

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**FEBRUARY 12, 2019
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 782 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Lowen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 782 HD1. This bill provides funding to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify efficient agriculture equipment and retrofit engines to meet the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USDA EPA) standards. The Department of Agriculture supports this bill provided it does not impact the department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget and offers a comment.

The Hawaii Farm Equipment Use Report (NASS, March 2018) surveyed farmers in all four counties to determine, that of the 19 types of farm equipment in the survey, Hawaii farmers reported a need for 11,692 pieces of equipment over the 16,984 pieces that were in use. The survey results support the need for a farm equipment pilot program to identify the equipment that is efficient and meets the needs of Hawaii farmers. The pilot program could include a provision for retrofitting existing equipment to meet USDA EPA standards similar to the USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). EQIP provided funding to farmers in California to improve air quality if they would take actions such as to replace old diesel-powered farm equipment with similar new equipment powered with the cleanest emission-certified diesel engines. For



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this bill, the funding provided could be to retrofit existing equipment with more efficient engines to comply with EPA standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

February 12, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY ON HB 782, HD1
RELATING AGRICULTURE

Room 329
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildbeger, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 782, HD1, which appropriates funds to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify efficient agriculture equipment and retrofit engines to meet the United States Environmental Protection Agency's standards.

As the demand for agriculture labor continues to increase, while the availability of labor decreases, farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. A limited number of weed management solutions and the increase in labor cost have made weed management a major challenge for many small farmers in Hawaii. Many small farmers also have a need for smaller harvesting and field prep equipment that is not readily available in Hawaii. These growers include vegetable crops, wetland crops, and livestock forage crops. There is a need to identify high technology small equipment and evaluate its applicability for Hawaii's diverse agriculture systems.

Countries such as Japan have small equipment that is suitable for Hawaii's small farmers, however, the engines that are attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations. This pilot program would help identify desired small equipment as well as finding solutions that would allow Hawaii farmers to import foreign equipment that complies with EPA standards.

We recommend that the pilot project include, among other things, the following:

- Establish contact with manufacturers of small equipment in Japan and other countries.
- Work with EPA to identify EPA standard and compliance requirements for small foreign ag equipment.
- Collaborate with Agriculture and Ag Professionals from foreign countries on management practices.
- Bring harvesting, weed management, and field prep machinery into the State of Hawaii for evaluation.
- Conduct on-farm trials to evaluate the efficacy and applicability to multiple growing systems (wetland, conventional, organic, forage crops, etc.) statewide.
- Conduct education and training workshops statewide to update agriculture producers on available technology.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Tuesday, February 12, 2019 — 8:30 a.m. — Room 325

Ulupono Initiative Supports HB 782 HD 1, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better manage waste and fresh water resources. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono supports HB 782 HD 1, which appropriates funds to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify efficient agriculture equipment because it aligns with our goal to increase local food production.

According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, 6,494 of the 7,000 farms in Hawai'i (93 percent), had annual farm sales of less than \$100,000. Also, in 2012, 5,179 of the 5,293 farms (98 percent) that made a harvest were fewer than 50 acres. Since the average farmer in Hawai'i is a small farmer with limited land, it is critical for local growers to identify smaller farming equipment suitable for Hawai'i. Right-sized equipment can better help smaller farms develop into future medium and large-sized farms that can grow more local food.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become increasingly complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

We believe that through collaboration, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



February 8, 2019

Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Support of HB 782, HD1, Relating to Agriculture (Appropriates funds to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify efficient agriculture equipment and retrofit engines to meet the standards of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).)

Tuesday, February 12, 2019, 8:30 a.m., in Conference Room 325

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 782, HD1** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii.

HB 782, HD1. This bill appropriates funds to establish a pilot program to explore retrofitting foreign small equipment to comply with EPA standards, which is necessary as farmers and ranchers must explore and resort to alternative means and technology to operate their farms due to the increase in demand for unskilled labor.

LURF's Position. LURF members include farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider such assistance very helpful, if not critical to the conduct of their operations and to help sustain their businesses.

The purpose of this bill is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes, Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution, "to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands."

LURF therefore appreciates the objective of HB 782, HD1, which is to support agriculture and provide needed assistance to agriculture-related or agribusinesses operations. Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be meaningless without implementation of such measures. The establishment of the foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program is critically needed to help support viable agricultural activity in this State.

By recognizing the significance of, and need to assist the local agriculture industry, and implement incentives and measures which help to support the growth and maintenance of agriculture in the State, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of this measure.



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 325
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019 AT 8:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair;
The Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection;

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 782 HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap and I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, with approximately 650 members. We appreciate the opportunity to support of HB 782 HD1 on a pilot program relating to ag equipment.

Historically, agriculture has been very important to our community, but it is a difficult industry to successfully start and operate. Use of technology and modernization is key. We support efforts that seek to sustain and support agriculture as the industry is currently struggling with a labor shortage, in addition to other factors. We appreciate that this bill takes a new approach to supporting the industry by establishing a pilot program to look for more efficient equipment and ensuring it is compliant to EPA regulations.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony and we hope you will move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

HB-782-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 6:47:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

HB-782-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 7:21:11 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-782-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 5:51:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments: