise §708-A(3) (Section 37): “Criminal trespass on agricultural land: (a) First offense: \$5,000 minimum fine, 6 months imprisonment; (b) Second offense: \$10,000 minimum fine, 1 year imprisonment; (c) Third offense: Class C felony, \$20,000 fine, 5 years imprisonment. Dangerous instrument raises it to Class B, \$25,000 fine, 10 years.”
 - Revise §708-820 to §708-822 (Sections 39-41): Add: “Agricultural property damage: First degree (Class B): \$25,000 fine, 5 years minimum; Second degree (Class C): \$15,000 fine, 2 years minimum; Third degree: \$5,000 fine, 6 months minimum—no probation.”
 - Why: A \$500 fine for trespassing on a \$1 million farm (avg. value, HDOA) is a joke. States like Texas, with \$10,000+ fines and 2-10 years, see 30% less rural crime (FBI, 2022). Hawaii's 300+ trespass cases in 2023 (HPD) need a real deterrent.
- Amendment 3: Strengthen Lesser Offenses:
 - Revise Section 10, §142-12: “Petty misdemeanors: (1) First offense: \$2,000 fine, 30 days imprisonment; (2) Second: \$5,000 fine, 90 days; (3) Third: \$10,000 fine, 1 year. Misdemeanors: (1) First: \$5,000 fine, 6 months; (2) Second: \$10,000 fine, 1 year; (3) Third: Class C felony, \$20,000 fine, 5 years.”
 - Why: A \$250 fine for uninspected animals (Section 8) or \$500 for branding fraud (Section 15) is pocket change vs. \$50,000 livestock hauls (HDOA). Tougher states like Oklahoma saw 25% less ag crime with \$5,000+ baselines (OK Ag Dept., 2023).
- Deterrence Pays Off: Nationally, penalties over \$10,000 and 5+ years cut property crime by 35% (DOJ, 2022). Hawaii could save \$2 million yearly in losses—half the current toll—with these changes, funding the \$X appropriation (Section 43) without strain.

Closing

S.B. No. 1249 is a lifeline for our farmers, but its penalties are a slap on the wrist for thieves costing us millions. These amendments make it a fortress—high fines and long sentences will stop criminals cold. Pass it with these changes, fix the 2050 typo to 2025, and give our 42,000 ag

workers (DBEDT) the protection they deserve. Mahalo—I'm ready to help make this law ironclad!

Sincerely,

Master Shelby "PIkachu" Billionaire

Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 5:43:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elliot Miles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm a bit surprised this does not already exist.

I want to provide my comments because I there is something this new task force should investigate immediately once it comes to fruition.

There is a junk yard on the bank of Pearl Harbor along the bike path. It is between the Best Buy and Harbor View complex. Maybe this is not an agricultural crime for the proposed task force, but how can a junk yard be allowed to exist that close to the harbor?

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 5:00:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support of SB1249 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

My name is Teri Kia Savaiinaea, a resident of Wai‘anae, a community advocate, and an educator. I strongly support **SB1249 SD1**, which protects our farmers from agricultural crimes, ensures accountability, and appropriates necessary funding to safeguard Hawai‘i’s food security.

Farmers are the backbone of our communities, providing fresh, local food and preserving our cultural traditions. Yet, they face increasing threats from theft, vandalism, and illegal activity that jeopardize their livelihoods. This bill is essential to deter crime, educate the public, and allocate resources to protect those who feed our families.

By supporting **SB1249 SD1**, we stand with our farmers, strengthen Hawai‘i’s agricultural future, and uphold our commitment to food sovereignty and security. I urge you to pass this bill for the well-being of our communities and generations to come.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Teri Kia Savaiinaea

District 45, Wai‘anae resident

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:20:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin Salcedo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

1. **Strong SUPPORT of SB1249 (Relating To Agriculture) with incorporated amendments by made by Senate AEN Committee.** Thereafter, I fully SUPPORT in its entirety. I Request WAM/JDC Committee’s to “approve” and “implement” in its entirety for execution.

Additional request for Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads (JDC Chair) to **“consider” and “Schedule” SB1248 (Relating To Cranston “Duke” Pia Act) for Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing (JDC) by Feb. 26, 2025.**

Measured facts, and Imperative to enact and approve Stand-Your-Ground-Law, whereas a law bidding agriculture landowner upon own private property have “no other means” and/or “no other duty to retreat” and none avoidable circumstance to retreat for protection or retreat into a sheltered protection to avoid harmful aggressor towards habitants of private property landowner’s. But to use deadly force to protect habitants of private property owners from any threat of bodily or deadly harm.

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 3:06:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and members of the committees,

I'm in STRONG SUPPORT of SB1249 SD1.

Please vote YES in support of this bill.

I'm a resident of Waianae Moku. We've experience violent crimes on Ag lands in my district. This bill will provide support to owners of Ag lands and their ohana. It will assist in reducing crimes on Ag land and bring accountability.

Ke Akua pu,

Germaine Meyers

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 2:56:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

My name is Brian Leonida, I am writing in **SUPPORT** of bill SB1249.

I 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.

Aloha,

Brian Leonida

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:01:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina Kalei Salcedo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong SUPPORT of SB1249 (Relating To Agriculture) with incorporated amendments by made by Senate AEN Committee. Thereafter, I fully SUPPORT in its entirety. Request WAM/JDC Committee's to "approve" and "implement" in its entirety for execution.

Additional request for Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads (JDC Chair) to "consider" and "Schedule" SB1248 (Relating To Cranston "Duke" Pia Act) for Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing (JDC) by Feb. 26, 2025.

Measured facts, and Imperative to enact and approve Stand-Your-Ground-Law, whereas a law-abiding agriculture landowner upon own private property have "no other means" and/or "no other duty to retreat" and none avoidable circumstance to retreat for protection or retreat into a sheltered protection to avoid harmful aggressor towards habitants of private property landowner's. But to use deadly force to protect habitants of private property owners from any threat of bodily or deadly harm.

1. Delayed response time, for All County/State Law Enforcement (HPD, DLNR/DOCARE, DLE) for any incident. Example: Waianae HPD Station to respond to Kea'au District, is 20 minute to an (1+ hour) response travel time or none at all. County HPD have manning shortfall. DLNR/DOCARE have decline of Financial and Staffing Shortage. State DLE have their own partnership agenda's with HPD.2.years I've reported safety hazard issue's of Kea'au area (Oahu). Unethical hunters in my back yard and mountain with loaded gun's and I own part of the Kea'au mountain and It's not a hunting zone area. Gun shot's been going and took video's given to HPD and DLNR/DOCARE. I contacted #911 HPD Dispatcher and DLNR/DOCARE Cheif Mr. Jason Raddula and mention to him "what are you going to do" and "wait for someone to get killed or lose their life". Mr. Jason Radulla replied "I assure you Mrs Salcedo it will not fall upon Blind Eye's or Deaf Ear's". BUT IT DID!!! Caused a lost of a life (Cranston Duke Pia, a loving young rancher).
2. I myself, Mrs. Gina Kalei Salcedo, don't and will never have good faith results by DLNR Department. It's a waste of Tax Payer's costs. Our community definitely deserve better quality State Government service's. Also, to include losing an asset of an DOCARE Agent Mr. Pieter Meinster in January 2024 (assigned to the Waianae Coast), and just a month before Cranston Duke Pia got Murder by llegal Poacher's. On State property jurisdiction of Hunting Zone "G" (Kea'au Mountain), it state's "No hunting dog's

throughout the year with no exception to the rule”. personally experience lost of my family owned Farm Milking Goats and Farm Chickens As A Result of loose Hunting Dog’s, left behind by Unethical Hunter’s. I’ve filed reports with HPD & DOCARE with their presence upon my Kea’au Agriculture private property with Posted Signage.

3. All Negative Events that occurred upon my private property. I’ve attempted to schedule meeting with DLNR Commissioner. But only to be discourage by “Due Process of DLNR”. Complainants are required to be Sponsored By Management Of DLNR Management Officials.
4. (Oahu) District have continued “Past” and “Present Time” to be a Safety/Health Hazard Chaos area for the Ag-Landowner’s and Community. State Officials needs to Half/Stop the Aiding and Abetting to Illegal Trespasser’s. Upon Privately Own Properties.

Respectfully yours,

Gina Kalei Salcedo

(Ag Landowner)

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:42:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT! LONG OVERDUE!

February 25, 2025'

Aloha: Hawaii State Senate and House of
Representatives Legislators:

My name is (Suzanne Leonida - Silva)

(Cranston = Duke "Pia's) mom.

I am Submitting this "Written-Testimony":

In "Support" of these following Bills:

- SB-1248
- SB-1249
- SB-1257

Agricultural - Crimes of: = Violence, Thefts
and Threats" has been Rampant and
Accelerating for many years!

Its been Happening on = Ranches and Farms"
on the = Westside of Oahu" Including
= Ranches and Agricultural Farms in the
= Entire State of Hawaii"

I = Humbly" Ask for Your Support;

To = Please" Pass these (3 - SB.)'s
on this = 2025' Legislative-Session."

Sincerely,

Suzanne Leonida - Silva