

**HR-50**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:17:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 11:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nanea Lo            | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm from Papakāleia, O'ahu now residing in Māhili in my ancestral homelands. I'm writing in support of HR50. Our agricultural sector suffers from the same kinds of systemic inequalities that we struggle with in every other aspect of our economy. As we look towards building a more robust and diversified agricultural economy, we need to do our best to confront these inequalities and make sure that we are supporting Native Hawaiians, women, people of color, and immigrants to actively engage in this food sovereign future!

Support HR50.

me ke aloha 'Āina,

Nanea Lo

**HR-50**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:50:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 11:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Janet Pappas        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear AGR and CPC Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committee members,

I support this resolution (HR50) because the legislature has found there to be inequities in the Hawaii farming system. Persons wanting to farm in Hawaii may have educational, language or other social barriers (including discrimination) and do not receive the same critical information as others, therefore finding it difficult to succeed in agriculture. Some of these people may have been highly successful in their native countries, but they have difficulty navigating the system here. Others may be locally-born, but again, have found the doors closed to their participation.

I agree that extra effort should be given to this set of people as soon as they are identified so that they can get a boost and be on their way to a successful business. And, we need many more quality farmers in Hawaii if we are to succeed in our food sustainability and food security goals.

This is "just a resolution", but it may be that actual legislation is needed if we are to correct this justice and equity issues.

Please support this resolution (HR50) to show that there is concern that valuable "people" resources are slipping through the cracks. We can't afford to lose anyone.

Thank you very much for listening and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas - Aiea, Hawaii

**HR-50**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:29:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 11:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lisa Rhoden         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Honorable Representatives, I am writing in support of HR 50, Equity for Farmers and Ranchers. The 2017 National Ag Statistics Service Census of Agriculture data shows that in Hawai'i, Pacific Islanders, Native Hawaiians, Asians, and African Americans reported owning farms at much lower numbers than whites ([https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_1\\_State\\_Level/Hawaii/st15\\_1\\_0061\\_0061.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_State_Level/Hawaii/st15_1_0061_0061.pdf)). There are already many barriers to creating and maintainin successful agricultural and ranching operations, some of which are access to capitol, access to technical assistance, land access, and access to information and services. These barriers become greater when coupled with policies and programs that are not delivered in culturally appropriate ways or in languages that recipients are conversant in. Hawai'i is a multicultural community and as such, socially disadvantaged groups must be included in the development and dissemination of agricultural polices, resources, programs, and information.

Please pass HR 50 and improve the processes in place that provide assistance and support to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Lisa Rhoden

Food Safety Director, North Shore EVP

Hanapepe, Kaua'i