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February 12, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 552, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:01 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, 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 552, SD1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a Healthy Soils Program and to submit an Annual Report to the Legislature detailing the status and progress of the program.

HFB strongly supports the concept of building soil structure and nutrient capacity. Caring for the soil is a cornerstone to having multigenerational farms that continue to provide for the people of Hawai'i. Many of our farms add compost made off-site as well as utilize short-term fallow between crop cycles to increase organic content in their soils. HFB recognizes and supports diverting discarded food and other useful wastes away from landfills. The benefits of this and composting are well-known.

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

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



LATE

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 - Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu
 - Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

The Hawai'i 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 SB552.**

SB552 presents a promising opportunity to enhance soil health across Hawaii, which is integral to sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship. By mandating the Department of Agriculture to establish a Healthy Soils Program, this bill strategically prioritizes the improvement of soil health statewide.

An amendment is requested to **bring existing initiatives like the Compost Reimbursement Program (HRS 141-16) and Cover Crop Pilot Program (Act 312, SLH 2022) under the umbrella of the Healthy Soils Program** would streamline and bolster current efforts. These programs are complementary to the overarching goals of the proposed Healthy Soils Program and can be more effectively managed under a unified strategy aimed at improving soil health. Such integration would allow for better allocation of resources, more consistent policy implementation, and enhanced outcomes for Hawaii's agricultural sector. By aligning these programs, the Department of Agriculture can more effectively issue comprehensive awards and financial incentives, ensuring that efforts to promote healthy soils are both cost-effective and impactful.

Proposed Amendment:

SECTION [X]. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§141-___. Healthy Soils Program; administration of existing soil health initiatives.

(a) The Healthy Soils Program shall include and administer the following initiatives:

1. The Compost Reimbursement Program, established under section 141-16, which provides financial assistance to farmers for compost purchases to improve soil health and fertility.
2. The Cover Crop Pilot Program, established under Act 312, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, which promotes the use of cover crops to enhance soil organic matter, reduce erosion, and increase biodiversity.

(b) The Department of Agriculture shall ensure that these programs align with the objectives and standards of the

Healthy Soils Program, as set forth in subsections (a) and (b), to maximize benefits to farmers and enhance statewide soil health.”

By incorporating these existing programs into the Healthy Soils Program, the legislature can create a more effective and streamlined approach to supporting conservation agriculture practices statewide. This approach will not only support individual farmers, but also enhance soil health and advance environmental stewardship.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

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

SB552 SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 10:01 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB552 SD1** which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a Healthy Soils Program. Requires an annual report to the Legislature and appropriates funds.

Healthy soils are necessary for ensuring we can continue to grow food on the land. Agriculture can be a beneficial contributor to managing the environment when the appropriate practices are deployed, and well-managed rangelands are a big player in this contribution. Managed, rotational grazing improves soil health through stimulating grass growth, allows rest and regrowth of grass cover and deeper roots, encourages moisture retention in the soil, protects from erosion and runoff, increases water infiltration, and sequesters carbon underground where it is stored stably.

This bill will provide the support to farmers and ranchers to encourage practices that increase soil health. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council is proud to be part of a partnership led by the University of Hawaii at Manoa that will be implementing the Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities grant to provide support for farmers and ranchers who are implementing climate smart practices. While this is a 5-year grant, efforts from the state will help to reach more producers and encourage more practices to be implemented across the state. **Furthermore, the current federal administration is no longer prioritizing climate smart practices, even though these practices are targeted at improving soil health. As such, the funds for this grant are currently at risk of being rescinded, even though we are in the middle of implementation. It is important now, more than ever, for the State to support practices for farmers and ranchers that help us to produce food while stewarding the land for future generations.**

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





To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 10:01am

In strong support of SB552 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and WAM Committee members;

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **strongly supports SB552 SD1** that would require the Department of Agriculture to establish a Healthy Soils Program. This bill would incentivize farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils, land management practices that sequester carbon, as well as educating farmers and providing technical assistance to achieve these goals.

Supporting carbon sequestration efforts such as those delineated in this Healthy Soils Program is a win-win for the climate and local food production. To address the climate crisis, we need to move forward on efforts such as those described in SB552 SD1, and we need to do them in earnest.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



February 11, 2025

To: Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Subject: **SB552 SD1, Relating to Agriculture**

Aloha,

I am submitting this testimony **in support of SB552 SD1**, which would appropriate funds to establish a Healthy Soils Program in the Department of Agriculture.

Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive agricultural sector, capturing carbon more effectively, and making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and therefore less dependent on costly inputs. Heavy industrial practices have depleted our local soil health for over a century. We must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health, with the shared benefits of increasing crop productivity, reducing harmful pesticide use, and aiding in climate change mitigation by storing carbon.

