

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MARCH 29, 2019
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

SENATE BILL NO. 375 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 375 SD2 HD1, which requires the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor, to develop a strategic plan to double local food production and increase food exports by 2030. The strategic plan is to have five goals. The progress towards achieving the goals will be gauged by benchmarks that are quantitatively and qualitatively measurable. The Department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget and offers comments.

Strategic planning will allow the State to identify and prioritize resources that will collectively move Hawaii's diverse agricultural industry which is comprised of thousands of individual agricultural operations, wholesalers, and retailers. The Department supports the additional resources that this bill appropriates.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, March 29, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 375 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 375 SD2 HD1 relating to agriculture.

For several years there has been a goal of doubling food production by 2020, and now this measure changes the date to achieve this goal to 2030. Regardless of the date to reach the goal of doubling food production, the approach of how to accomplish this has been poorly defined. Now is a good time to remedy that situation. Hawai'i agriculture is at a crossroads where it is searching for what agriculture will look like into the future, and how this island state, remote from the rest of world, can do a better job of growing its own food. This becomes particularly important when we look at the disasters that befell agriculture in 2018, and the expectation that climate change will continue to disrupt crop production and the import of food.

The approach is not just how to grow more food, but where to grow, what kind of food and in what quantities. We believe that one first starts with supplying a defined population with the proper nutrition. Having determined that, what are the crops (including crops that meet cultural demands) that can be grown, where can they be grown, and in what quantities should they be grown to meet the identified nutrition needs. This is a healthy food approach.

Then one must ask what are the economic incentives, transportation needs, product price points, and markets that will control the farmers ability to profitably grow what is needed. Other questions that affect the outcome of such a plan are: what is the role, if any, of the very small farmer; what are the mechanisms for aggregating the small farmers so they can meet an economy of scale; how do the food security regulations

control the outcome of this evaluation? For example, what is the role of protected agriculture in doubling food production since the state receives approximately one invasive species per day? Low tunnels, high tunnels, shade houses and greenhouses will play a role. One can envision greenhouse ecosystems with highly trained labor producing at unprecedented levels with low, but highly trained, labor inputs. When crops are grown on the approximately 150,000 acres of quality crop land, we envision a multi-level GIS system that combines soil, water availability, climate parameters, economics, and more, to assist farmers in deciding what crops grow best in that soil, and what will be the best economic return on a cropping system choice given the current market conditions.

CTAHR supports the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (DOA) in the development of such a plan and is willing to assist where we can.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 375 SD2 HD1. However, we defer to the testimony of DOA as to the feasibility of this bill relative to their manpower and proposed funding to accomplish the task.



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March 29, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 375, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 308
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

Hawaii Farm Bureau **strongly supports SB 375, SD2, HD1**, which requires the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor, to develop a strategic plan to double local food production and increase food exports by 2030. Requires the Department of Agriculture to submit the strategic plan to the Legislature.

Many studies have been conducted (e.g. Increased Food Security and Food Self Sufficiency Strategy, Oct 2012, DEBEDT and HDOA) that suggest strategies for increased food production. HFB believes that increased food production requires all types of agriculture. This measure would address ways to double food production and exports.

HFB respectfully requests your strong support of this measure. A roadmap providing a common goal to improve Hawaii's agriculture is needed.

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

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 3:33:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

A Strategic Plan, with Aciton Goals is so important to move this Goal of Doubling the Food Supply in Hawai'i forward.

I see that an appropriation has been made for this work at HDOA. I hope this sum includes adaqueate funding for staff time, consulting positions, or gathering metrics, writers, etc. to insure that a timely process and needed imput is possible given the other workload of HDOA staff members.



To: The House Committee on Finance
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Friday, 3/29/19

In strong support of SB 375 SD2 HD1

Aloha FIN Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. On behalf of our 6,000 members and supporters, 350Hawaii.org strongly supports SB375 SD2 HD1. This bill will help us keep money in the state, provide agricultural opportunities for our local farmers, and avoid the greenhouse gases emitted by shipping it in.

Since it is estimated that 90% of our food is imported, we strongly recommend that the focus be on local food production for local consumption, rather than diverting energy to exports. In addition, we strongly recommend that the strategic plan include improved access to land for our local small farmers who are growing food for local consumption. There are many farmers graduating from the GoFarm Hawaii program who are trained and ready, yet they lack access to farm land to grow food on. Ensuring this will be a win:win for all.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this bill.
Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 10:32:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Dolena	Pele Lani Farm LLC	Support	No

Comments:

As a small aquaculture farmer, I strongly support SB375 SD2. This bill will help us keep money in the state, provide agricultural opportunities for our local farmers, and avoid the greenhouse gases emitted by shipping it in. PLEASE Support this Bill.

Mahalo!



ELEMENTAL
EXCELERATOR

**Written Statement of Elemental Excelerator
before the House Committee on Finance
Friday, March 29, 2019**

**In consideration of SB 375 SD 2 HD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Elemental Excelerator respectfully submits our **support for SB 375 SD 2 HD 1**, which:

1. Requires the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor, to develop a strategic plan to double local food production and increase food exports by 2030.
2. Requires the Department of Agriculture to submit the strategic plan to the Legislature.

Elemental Excelerator is a Honolulu-based growth accelerator program founded and operating in Hawai'i. We have awarded over \$30 million to 82 companies resulting in 56 demonstration projects in Hawaii & Asia Pacific. Each year, we select 15-20 companies that best fit our mission and fund each company up to \$1 million. We recruit innovative entrepreneurs from around the world to come to Hawai'i and find transformative solutions to help us solve our most urgent environmental problems, including sectors we enable: agriculture, water, energy, mobility, and the circular economy. We look for agriculture companies that can increase local food production and consumption, develop economic growth opportunities in Hawai'i, and increase resiliency across the supply chain.

We support SB 375 SD 2 for the following reasons:

1. **It can support our local agribusiness:** A strategic plan is critical to help determine the appropriate resources and infrastructure to increase local food production and increase food exports. If we are successful in replacing at least 10% of our imported foods, the estimated 2,300 additional jobs and \$313 million going back into our local economy would be transformational for our community and the agriculture industry as a whole.¹
2. **It opens opportunities for innovation:** New business models and technologies can support Hawai'i to achieve its food production and export goals. We recommend that the strategic plan incorporate innovation. For example, Elemental Excelerator companies, such as Kunoa Cattle and TerViva have contributed to increasing local food production.
3. **It can help reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions:** According to a report by the 2014 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, agriculture, forestry, and

¹ Leung, P., & Loke, M. (2008). Economic Impacts of Increasing Hawai'i's Food Self-Sufficiency. *Cooperative Extension Service: Economic Issues, EI(16)*, 1-7.

changes in land use contribute to around 20% of all carbon emissions. This does not account for the contribution of supply chain processes before it reaches the consumer, like food processing, transportation, and retail.² A strategic plan can determine agriculture's role in achieving our state's 100% clean energy goals and reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.

We encourage the state to put in place a cross-departmental process that systematically tracks the established benchmarks and metrics over time to ensure that we meet the 2030 goal.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

Sincerely,



Aki Marceau, Managing Director of Policy and Community-Hawai'i

² IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Edenhofer, O., R. Pichs-Madruga, Y. Sokona, E. Farahani, S. Kadner, K. Seyboth, A. Adler, I. Baum, S. Brunner, P. Eickemeier, B. Kriemann, J. Savolainen, S. Schlömer, C. von Stechow, T. Zwickel and J.C. Minx (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 10:09:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 10:14:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB375 SD2. This bill will help us keep money in the state, provide agricultural opportunities for our local farmers, and avoid the greenhouse gases emitted by shipping it in.

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 10:26:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Graham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to support this clearly sensible bill that will proliferate with advantages to the people of this place by increasing our food sovereignty and decrease our dependence on shipping that costs resources and contributes to climate change. Please pass it!

Mahalo nui, Janet

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 11:16:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phaethon Keeney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB375 SD2 and urge you to SUPPORT LOCAL TOO!. This bill will help us keep money in the state, provide agricultural opportunities for our local farmers, and avoid the greenhouse gases emitted by shipping it in. All right. :)

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 3:49:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB375 SD2. This bill will help us keep money in the state, provide agricultural opportunities for our local farmers, and avoid the greenhouse gases emitted by shipping it in.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 5:11:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie Haneberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I respectfully support SB375 SD2. This bill will help us keep money in the state, provide agricultural opportunities for our local farmers, and avoid the greenhouse gases emitted by shipping it in. These reasons barely scratch the surface of the impact this could make on our state. Increased local jobs in agriculture will provide a needed connection to the land that our culture, historically tied to the land, is losing. This could even positively impact our local young adults struggling to find a place in their community. Increased local agriculture might trickle down to benefiting our keiki by way of healthier local produce in their school meals. Increased local produce could also not only increase jobs in agriculture, but also in restaurants, grocery stores, etc. Finally, reducing greenhouse gasses, costs to ship produce in, and freeing up badly needed landfill space (decreased packaging needed to deliver down the road vs across the ocean) is another win-win for everyone.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB375 SD2 HD1.

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 5:52:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Russo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB375 SD2 because it 1) gives our local farmers more agricultural opportunities; 2) keeps more money in Hawai'i; 3) reduces Hawai'i's dependency on outside food supplies—a dependency that makes us vulnerable to world disturbances and conflicts—;and 4) reduces the greenhouse gases emitted by shipping agricultural products to Hawai'i.

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 5:53:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Boyne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB375 SD2. This bill will help us keep money in the state, provide agricultural opportunities for our local farmers, and avoid the greenhouse gases emitted by shipping it in.

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 7:20:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 7:55:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lana Brodziak	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill. Supporting local agriculture is important and a more aggressive production approach is highly warranted. Local agricultural production helps meet many other legislative goals and it is an effective way to invest in our long-term economic prosperity. Thank you for considering my input.

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 8:20:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 8:57:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Jensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators:

I want to express my full support for SB375. We need to move forward with planning how we can increase local food production in order to reduce green house gas emissions associated with importation of our food, improve our community resilience to shipping uncertainties, diversify our economy and put our large areas of fallow Ag lands back into productive use. There is no downside to this measure. Please vote for its passage.

Sincerely,

Dale Jensen, Professional Engineer, Kailua, Oahu

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 8:58:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

More than ever, Hawai'i needs to be sustainable. SB 375 is a step in the right sustainability direction.

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 9:16:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as it will contribute toward a thriving local economy and support Hawaii food sovereignty.

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 9:59:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Silver	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 10:55:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
donald erway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 1:06:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 2:01:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wally Inglis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 5:04:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Winslow	Hawaii Farmers Union	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 6:26:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The importance of planning cannot be overstated. With something as important as food security, planning is of maximum importance. I strongly support this bill. Hawaii's agriculture is in crisis. Large tracts of ag land are lost annually by subdividing an allowing essentially non-ag (such as high end residences) take ag land out of any meaningful degree of food production... forever.

Please see that this bill gets passed.

Aloha,

Mary Spadaro

Founder, Slow Money Hawaii

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 9:43:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 9:56:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Harley Simmons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 10:01:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Hastings	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 10:17:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Micha'el Leventhal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB375 SD2. This bill will help us keep money in the state, provide agricultural opportunities for our local farmers, and avoid the greenhouse gases emitted by shipping it in.

LATE

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 10:33:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Lawmakers.

I support this Bill and also support regenerative Agriculture which produces superior food than conventional or chemical farming. It's protects and builds our souls and supports our wai, air, and pollinators.

Mahalo,

Barbara Barry

LATE

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 10:03:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helmut Klauer	A'a Li'i Farm	Support	No

Comments:

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 8:47:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 8:15:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 6:32:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Seena Clowser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 6:27:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jo Kimm	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 6:11:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Genevieve N Neumann	Lokoea Farms	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 5:24:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suellen Barton	Maui Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 10:36:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sunny Savage-Luskin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 1:17:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harriet Witt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is critical to moving beyond our dangerous dependence on the mainland for our food.

LATE

SB-375-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 2:36:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	HFUU	Support	No

Comments: