

STATE OF HAWAII  
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION  
COMMISSION  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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Director, OPSD

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The Adjutant General  
Manager, CZM

**Testimony of  
LEAH LARAMEE  
Coordinator, Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

**Before the House Committee on  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Monday, January 27, 2025  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 552  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Senate Bill 552 requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a Healthy Soils Program and requires an annual report to the Legislature. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 different departments, committees and counties with the purpose of promoting ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Soil health is closely tied to ecosystem health and climate change resilience. Climate-smart land management practices that focus on building soil health, combined with stable land tenure, can provide ecological and economic resilience for agricultural communities throughout the islands and increase food system resilience.

The Commission has been supporting similar efforts through the Department of Land and Natural Resources Climate Smart Land Manager Assistance Pilot Program which provides incentives to land managers to implement climate smart practices on their lands. These programs are complimentary in that they both build resilience in our agricultural and natural lands through regenerative actions. The Climate Smart Land Manager Assistance Pilot Program has been very well received and land managers are hungry for additional support in these areas.

This program will also assist the state to meet our state commitment to achieving net-negative carbon emissions by 2045 by actively investing in reducing our emissions and mitigate greenhouse gases. Regenerative agriculture, forests, wetlands, and our nearshore waters and reefs serve as the State's only carbon sinks, removing carbon from the atmosphere. Increasing carbon sequestration

and improving healthy soils will assist the state in meeting food security and carbon emission goals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

**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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025**  
**1:00 PM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 552**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 0552 that requires the Department of Agriculture (Department) to establish a healthy soils program. There is an appropriation of \$500,000 for FY24-25 and the same amount for FY26-27 to establish the program and the required financial incentives. The Department appreciates the intent and offers comments and a recommendation.

A fully developed Healthy Soils Program (Program) is expected to implement and manage a system of awards, financial incentives, and educational and technical assistance to farmers to implement selected farm management practices that will achieve improving soil health and building carbon stocks by small farmers, ranchers, and landowners. Notwithstanding the appropriations contained in this measure, the Department does not possess the elements of a science-based soil management and education program and neither the expertise nor other resources to establish what is needed to operate the responsible, transparent, and effective statewide program envisioned in this measure.

This bill lacks guidance on what public and private collaboration is needed to collect and analyze data and information to establish the necessary baselines and reasonable metrics of achievement that are necessary for the Department to establish standards on which to base preferred farm management practices and educate farmers



and landowners who undertake them with awards and financial incentives from the Program.

The Department strongly recommends that the Green House Gas Sequestration Task Force (Task Force) (Section 225P-4), rather than the Department of Agriculture, be assigned the tasks described in this measure. The Task Force has been in existence since 2018 and is charged with addressing numerous objectives including building healthy soils, sequestering carbon, increasing water-holding capacity, and increasing crop yields. This bill significantly duplicates the outcomes expected from the Task Force with respect to:

- Identifying agricultural practices to provide greenhouse gas benefits, identifying short-term and long-term benchmarks to indicate how effective these identified agricultural practices have been in reaching the goal;
- Identifying criteria to be used in a certification program to measure baseline levels and increases in carbon sequestration, improvements in soil health, and so forth; and
- Identifying what incentives, grants, research, and assistance are needed to promote identified agricultural practices.

The Department believes that avoiding a duplication of duties and responsibilities that are well-established in another organization is in the State's best interests.

Further, SB552 also appears to be duplicative of the objectives of the three-year Hawaii Carbon Smart Land Management Assistance Pilot Program (Act 185, SLH 2022) established in the Department of Land and Natural Resources that has among its responsibilities, the sequestering of greenhouse gases and improving soil health by use of incentive contracts based on to-be established compensation rates.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.



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

January 27, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON SB 552**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference  
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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**, 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.



**Officers**

Kaipo Kekona  
State President

Anabella Bruch  
Vice-President

Maureen Datta  
Secretary

Reba Lopez  
Treasurer

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

**Chapter Presidents**

Clarence Baber  
Kohala, Hawai'i

Tony Vera  
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer  
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Maureen Datta  
Kona, Hawai'i

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. **HFUU supports 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 assessment and improvement of soil health statewide. Providing education and technical assistance further empowers local farmers to adopt sustainable farm management practices, ultimately leading to healthier soils that support diverse ecosystems, increased agricultural productivity, and climate resilience.

Fawn Helekahi-Burns  
Hāna, Maui

Mason Scharer  
Haleakalā, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros  
Mauna Kahālāwai,  
Maui

Kaipo Kekona  
Lahaina, Maui

An amendment is requested to bring existing initiatives like the Compost Reimbursement Program (HRS 141-16) and Cover Crop Pilot Program 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.

Kilia Avelino-Purdy  
Moloka'i

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Negus Manna  
Lāna'i

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

India Clark  
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman  
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich  
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura  
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska  
Kaua'i

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 1:39:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Colehour Bondera	Testifying for Kanalani Ohana Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members:

Please seriously consider and support this important piece of legislation.

Hawaii must support the needs of farmers and farmers require support and oversight of the needs of soil for their production to be successful.

All land-based crops require healthy soil and the broader environment requires that we keep the soils healthy for stability, continuity and "sustainability". The USDA recognizes soils and HDOA has many times dismissed farmer needs because of no program focus on soils, which must be required of HDOA.

Please instill an ongoing responsibility of HDOA to preserve and protect our necessary soils as a foundation of good agriculture choices.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 8:53:59 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannette Gurung	Testifying for Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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*

*hy 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.*

*SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.*

*Mahalo for your consideration!*

*Dr. Jeannette Gurung, Executive Director, WOCAN*

*Kailua Kona*

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 12:28:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Strong support!** Healthy soils are critical for food production! They are also important for carbon sequestration, which is critical for the Climate Protectors Hawai'i. **Please pass this bill with appropriation either to the Department of Agriculture or an agency responsible for carbon sequestration.**

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:59:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

*I write on behalf of the Green Party of Hawai'i, we strongly 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. As a small farmer myself and a worker on a larger Organic commercial farm, I see the difference in quality soils.*

*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. The soil at the commercial farm is depleted of nutrients and the soil on the farm is rich with worms and microorganisms. The web of life under the soil matters greatly in the production of food on our Island home.*

*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*

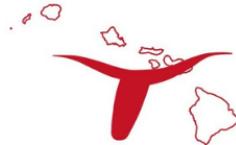
*SB552 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment and working to sequester carbon. SB552 is therefore not just important for our local food production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

*Mahalo for your consideration!*

*Susan RobertsEmery*

*Co chair GPH*

*Paauilo*



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

**SB552**

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Monday, January 27, 2025, 1:00PM  
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB552** 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.

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





## **Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment**

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

Monday, January 27th, 2025 1 p.m. Conference Room 224

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

HAPA supports SB552 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 life<sup>1</sup>, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health<sup>2</sup>. 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> <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.<sup>3</sup>

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 agriculture<sup>4</sup>.

HAPA believes that 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 and healthy soils for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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

Anne Frederick  
Executive Director

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

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2\\_050947.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_050947.pdf)

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 5:03:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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!*



**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 4:35:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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.*

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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!*  
Lahaina Town

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 4:39:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

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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,*

*Georgia Hoopes*

*Kalaheo*

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 4:42:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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!

Emelia Briscoe, Honolulu

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 4:49:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Safia Gravel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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.*

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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!*

*Safia N. Gravel*

*Hilo*

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 4:50:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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.*

*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*

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*Mahalo for your consideration!*

**Citizens' Climate Lobby  
Hawaii**

hi.ccl.lobby@gmail.com



January 26, 2025

**Strong Support for SB552 Relating to Agriculture**

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the AEN Committee,

On behalf of the Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) Hawai'i, I'm testifying in **Strong Support of SB552**, which if enacted would reduce the carbon footprint of the state. 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.

**Please pass SB552 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**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 8:40:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I urge you to 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.

Farmers need education and technical assistance to be able 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.

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. Please support this bill to benefit the local food production agricultural sector and our environment.

Thank you

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:48:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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!*

*Michele Nihipali*

*54-074 A Kam Hwy.*

*Hawula, HI 96717*

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 10:17:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment*

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

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 2:43:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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!

Kevin Faccenda, Honolulu

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 8:16:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Schacht	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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.*

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 9:00:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
L. Osterer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Please support SB 552. Many Kauai lands need restoration to compensate for the harmful effects of pesticide use. Biochar and other restoration methods need to be implemented, as well as crop diversity after decades of pineapple and corn. But mostly the GMO or GE fields are terribly damaged and polluting our water table. It may take decades to restore good farming practices. Let's get started with funding our future food supply.

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 8:37:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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!*

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 3:32:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Scientists have shown that conventional farming reduces the nutrients in crops. We need to improve our soil in order to boost the nutrient level in our foods. This bill will be a step forward in that effort.

Here is an article about nutrient loss from the NIH: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10969708/>

Mahalo,

Samantha Preis

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 9:03:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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!*

*Stacey Alapai, Makawao, Maui, HI*

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 8:14:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support 552 SB RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Thank you,

Theresa Thompson

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:28:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hina Kaopua-Canonigo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am humbly requesting your 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.

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. Please pass SB552, which is not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Aloha nō,

Hina Ka'ōpua-Canonigo, Mānoa

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 2:01:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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!*

*Kealakai Hammond*

*Honolulu, HI*

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 2:24:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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!

Dylan Ramos

96816

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:41:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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!*

Noelle Bali

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:24:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I support SB552. Healthy soil is often overlooked when people consider natural resources or think about what is required for a healthy ecosystem and environment.

The nutrition and quality of our food, the ability of the land to produce, and the amount that the land is able to produce starts with the soil.

Decades, if not generations, of industrial agricultural practices have destroyed the vitality and biodiversity of our land. Remediating our soils is crucial to our health and survival.

SB552 will 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.

Environmental restoration and quality local food production are two of the most critical areas that must be addressed in today's age. I believe SB552 is the right action to address these goals.

I ask that you work with urgency and conviction to help make SB552 into law.

Thank you for your consideration,

Katrina Ahia

Lahaina, Maui

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:28:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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!*

*Shay Chan Hodges, Haiku, Maui*

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:40:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Gabbard, Vice Chair Senator Richards and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

Please support SB 552 to establish the Healthy Soils Program.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 12:21:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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  
Kapahulu Ave resident (96815)  
2026 JD Candidate at William S. Richardson School of Law

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:45:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Debra M Javar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully SUPPORT SB552

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 6:23:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

*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. Eliel Starbright,Kapaa,96746*

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 4:38:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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!*

*kiindonghyeon*

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 11:06:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Healthy soil is the foundation of plant growth. Protecting and building soil is necessary for sustainable food production, and stability for farmers. I am fully in support of a Healthy Soils Program to recommend and educate about best practices for investing in our soil. Please vote yes on SB552.

Mahalo,

Norris Thomlinson  
Kapoho, Big Island

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 12:42:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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,*

*Lela Kalama, Kea'au, HI*

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:02:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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!*

Val Hertzog, Kapa'a

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 1:17:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We have a small farm on Kaua'i and need to improve our soil practices and want to have help from our State Agriculture staff/ we support this bill

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 5:11:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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.*

*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 not only important to our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.*

*Mahalo for your consideration!*

*Teri K. Savaiinaea, Wai'anae*

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 6:08:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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.*

*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.*

*Alyssa Harada, Mililani*

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:47:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support

**SB-552**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:42:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards 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.

I have a small home garden and i grow my own food on a small scale. I have personally witnessed the difference between various types of soil, and having a healthy sustainable soil is so important, even to me on a personal scale. Implementing this on a larger scale for the farmers here is something I would really like to see. I buy all my produce from local farmers, and I would like my food and my family's food to come from healthy soil.

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!

Keala Fung, Honolulu Hawaii