To move towards regenerative agriculture, we must provide farmers with the education, technical assistance, and financial support needed to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils, thus supporting the health of our food, our people, and our lands.

Establishing a statewide soil health assessment with a list of practices specific to Hawai'i that are most effective in improving soil health and building soil carbon stocks is an important step towards a healthier, more sustainable food system and must be supported with appropriate funding. I urge you to **support SB552 SD1**.

Mahalo,

Jeanette Burdick & 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.



LATE

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB552 SD1

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 10 a.m. Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports SB552 SD1 which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a Healthy Soils Program.

We support a sound program and plan to build our soil structure, nutrient capacity and biodiversity. These practices prevent soil erosion by wind and water, which can further enhance air and water quality and have cascading positive impacts in our environment.

We understand we must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

Healthy soil is the basis for establishing lasting soil that sustains communities, environmental services, farms, and farmers, for generations. In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, and soil biodiversity in over soil "health". As we realize the impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life¹, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health². Healthy soils support more pest and climate change resistant crops.

In addition to important things like composting, crop rotation, cover cropping and other ways that we can increase organic content, we need to be looking at rehabilitation of old and previously cleared and graded soils to restore soil biodiversity along with organic content. A well structured program would include qualified soil biologists that could bring these new scientific understandings about soil ecology into the program.

¹ <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/pesticides-are-killing-the-worlds-soils/>

² <https://www.emnz.com/article/how-pesticides-affect-soil-microbes>



Soil biodiversity provides fertile ground for advancing global sustainability because it integrates so many challenges including climate regulation, water quality, pollution remediation, food and fiber production, and habitat for organisms aboveground and underwater.³

Healthy soil is by far the most biologically diverse part of Earth. The soil food web includes beetles, springtails, mites, worms, spiders, nematodes, fungi, bacteria, and other organisms. These organisms improve the entry and storage of water, resistance to erosion, plant nutrition, and breakdown of organic matter. These vital ecosystem services are often forgotten and even destroyed through intensive industrialized agriculture⁴.

HAPA believes that SB552 SD1 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 SD1 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Please support SB552 SD1 and healthy soils for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned below the text 'Respectfully,'.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

³ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-sciences/soil-biodiversity>

⁴ https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_050947.pdf

**Citizens' Climate Lobby
Hawaii**

hi.ccl.lobby@gmail.com



February 10, 2025

Strong Support for SB552 SD1 Relating to Agriculture

Dear Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) Hawai'i, I'm testifying in **Strong Support of SB552 SD1**, which if enacted would improve our agriculture sector and our environment.

Economically, it would increase the productivity and health of our soils. Environmentally, it would reduce the carbon footprint of the state by improving the ability of soils to sequester carbon. Carbon sequestration is an important component of the state's necessary work to reduce its greenhouse gas footprint.

CCL Hawai'i has over 960 members in four chapters: Hawaii Island, Honolulu, Kauai, and Maui. CCL National has several hundred chapters throughout the US with tens of thousands of members. Support of healthy soils is one of the four environmental pillars which CCL supports.

Please pass SB552 SD1 out of your committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Paul Bernstein'.

Paul Bernstein

CCL Hawai'i State Co-Coordinator

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:44:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, I am Co-chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i. We offer our support for SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs.

As a farm worker on an organic farm on Big Island, I know first hand how the quality of soil makes a huge difference in the production of food. Feeding our local communities is our number one priority.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Healthy soils support more pest and climate change resistant crops.

SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

We urge you Pass SB552 SD1.

Mahaloa,

Susan RobertsEmery
Co-chair GPH
Green Party of Hawai'i
Paauilo

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:49:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii **SUPPORT** this bill!

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:56:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good agricultural practices can one of Hawaii’s most effective & beneficial ways to sequester carbon with significant benefits of improving the quality and the abundance of produce available for our local population. To better educate our farmers and provide them with skills and practices to improve their soil and production is a great investment in our community. This legislative action is for the farmer, the community and the environment. Strong support.

LATE

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:38:56 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannette Gurung	Testifying for WOCAN	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Healthy soils support more pest and climate change resistant crops.

SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Jeannette Gurung, Kailua Kona

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:33:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Burt Furuta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwake and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 552: Healthy Soils Program. Healthy soil is the foundation of sustainable agriculture. Even companies like General Mills are helping their suppliers transition from industrial practices that degrade the soil to regenerative practices that rebuild the soil. And farmers need educational and technical assistance to implement practices that are new to them, to foster healthy soil. The benefits are many, including less erosion and runoff, more water absorption and drought resistance, more carbon sequestration, healthier food as documented by the Bionutrient Food Association, and greater biodiversity. Many farmers who have made the transition to regenerative practices report spending less money on inputs and diesel fuel, and enjoy their work more, being in tune with nature and not dealing with toxic chemicals. Everybody wins.

Mahalo,

Burt Furuta

Honolulu

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:26:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suellen Barton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Healthy soil produces healthy food which leads to healthy bodies. Please support this bill

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:44:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimdonghyeon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Healthy soils support more pest and climate change resistant crops.

SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Mahalo for your consideration!

kimdonghyeon

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:59:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emelia Briscoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

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Mahalo for your consideration!

Emelia Briscoe, Honolulu

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:05:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs.

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Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:17:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

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SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:03:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

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Mahalo for your consideration!

Marion McHenry

Princeville, Kauai

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:20:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

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Mahalo for your consideration!

Tiare Smith

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:36:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliei Starbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs. Eliei, Kapaa

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:37:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Val Hertzog	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

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Mahalo for your consideration!

Val Hertzog, Kapa'a

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:02:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Healthy soils support more pest and climate change resistant crops.

SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Mahalo for your consideration!
Nalani from Lahaina

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:13:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Otsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee, My name is Kiana Otsuka, and I am an O‘ahu resident, writing in support of SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits, by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs. We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils. In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Healthy soils support more pest and climate change resistant crops SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment. Mahalo for your consideration! Kiana Otsuka

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 4:14:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Senator Moriwaki and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Please support SB 552 SD 1 to establish a Healthy Soils Program.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:16:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs.

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:48:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Healthy soils support more pest and climate change resistant crops.

SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Susan Wong, Kailua

suwongyoga@gmail.com

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:44:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Hennessy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

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SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Lisa Hennessy, Princeville

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:47:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Healthy soils support more pest and climate change resistant crops.

SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Kencho, Hilo

LATE

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:21:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

LATE

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:31:55 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hideki Kimukai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Healthy soils support more pest and climate change resistant crops. Healthy soils provide healthy benefits to our coastlines by providing valuable nutrients and minerals through the natural ecosystem.

SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment, and our communities, and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Hideki Kimukai, Mō‘ili‘ili

LATE

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:34:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann V Saffery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Healthy soils support more pest and climate change resistant crops.

SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Ann V Saffery

Honolulu, HI

LATE

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:53:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i strongly support this bill. Thank you.

LATE

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:25:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Kimo Pestana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

I am in agreement with so many of my fellow residents.

Please support SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Healthy soils support more pest and climate change resistant crops.

SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Please support SB552

Mahalo for your consideration!

Dr Paul Kimo Pestana DC

Honolulu, Hi 96816

LATE

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:32:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lory Ono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Healthy soils support more pest and climate change resistant crops.

SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Lory Ono

LATE

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:35:42 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support SB552, which will bolster the local food production agricultural sector and improve our local environment by promoting healthy soil practices. Healthy soil benefits include supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation and making plants more pest and climate impact resilient thereby less dependent on costly inputs.

It is critical to provide farmers with education and technical assistance and financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils. Doing so will help overcome the impacts heavy industrial practices have had, depleting our local soil health for over a century, by moving away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health.

Thank you

LATE

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:16:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Healthy soils support more pest and climate change resistant crops.

SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo Hawaii

LATE

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:31:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isis Usborne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Healthy soils support more pest and climate change resistant crops.

SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Mahalo for your consideration!
Isis Usborne, 96815

LATE

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:44:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HISC and its partners are an indispensable part of our biosecurity framework

To us, nothing is more important than the environment

SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment. It pretty much starts with soils.

Mahalo, Bill and Barbara Best, Wailuku

LATE

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 3:36:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
fred hofer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB552. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Healthy soils support more pest and climate change resistant crops.

SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Fred Hofer
Hilo

LATE

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 3:46:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB552. I believe it will be a great investment for our state that will reap dividends in the future through environmental and economic benefits. Healthy soil will help crops contain more micronutrients and create a more productive ag sector, as increasing the microbial life and biodiversity will help strengthen our local food supply, which I believe is an important factor in creating a sustainable future where we can develop resilience as an island community, both for biosecurity, climate change and economic independence against geopolitical and natural disruptions to food shipping, such as what we experienced during COVID-19. Another benefit is mitigating climate change through carbon capture, which is an added boon to our oceans as they have been the main carbon sink over the decades. Healthy soil will be able to produce plants that are more pest and climate impact resilient, which will reduce dependency on costly inputs. Assisting farmers in this way through this program will be a win for all of us.

SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-552-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:04:07 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB552. Industrial practices have depleted our soil health for more than 100 years. We need to stop sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides that kill beneficial soil microbes, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes. This will improve the overall quality of our environment and sequester carbon.

Mahalo!

Victoria B. Anderson, 96816