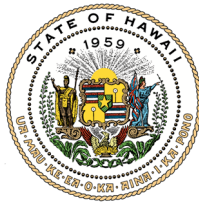


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT  
DIRECTOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT GOVERNOR  
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai*  
715 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JARED K. REDULLA  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 763, SENATE DRAFT 2  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT  
Before the House Committee on  
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 325 & Videoconference  
Testifiers: Mike Lambert

Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) strongly supports Senate Bill 763, Senate Draft 2. This bill establishes the Agricultural Enforcement Program within the Department of Law Enforcement, creates an Agricultural Enforcement Special Fund, establishes necessary positions, and appropriates funds to combat agricultural theft and related crimes across Hawaii's counties.

Agricultural crime has become a significant issue affecting Hawaii's farming communities and the agricultural sector as a whole. Farmers and ranchers have experienced substantial losses due to theft of crops, equipment, and livestock, as well as property damage and vandalism. These crimes not only impact individual agricultural businesses but also threaten Hawaii's food security and self-sufficiency goals.

Establishing the Agricultural Enforcement Program directly aligns with the DLE's mission to provide effective and coordinated law enforcement services. Earlier this year, following an informational hearing on agricultural crime, the DLE began engaging with

stakeholders in local agriculture to address these issues. This bill formalizes and strengthens these efforts by providing dedicated resources and a comprehensive approach to combat agricultural crimes.

The proposed program structure - with an assistant chief, state law enforcement investigators, and uniformed officers deployed across all counties - will enable effective investigation, prevention, and prosecution of agricultural crimes. Creating specialized positions will ensure that officers have the expertise and focus necessary to address the unique challenges of agricultural crime enforcement.

Additionally, the Agricultural Enforcement Special Fund will provide fiscal sustainability for these critical efforts, allowing for receiving grants, donations, and other funds designated explicitly for agricultural crime prevention and enforcement activities.

This bill also reinforces the Legislature's intent, as evidenced by Act 67, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, to consolidate state law enforcement functions under the DLE. By housing the Agricultural Enforcement Program within the DLE, the state can leverage existing law enforcement infrastructure, expertise, and inter-agency relationships while providing a specialized focus on agricultural crimes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025**  
**9:00 AM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**SENATE BILL NO. 763 SD2**  
**RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 763 SD2 that establishes the Agricultural Enforcement Program within the Department of Law Enforcement Department, establishes the Agricultural Enforcement Special Fund, establishes positions and appropriates funds.

The Department of Agriculture (Department) is in **strong support** of this bill. The Department is ready to assist the DLE in this effort that has plagued the farmers and ranchers statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



WENDY GADY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
HUI HO'OU LU AINA MAHIAI

TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS  
March 12, 2025  
9:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

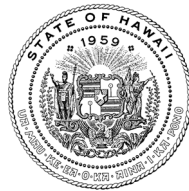
SENATE BILL NO. 763, SD2  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Chairperson Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** on Senate Bill No. 763, SD2, that establishes the Agricultural Enforcement Program within the Department of Law Enforcement Department, the Agricultural Enforcement Special Fund, additional positions and appropriates funds.

ADC is in support of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Law Enforcement in their efforts to reduce agricultural theft. Agricultural theft is harming many Hawaii farmers and this bill will support and sustain the industry as it grows. ADC defers to the Department of Law Enforcement for any recommendations regarding appropriation amounts.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
*Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā*  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

**WRITTEN ONLY**

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 763, S.D. 2

**March 12, 2025**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Room 325 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 763, S.D. 2, establishes the Agricultural Enforcement Program (AEP) within the Department of Law Enforcement to implement the laws and rules directly related to agricultural crimes; establishes the Agricultural Enforcement Special Fund (AESF); appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 26 and FY 27 to be deposited into the AESF; and appropriates an unspecified amount of special funds out of the AESF for FY 26 and FY 27 for the establishment of 45.00 full-time equivalent positions for the AEP. Revenues for the AESF include legislative appropriations, fees, reimbursements, administrative charges, funds from government agencies or private sources, grants, gifts, interest and other income.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund, which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work, and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general

fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding S.B. No. 763, S.D. 2, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



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)

March 12, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 763, SD2**  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice-Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

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 763, SD2**, which establishes the Agricultural Enforcement Program within the Department of Law Enforcement, establishes the Agricultural Enforcement Special Fund, establishes positions, and appropriates funds.

Agricultural crime is a persistent problem facing agriculture. Weather, drought, pests, weeds, disease, unstable markets, transportation, labor issues, and a changing climate all contribute to uncertainty for farmers and ranchers. Few businesses face such challenges, yet we are charged with producing food, feed, fiber, fuel, and flowers for the 99% of non-farmers. Add in the constant threat and impacts of trespass, theft, and vandalism, and it's a wonder farms and ranches remain viable.

Sadly, agricultural crime is a growing trend in Hawai'i. Farmers and ranchers are often victims of those looking for easy targets. Despite our efforts to install cameras, form community ag watch groups, and patrol our farms, these criminals know that being caught and prosecuted is unlikely. Our police departments are trying to help but don't have the staffing and resources to be everywhere at all times.

In recent years, not only crops and livestock have been stolen, but also tractors, trucks, farm equipment, and tools. Too often, a farmer or rancher has sweated, worried, and worked to the bone to produce a crop or raise livestock, only to wake up one morning to find that an opportunistic criminal has helped themselves to the harvest. Farmers and ranchers are fed up with this activity and deserve better. We understand that law

enforcement resources are often prioritized for public health and safety. Is a farmer's and his family's health, safety, and livelihood any less important? We think not.

HFB believes a dedicated Agricultural Law Enforcement Program would significantly minimize agricultural crimes and enhance public safety. We hope that this will serve as a deterrent to would-be criminals. An Agricultural Law Enforcement Program will help prevent agricultural crimes and help our farmers and ranchers stay in business.

HFB will continue to work with our policymakers, law enforcement, and the prosecutor's office to find ways to help deter, apprehend, and convict individuals who commit agricultural crimes.

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





COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloe, Chair

Rep. Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair

**SB763 SD2**

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 9:00AM  
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB763 SD2** which establishes the Hawaii Agricultural Crimes Council and expands the duties of the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with and support the Council, authorizes the Council to withdraw and deposit moneys, revenues, and fines into and out of the Animal Industry Special Fund, and appropriates funds.

Agricultural crimes is a not a new issue – but it is getting more pervasive and more dangerous. So dangerous that we lost a young rancher, Cranston Duke Pia, to illegal trespassing and poaching in 2024. This was an incredibly horrific incident that we need to keep from happening again. Without the threat of a penalty, ag crimes will continue to flourish, to the detriment of our food producers. There needs to be a clear way for ranchers and farmers to report crimes, and an effective way to prosecute the crime.

Currently, agricultural crimes is not getting the dedicated attention it needs. Reporting of crimes is low, successful prosecution is limited, and criminals have no reason to be deterred from committing the crimes. Creating the Agricultural Enforcement Program will bring more resources to the farmers and ranchers who deal with agricultural crime on a daily basis. This specialized attention within the Department of Law Enforcement will help to address the ongoing trespassing, vandalism and theft on farms and ranches.

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



**SB-763-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 8:16:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Mack Almasin	Ulupalakua Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

An agricultural enforcement program for ag crimes would help support local farmers and ranchers so they can focus on producing food.

**SB-763-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:58:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 763. We concur with the testimony of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council.



March 10 2025

To: Chair Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair Matthias Kusch, House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Subject: **SB 763**, Relating to the Department of Law Enforcement

Aloha,

I am writing in **support** of **SB 763 SD2**, which asks to establish the Agricultural Enforcement Program as well as the Agricultural Enforcement Special Fund. The measure states that the Assistant Chief– an administrator experienced in addressing agricultural theft– shall charge the program by determining the duties and responsibilities of state law enforcement officers in the program.

I understand that in uncertain times like these it can be tempting to prioritize other broad issues facing the state. However, I will say that many members of the agricultural community are feeling unheard lately, which is tragic considering how much they contribute to the common good of Hawaii. I urge the committee to pass this measure to show them that their voices matter and that the work they do is valued by their representatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this issue.

Mahalo,  
Janine Mariano & the Food+ Policy Team  
#fixourfoodsystem

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**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.

**SB-763-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 5:00:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support to allow for better enforcement

**SB-763-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 5:54:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 763 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson

**SB-763-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 6:21:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Kellerman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am very supportive of this bill as it is important for Hawaii to provide a system and parameters that allow the authorities to crack down on Ag crime.

Stolen agricultural products and trespassing have a direct negative impact on producers ability to maintain their business, and the current system does not allow for efficient control and prosecution of these crimes. These steps are important to changing this.

Mahalo for the consideration

Taylor Kellerman

Director of Diversified agriculture and Land Stewardship

Kualoa Ranch Hawaii

**SB-763-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:06:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Support SB763.



**SB-763-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 6:14:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

GREAT IDEA AND LONG OVERDUE!! MAHALO!