

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 AGRICULTURE

**MARCH 15, 2019
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**SENATE BILL NO. 375 SD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 375 SD2, 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.





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March 15, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 375, SD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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**, 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.



ELEMENTAL EXCELERATOR

**Written Statement of Elemental Excelerator
before the House Committee on Agriculture**
Friday, March 15, 2019

In consideration of SB 375 SD 2 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Elemental Excelerator respectfully submits our **support for SB 375 SD 2**, 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.

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.
- 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 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.¹ A strategic plan can determine

¹ 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

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aki Marceau".

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

SB-375-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 8:00:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	350Hawaii.org	Support	No

Comments:

350Hawaii strongly supports SB375 SD2. 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, until our local food production is more self-sustaining. 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.

SB-375-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 8:39:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Absolutely essential to moving foward. Action plan will be necessary in order to obtain the desired results, good that funding for staff time is allocated.



To: The House Committee on Agriculture
From: Brodie Lockard, Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019, 9:00 am

In support of SB375 SD2

LATE

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Committee Members—

Organizing for Action supports SB375 SD2.

Doubling local food production is a worthy and necessary goal. Importing 90% of Hawaii's food greatly hurts local farmers, sends billions of our dollars out of state, and contributes very significantly to greenhouse gases, from ships hauling so much food across the ocean.

Growing more food locally also contributes to our security in case of inevitable natural disasters.

Please pass SB375 SD2 and ameliorate all the issues above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard
Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action

SB-375-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 11:54:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
A Kathleen Lee	North Kohala Community Emergency Response Team, ARRL Ham operators	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Members of The House of Representatives Finance Committee,

I am so disappointed that these bills are written so far in the future for enactment, it is almost a joke! Really, let's get serious about our food supply. I can send you the reality of what is happening under our Island and we could be in a disaster in the very near future. Our taxes are out-of-sight and in a disaster our food supply will be, as well.

Yours, most seriously,

April K. Lee

Hawi, HI (Member of the fore-referenced emergency groups)

LATE

SB-375-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 4:58:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Graham	350.org	Support	No

Comments:

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

I strongly support SB375 SD2 as it would develop a strategic plan to achieve the governor's goal of doubling food production. The increased food security and food self-sufficiency achieved by a larger local food supply is critical preparation for a future of growing challenges as a result of global warming. This is particularly crucial since Hawaii currently imports 90% of our food. Let's keep money in the state, and avoid the greenhouse gases emitted by shipping it in.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this very important bill.

SB-375-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 7:21:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirstin Kahaloa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-375-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 8:33:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Committee Members:

As a long time resident of Hawaii and UH grad I have felt that we have always felt our state has lost its foundation as we have let our agricultural base slip away. We need more local food production and a rebuilt agricultural industry as an area of opportunity for our young people that is not tourism or military related. For these reasons I strongly support SB375 SD2 which would develop a strategic plan to achieve the governor's goal of doubling food production. The increased food security and food self-sufficiency achieved by a larger local food supply is also critical preparation for a future of growing challenges as a result of global warming. Let's keep money in the state, provide agricultural opportunities for the upcoming generations, and avoid the greenhouse gases emitted by shipping it in.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this very important bill.

Sincerely,

Dale Jensen, Professional Engineer, Kailua, Oahu

SB-375-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 11:21:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB375 SD2 which would develop a strategic plan to achieve the governor's goal of doubling food production. The increased food security and food self-sufficiency achieved by a larger local food supply is critical preparation for a future of growing challenges as a result of global warming. This is particularly crucial since Hawaii currently imports 90% of our food. Let's keep money in the state, and avoid the greenhouse gases emitted by shipping it in.

SB-375-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 6:56:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee on Agriculture,

Please support SB375 SD2. Our isolated state needs to become more self sustaining. Increasing our local food production is one way to accomplish that vision.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-375-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 7:45:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith A Mick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha- Doubling our food production in Hawaii has so many positive effects. Our farmers will thrive, our residents will be eating healthy, fresh food, we will stop importing 90% of our food which drains money from the State and adds to greenhouse gases as food is shipped or flown into the islands. Being self-sufficient is more and more important in this unstable world, let's be a leader and show the planet it can be done. Thank you for your time. Aloha, Judy Mick, Kailua

SB-375-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 11:55:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Severine Busquet	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha all:

I strongly support SB375 SD2 as it is essential to increase food production since Hawaii currently imports 90% of our food. The increased food security and food self-sufficiency achieved by a larger local food supply is critical preparation for a future of growing challenges as a result of global warming. Let's keep money in the state, and avoid the greenhouse gases emitted by shipping it in.

Thanks for your attention

Severine Busquet

Honolulu, Hi 96825