

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
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TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

FEBRUARY 12, 2019
10:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 375 SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 375 SD1, 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.



SB-375-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 9:54:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-375-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 4:52:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Edmondson	Testifying for 350 Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, Hawaii is at the far end of a long food chain which leaves us vulnerable to many causes. Fiji and many other Pacific nations grow most of their own food. Hawaii needs to do this soon.

Mahalo!

SB-375-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 2:01:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	Testifying for We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

www.WeAreOne.cc

SB-375-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 9:51:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB375 SD1. Hawaii needs to grow more of its own food.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-375-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 4:00:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB375 SD1 which requires the department of agriculture, in cooperation with the office of the governor, to develop a strategic plan to achieve the governor's goal of doubling food production and increasing food exports by 2030.

The bill addresses our need to increased food security and food self-sufficiency in the face of growing challenges as a result of global warming.

SB-375-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 4:33:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It would be so great to go to a farmers market and buy local organic produce ! Most of our produce is neither. My husband is on the federal DMat medical respose team that went to P.R. after the hurricane and while the stores had no food and their food was stuck on the dock, the local farmers were the only ones providing food. We really need to be self sustaining. Laura Gray R.N.

SB-375-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 8:48:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeremy Garrett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-375-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 11:30:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support bill SB375!! Urban areas provide an excellent opportunity to sequester carbon and beautify the city with trees and plants. Please pass this bill!

SB-375-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 1:54:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dain Christensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-375-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 2:33:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacy K. Tang	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB 375 SD 1. We need to increase Hawai'i's food supply immediately. We need to look beyond self-sufficiency and sustainability to complete self-reliance, with enough to export as well.

Please move this bill forward. Let's look at innovative ways to address our food challenges and tackle the climate crisis together. Let's look at using Permaculture practices with the Department of Agriculture to increase the sustainability and regeneration of our soil and water.

GMO's and agribusiness have polluted our groundwater and soil. We need to increase our fruit and nut trees and edible vegetation with bills like HB1483 and SB 375 SD 1 state wide. Let's show the rest of the nation how we can work together strategically and creatively, to not only make our state even more beautiful and lush, but self-reliant at the same time. If we work together, we can grow organic food to feed our state locally, as well as have a healthy economy to export as well. This can be done if we take a look at innovative design like Permaculture food production and design and move away from the old agricultural model that is polluting the planet.

Please pass SB 375 SD 1

SB-375-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 4:25:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: WAM Committee

From: Joan Gannon. Voter and resident of West Hawaii

Re: SB375 SD1. This bill address our need to increase food security and food self sufficiency in the face of growing challenges as a result of global warming

thank you and please do your best

SB-375-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 8:55:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



LATE

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of **Ford Fuchigami**
Administrative Director, Office of the Governor

Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 12, 2019
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 211

In consideration of
Senate Bill No. 375
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in Support for **Senate Bill 375** which appropriates funds to develop a strategic plan to double local food production and increase food exports by 2030.

The Governor has made doubling local food production a priority and has included it as part of his Sustainable Hawaii Initiative. Increasing local production will help to diversify our economy and reduce our reliance on imported goods. The administration has been committed to increasing agricultural loan programs and purchasing high-value agricultural lands. The money appropriated in this measure could be used to solidify our baseline numbers and develop a strategic plan with the agricultural community to restore agriculture as an economic driver in Hawaii.

We defer specific comments to testimony submitted separately by the Department of Agriculture.

We appreciate your attention and will be available to answer your questions, should you have any at this time.



LATE

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February 12, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 375, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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, SD1**, 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.

LATE

SB-375-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 10:06:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Ways and Means Committee,

SB 375 SD1 is very important to the future of our state. We must begin to reform our incredible dependence on imported food and make use of the 150,000 acres of former sugar cane and pineapple lands now standing fallow in the state. The increased food security and food self-sufficiency achieved by a larger local food supply is a critical preparation for a future of growing challenges as a result of global climate change. In addition, University of Hawaii research has found that proper cultivation of agricultural lands can actually absorb CO2 from the atmosphere and thus act as an important greenhouse gas sink. Increased local food production is truly a win-win situation. The development of a strategic plan to achieve the governor's goal of doubling food production and increasing food exports by 2030 is a critical first step in this process.

Sincerely, Dale Jensen, Professional Engineer, Kailua

LATE

SB-375-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 11:19:31 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordan Moniuszko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. Aloha



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 10:00 a.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 SD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 375 SD1 relating to agriculture. Our testimony is the same as for the original bill.

For several years there has been a goal of doubling food production by 2020. However, 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. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) has a working committee asking a similar question as part of its longer-range planning process. 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, and in what quantities to meet the identified nutrition needs. This is a healthy food approach.

Then one must ask, what are the conditions under which these crops can be best grown, can be consistent with food safety regulations, and be productive in the context of biosecurity issues. 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 is ready to collaborate with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture in the development of such a plan and to add our knowledge of soils and crops where needed.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testify in strong support of SB 375 SD1.

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SB-375-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 9:20:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Banner Fanene	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-375-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 11:21:37 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments: