

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**MARCH 2, 2021
9:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 335, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 335, SD1. This bill requires the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation to annually lease at least fifty per cent of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production beginning 1/1/2022. It also requires the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation to submit reports to the legislature on leasing activities. The Department respectfully opposes this bill.

Local farming is a difficult business due to the State's remote location leading to high input costs. The Department has consistently championed the growth of diversified agriculture by providing opportunities for affordable, long term leases and irrigation water. We recognize that in order for farmers to have the best chance of financial success, they must be able to rapidly pivot to the market. We also recognize that it is desirous to produce food to be consumed locally to the greatest extent possible. This measure, while encouraging food production, would severely limit the income of some farms and hurt other diversified agricultural sectors such as nurseries, crops for export, agroforestry, and energy crop production. Additionally, this bill will negate the lease



conversion provision which was widely supported by the agricultural industry in recognition of the broad benefits which allows a successful diversified agricultural operation to renew an existing lease with approval of the Board of Agriculture. This action allows successful entities to complete succession planning and reinvest capital into their operation.

We respectfully caution that not all of the department's lands are suitable for food production due to soil quality and slope of the land. For example, our Keahole Ag Park is a very successful ag park; however, due to challenging soil conditions such as lava tubes, has a high production of potted plants above ground. For its prime agricultural lands like Kunia Agricultural Park, the Department is strongly considering terms to prioritize food production.

Local produce prices, excluding specialty crops, are greatly influenced by imported crops. Often, in order for them to be competitive, the farmer will have to sell their crop for less, or at times generate no profit making the business a higher risk and unattractive. These restrictions would also affect the State and program's revenue as lease rent with such restrictions would be appraised lower than an unrestricted, diversified agricultural market value. The Department's land program's special funds run very close to break even on any given year. The reduction in revenue would need to be made up with general fund supplement.

Lastly, the Department currently maintains the authority to establish other terms and conditions it deems necessary on leases and ask that this flexibility be retained to fully utilized its agricultural lands.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

LATE

TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Tuesday, March 2, 2021
9:30 a.m.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCING

SENATE BILL NO. 335
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) appreciates the intent of Senate Bill No. 335, which requires the Department of Agriculture and ADC to annually lease at least fifty percent of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production beginning January 1, 2022 and requires the Department of Agriculture and the ADC to submit reports to the legislature on leasing activities.

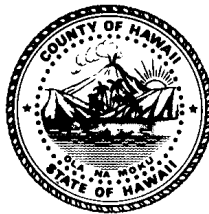
We share the Legislature's goal and objectives to increase local food production for our State. Food production is ADC's highest priority when issuing land licenses to agricultural operators. All of ADC's new land licenses on Kauai have been issued to farmers and ranchers who produce food. Over a thousand acres of the Galbraith Agricultural Lands and surrounding areas here on Oahu are licensed to small and medium farmers growing food for the local consumer market.

Markets and demand tend to shift over time, and we need the ability to respond and adapt to these shifts. Emerging crops such as hemp, which has a wide range of uses, has significant potential due to its high-yielding, high agronomics, and environmental attributes. We have concerns that this measure, as is, limits ourselves by regulating the size and type of crops that can be grown on ADC lands, which may have inadvertent effects down the road.

Farming is like any other business and the bottom line is it needs to be economically feasible for the farmer to prosper. Rather than regulating the landowner and imposing limits, perhaps a better way to encourage farmers to grow more food for local consumption is to find ways to incentivize growing food crops and support the family owned and operated farms who are currently growing food for Hawaii's local consumers and exporting premium Hawaii grown products around the world. These multigenerational farms have made substantial investments to comply with all county, state, and federal laws and regulations and have the expertise to grow more food and achieve the economy of scale. In addition to the crops they grow, they also bring in and generate taxable revenue. If they succeed, the State benefits twofold.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 26, 2021

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL ON SB 335, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, March 2, 2021
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Aloha Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 335, relating to agriculture. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Climate Resilience and Natural Resources Committee.

The purpose of this measure would require the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation to annually lease at least fifty per cent of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production beginning 1/1/2022.

Hawaii imports 85-90% of our food supply, it's estimated that we have a 2 week supply of food on island. Any type of inclement weather or shipping strike puts our islands in jeopardy, especially the outer islands.

Hawai'i's growing season lasts all year long, and many fruits and vegetables are available throughout the year. We are in the perfect climate, and this measure would make it possible to help our state and our residents be more sustainable and self-sufficient.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Ways and Means to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council



Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB 335 SD1

Friday, February 12th, 2021 3:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) supports SB 335 SD1, which requires the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to annually lease at least 50% of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production.

Requiring at least 50% local food production on Hawaii's agricultural (ADC) lands and annual reporting on ADC leases is an important and vital first step, which HAPA strongly supports.

However, we believe that the Legislature should also put great consideration into deciding on if dissolving the agency altogether is a better option.

HAPA is a Hawaii-wide organization, but grows out of the movement on Kaua'i to advocate for fair and sustainable food systems. Starting around the beginning of 2013 a groundswell of community engagement arose when local residents became concerned about their exposure to pesticide drift from agrochemical tenants on both ADC lands and privately owned lands on Kaua'i's west side. A multi-year advocacy effort to provide basic public health protections from pesticide drift ensued. While the state auditor has highlighted many failings of the ADC^[1,2,3], our testimony is largely informed by concerns arising from the ADC's mismanagement of its vast west side Kaua'i landholdings.

Public Lands Should Serve the Public Good

Considering that ADC lands represent the largest swath of public (crown) agricultural land on Kaua'i, lawmakers should consider the highest and best use of those lands, for the public good.

As a "public-private corporation", in the name of bypassing "bureaucratic red tape" the legislature granted the ADC broad powers to buy, own, and develop public lands. In other words, a partly privatized entity has been granted significant control over "public" lands. Without a clear mandate as to how to serve its purpose, in practice the ADC has functioned to redistribute public lands and resources for narrow private gain through an entirely non-democratic process.

The ADC controls some of the most fertile agricultural lands on Kaua'i, equipped with irrigation and road infrastructure from sugar days. Rather than being made available to meet State goals of local food production, they have mostly been handed over to the largest agrochemical companies in the world for research facilities. This is a huge subsidy to already extremely wealthy corporations. In 2019, on the west side of Kaua'i the State's Public Land Trust Information lists a lease with Syngenta for 2,369 acres, with BASF for 977 acres, another with BASF for 10 acres, and one with Pioneer for 1,462 acres. These have transferred to Hartung Brothers, Becks, and Corteva, respectively.^[4]

The lands leased to agrochemical tenants have been associated with heavy pesticide usage and toxic drift into adjacent communities^[5]. The 2016 Joint Fact Finding Group report *Pesticide Use by Large Agribusinesses on Kaua'i* showed that agrochemical tenants in Kekaha directly adjacent to Hawaiian Homes purchased three times the national average of chlorpyrifos, a dangerous neurotoxin insecticide now banned by the State of Hawai'i and several other states.^[6] The Hawaiian Homes development in Kekaha is approximately 100 feet from the ADC fields. Chlorpyrifos and other organophosphates (a certain class of insecticide) are known to drift up to a mile.

Additionally, small farmers and ranchers seeking ADC leases have been denied with little to no justification. It appears that the ADC has largely handed over management of its lands to a private association, the Kekaha Agricultural Association, whose leadership and membership is largely agrochemical / seed companies. According to the state audit: "ADC also owns two water systems and associated lands on Kaua'i, a total of 18,628 acres, which are operated and maintained by the Kekaha Agricultural Association, pursuant to an agreement."^[1]

ADC's non-democratic process was also reflected in its handling of its Central Oahu landholdings. Rather than work closely with the local community which had been caring for the long neglected former Dole lands in Whitmore Village the ADC issued 30 day eviction notices once it acquired the lands. The area had a history of criminal activity, so local residents had taken initiative to plant gardens and fruit trees and care for the area. The ADC ultimately bulldozed their backyard gardens.^[7] Coverage of the incident in 2018 noted that the ADC acts with an "unusual lack of accountability," including failing to submit annual reports to the Legislature as required by law.

Mismanagement of ADC Lands and Water

ADC's lack of oversight and mismanagement has led to water hoarding and wasting in Kekaha, ultimately leading to a contested case at the Water Commission.

Beginning in the early 1900s, the Kekaha Sugar Plantation built the Kekaha and Kōke'e ditch systems, which diverted much of the water flowing down the Waimea River and its tributaries to grow sugar. When the plantation went out of business in 2001, the State of Hawai'i took over the ditch network. The ADC leased the ditch network and lands to the Kekaha Agriculture Association (KAA). But, although the association was cultivating only a fraction of the previous plantation land, and growing much less water-intensive

crops, the diversions remained at plantation-era levels, leaving vast stretches of dry stream bed in the Waimea River and headwater streams.

Proceedings before the Water Commission revealed that the association (KAA) was diverting far more water than was needed for agriculture and, instead, was using this public trust resource to feed an antiquated hydropower system that helped subsidize its operations. And much of the water was simply wasted.”^[8]

The ADC has facilitated agrochemical companies’ exemption from compliance with Clean Water Act standards by extending a decades old sugar plantation permit to discharge toxic chemicals into the water. The exemption was recommended by the ADC because the Clean Water Act criteria would “likely be extremely difficult to meet” with more stringent federal limits for pesticide discharge now in force.^[6, pg 46-47] If we want to put things in the language of costs, this is another subsidy granted by the ADC to some of the largest corporations in the world at the expense of public health.

In 2019 the ADC was ruled to have polluted waters of West Kaua’i without a permit since 2015 by a federal judge, violating a federal Clean Water Act^[9]. The ruling stems from the ADC lacking a permit to drain polluted waters since its permit expired in 2015. The water was found to contain the herbicide Glyphosate, which has been linked to cancer and 2 billion dollars in lawsuit winnings over the use of popular Glyphosate-based herbicide Roundup.^[10,11]

Discrepancies in Reporting on Kaua’i ADC Landholdings

It is worth noting that there are discrepancies in the ADC’s reportings on its landholdings on Kaua’i. In addition to concerns raised by the auditor regarding poor record keeping, this discrepancy in reporting (not included in the auditor’s report) should also be cause for concern.

According to the ADC’s 2018 report to the legislature, the agency reported to manage a total of 35,000 acres on Kaua’i - 28,000 acres of land in Kekaha, and 7,000 acres of former Lihue Plantation land (now referred to as Kalepa).^[12]

Yet in the ADC’s 2019 report to the legislature, the agency reported to manage a total of 19,000 acres on Kaua’i - 12,000 acres of land in Kekaha, and 7,000 acres of Kalepa lands. ^[12]

The state auditor’s report states: “when Kekaha Sugar Company on Kaua’i shuttered, ADC became involved in the management of 12,500 acres of state agricultural land and related infrastructure, including the former Kekaha and Koke’e plantation irrigation systems. After making a number of improvements and formally assuming management of the state land in 2003, ADC entered into an agreement with the Kekaha Agriculture Association, an agricultural cooperative, to operate and maintain common infrastructure. ADC also issued long-term land leases to several tenants.” ^[1,page 9, footnote 5]

This lack of clarity raises concerns about what degree of oversight the agency actually has over its West Kaua’i landholdings.

Incentivize Regenerative Farming Practices on Public Lands

Public lands can and should serve as a resource for small scale regenerative agriculture solutions that can feed our communities and manage Hawai'i's agricultural lands for future abundance. However, the failures of the ADC have hindered Hawai'i's potential for a diversified and sustainable food economy.

Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative agroecology farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices and climate friendly approaches. Regenerative farming practices provide an array of environmental benefits: preventing run-off into nearshore fisheries and coral reefs, sequestering carbon in the soil while rebuilding soil health and capturing carbon through agroforestry approaches.^[13, 14]

Additionally, lawmakers should further support the revitalization of native Hawaiian food systems. There are a plethora of successful grassroots efforts to restore Hawai'i's food security rooted in ancestral wisdom of how to feed our communities sustainably while managing natural resources for future abundance. Many of these projects are succeeding despite the lack of access to affordable leases and water and resources of the ADC.

COVID-19 has revealed the socio-ecological fragility of our current industrial-globalized food systems on a world wide scale and here in Hawai'i. The effects of the pandemic on farming and food supply chains raises concerns about widespread food shortages and price spikes. A transition to more socially just, ecologically resilient, localized food systems is therefore urgently needed and drastically increasing small scale food production agriculture is the solution.^[14]

Work with Farmers and Food Systems Experts to Create a Plan

Several farmers and food systems experts we spoke to believe that an inclusive, stakeholder driven process is desperately needed to create a plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and water systems. The ADC was tasked with creating a strategic plan 27 years ago. Today a well developed plan is still vitally needed to advance a comprehensive and sustainable approach for managing Hawaii's agricultural lands for future abundance.

Should the committee consider mandating such a process or task force please consider including regenerative/organic farmers, representatives from some of the many local organizations engaged in 'āina-based projects that incorporate restoration of native Hawaiian food systems, food production, community education and environmental stewardship.

One of the failings of the ADC is its narrow focus on supporting corporate agribusiness for export. Any future planning process, study or task force should incorporate a comprehensive food system wide analysis to identify opportunities along the food chain for local institutional procurement, regional aggregation and other efforts to make small scale regenerative farming solutions more viable.

The committee should also consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and a regenerative/organic farmer to the board of the ADC. This will ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission.

HAPA strongly supports SB 335 and believes mandating at least 50% local food production on our agricultural lands is an important first step towards a more regenerative agricultural system for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Anne Frederick
Executive Director

-
- 1) State Audit of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Report No. 21-01 Jan 14th 2021 <https://files.hawaii.gov/auditor/Reports/2021/21-01.pdf>
 - 2) Civil Beat: *Auditor: State Agriculture Agency Is Failing To Fulfill Mission* Jan 14th 2021 <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/01/auditor-state-agriculture-agency-is-failing-to-fulfill-mission/>
 - 3) Civil Beat: *Economists: Agribusiness Development Corp. Is A 'Fiasco'* Jan 22nd 2021 <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/01/economist-agribusiness-development-corp-is-a-fiasco/>
 - 4) qPublic.net - Kauai County TMK Mapping <https://qpublic.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=986&LayerID=20101&PageTypeID=1&PageID=8741&Q=356838976&KeyValue=120020010000>
 - 5) Grist: *GMO companies are dousing Hawaiian islands with pesticides* June 16, 2014 <https://grist.org/business-technology/gmo-companies-are-dousing-hawaiian-island-with-toxic-pesticides/>
 - 6) 2016 Joint Fact Finding Group Report on Crops and Pesticides on Kaua'i <https://www.accord3.com/crops-and-pesticides-on-kauai/>
 - 7) Civil Beat: *Surprise Eviction Notices Have This Old Plantation Community Up In Arms* October 19th 2018 <https://www.civilbeat.org/2018/10/surprise-eviction-notices-have-this-old-plantation-community-up-in-arms/>
 - 8) Earthjustice: *Flows Restored to Waimea and Grand Canyon of the Pacific* April 18th 2017 <https://earthjustice.org/news/press/2017/flows-restored-to-waimea-river-and-grand-canyon-of-the-pacific>
 - 9) United States District Court CIVIL NO. 18-00005 DKW-RLP https://earthjustice.org/sites/default/files/files/Order_Summary-Judgment-and-Dismissal_2019-07-09.pdf

- 10) Jury orders Monsanto to pay 2 billion in roundup weed killer cancer case
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/05/13/weed-killer-cancer-case-jury-orders-monsanto-pay-2-billion/1194572001/>
- 11) KHON: State guilty of violating Clean Water Act on Kauai with cancer-linked Glyphosate, other pesticides July 15, 2019 <https://www.khon2.com/news/state-guilty-of-violating-clean-water-act-on-kauai-with-cancer-linked-glyphosate-other-pesticides/>
- 12) ADC Annual Report 2019 <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/DOA-ADC-Annual-Report-2018.pdf>
- 13) Regeneration International: *Why Regenerative Agriculture?*
<https://regenerationinternational.org/why-regenerative-agriculture/>
- 14) The Journal of Peasant Studies: Agroecology and the reconstruction of a post-COVID-19 agriculture June 2nd 2020
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03066150.2020.1782891?journalCode=fjps20>

SB-335-SD-1

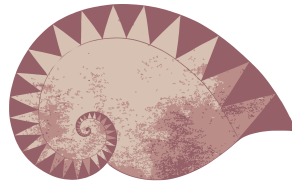
Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:01:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

To benefit the local economy, increase food security for Hawaii, encourage local farmers, hold the ADC accountable, and reduce GHG by way of reducing shipping and impacts of industrial farming, please pass this bill



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Lena Mochimaru - Secretary
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Relating to Agriculture
Testifying in **Strong Support**

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports SB335, Relating to Agriculture. This measure requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to annually lease 50% of land to operations whose primary business is local food production by January 2022. Requires the ADC to submit reports to the legislature on its leasing activities.**

The recent scathing audit of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) clearly demonstrates the need to specifically mandate that they lease 50% or more of the State agricultural lands specifically for local food production.

I have in the past asked the ADC: "How much of the agricultural land that you (ADC) manage is actually used to produce food for local consumption?" The answer I received at the time was, "I don't know, I'm not sure, probably around 5%."

Providing of long term, affordable leases to local farmers and ranchers who produce food for local consumption - must be made a mandate.

Mahalo for the opportunity,

Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:07:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Fox	Testifying for Malama Kauaâ€™i	Support	No

Comments:

It saddens me that we need to move forward this bill due to the lack of land being leased to food producers. I personally know dozens of qualified, experienced farmers who have submitted land requests to ADC without ever receiving a response or had their calls and emails returned from the agency, while much of its land sits fallow and unused. I hope as a state we can do better in the future, and lower our risk tolerance to give beginning farmers a chance at producing food for our islands. I humbly ask that you support this bill to ensure expansion of food production statewide.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:46:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Dandurand	Testifying for Kauai Food Hub	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB335.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 1:37:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helen Cox	Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I support SB335 SD1 because it will not only support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy, but it will also decrease our carbon footprint associated with imported food.

As former chancellor of Kauai Community College, I have spent over a decade trying to support agriculture through education, a farmers market, and other support. One of the main hurdles farmers often cite is lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii, and, as a result, reduce our dependence on imported food. This is a win:win for increasing our food security and decreasing our carbon footprint.

Since the end of plantation era, and even prior to that, the state has had a goal of increasing local food production. This bill is a meaningful step towards that end. I strongly support this bill that will expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii, reduce our dependence on imported food and support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy. With the climate crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing food security in Hawaii by supporting local farmers in any way possible is essential for our sustainability and resiliency.

Mahalo,

Helen Cox

Chair, Kauai Climate Action Coalition

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 2:34:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mulinix	Testifying for Our Revolution HawaiiAlo	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 7,000 members and supporters, we are in SUPPORT of SB335 because it will help local farmers to attain the land they need to grow crops to feed our people. One of the main hurdles for Hawaii farmes is to attain affordable farm land. This measure will help local farmers attain affordable farm land that they need to farm. This measure will also reduce our dependence on imported food; and help to support the growth of our local agriculture and economy.

Please vote in support of SB335.

Mahalo for your kind attention,

Dave Mulinix

Hawaii State Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:48:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **SB335 SD1– RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 9:30 a.m., Rm. 211 and by videoconference

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

The Climate Protectors Coalition is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis. As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

One way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as employ local farmers and provide fresher food for Hawaii is to grow more of our food locally. Despite the statutory mandate, the Agribusiness Development Corporation has not achieved its goal for local food growth.

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation to annually lease at least fifty percent of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production. This bill will help stimulate more local food production. To the extent feasible, the companies leasing the land should be local companies. This bill would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve soil health, increase local farm jobs, and provide for fresher local food with greater food security.

Please pass this bill! Mahalo!



PO Box 1177 Koloa HI 96756
808.652.5286 hawaiiSEED.org

February 28, 2021

SUPPORT for SB 335, SD1

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

50% Local Food Production on State Agricultural Lands

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Agaran and Committee Members,

Hawai'i SEED Supports SB335, SD1 requiring the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to lease at least 50% of land leased or up for renewal of leases, annually, to operations whose primary business is local food production, and that DOA and ADC to submit reports to the legislature on leasing activities.

It is time that we seriously address our over dependence on imported food with tangible solutions such as this requirement to increase the state agricultural lands leased for local food production. This measure will help create opportunities for jobs in agriculture. SB 335 will allow more small-scale farmers to gain access to these agricultural lands, bringing us a step closer to a diversified food production economy.

The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and a regenerative/organic farmer to the board of the ADC. This will Ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission.

Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off. Requiring that 50% of Hawai'i's agricultural lands are utilized for local food production will help reduce our dependence on imported food. Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide health benefits to locals.

The state audit recently revealed that throughout the entirety of its 27-year existence, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission aside from acquiring large acres of land.

Following the intended mandate will build resilience in the food supply chain, protect the health and the land security for food and farm workers to invest in, and redirect surplus commodities to food banks and food hubs. I am encouraged and sincerely optimistic that our community, agricultural hui, restaurants and entrepreneurs have significant expertise at the ready, to move towards the development of another vision towards an additive economic component to broaden our diversification of the new world to counter challenged and changes for the better.

The resiliency of families and some businesses exhibited over the last 11 months has proven pivotal to our ability to ride out the pandemic, With the ADC producing next to nothing and adding to our dependence on

imported food, there inaction, our underutilized state controlled agricultural land is in part to blame for far too many industrious people barely scraping by, living in a constant state of uncertainty and anxiety. Not only is this not sustainable, but it also isn't necessary; legislators can and should do everything within their power to help those who are hurting right now. SB335 could make substantial progress towards doing just that.

Individually, these objectives are certainly worthwhile, and collectively they will bring is several steps closer to a stronger future. We applaud the Senate Agriculture Committee for their efforts and urge the rest of the committees to provide Hawai'i with much needed local food systems by passing this bill.

Our finite ag land and water needs to be tightly controlled and the mandate to lease these state agricultural lands to farmers and ranchers who actually grow food for local consumption must be enforced and adhered to with impeccable integrity, without conflict of interest, favoritism, nepotism, personal financial gain or greed.

While the ADC manages over 22,000 acres of state-owned agricultural land, the large fields of corn you see are mostly "seed corn" grown by agro/chemical companies, intended for export, and used to produce ethanol, cattle feed, and high fructose corn syrup. No one locally actually eats this seed corn.

In conclusion, lawmakers should consider how prime ADC lands can serve as a resource for small scale regenerative agriculture solutions that can feed our communities and manage Hawaii's agricultural lands for future abundance.

Mahalo,
Jeri Di Pietro, President
Hawai'i SEED

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:02:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eva Lee	Testifying for Hawaii Tea Society	Support	No

Comments:

SENATEBILLNO. 335RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

On behalf of organization Hawaii Tea Society and tea growers established in the state of Hawaii we support this bill.

It is time that the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation steps up by leasing more lands for local food production and sustainability. It is clear that the leasing of these lands need to be made available to diverse groups of Ag and Climate Change interests that support production of Specialty Crops such as Camellia sinensis tea and Agro Forestry integration to help feed Hawaii's people with environmental stuartship.

Mahalo,

Eva Lee

Hawaii Tea Society - President

Teahawaii@gmail.com

808-967-7637



To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 9:30am

In strong support of SB335 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee members of Ways and Means,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **strongly supports SB335 SD1**.

This bill will expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii and support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy. Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide health benefits to our communities.

The pandemic has made it very clear that we need greater food security and self-sufficiency. With the growing instability of our climate system, it is reckless to import 90% of our food, making us completely vulnerable to natural disasters and global events that might disrupt shipping and our food supply. SB335 SD1 will help us be better prepared for any possible future pandemics or disasters.

We strongly urge that priority be given to regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off. Further, regenerative agriculture practices help to sequester carbon and therefore can address the climate crisis in a substantial way.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this very important bill.
Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 7:10:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brad Seymour	Testifying for SR Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I firmly believe that Hawaii needs to develop a stronger source of food security for the residents and visitors of our state. While I recognize that this may not lower the cost of living, it can develop a stronger more diversified economy for the state. Food production needs to be on the forefront of the redevelopment of the state as we come through COVID-19.

I believe that the ADC has the means by which to provide the opportunity to develop a strong food producing industry. We cannot only rely on cattle ranching to consume the vast acreage of land that the ADC is responsible for, we need a diversified agricultural industry to thrive for our people. I support this bill, and I look forward to a strong productive ag industry.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:20:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Walter Ritte	Testifying for aina momona	Support	No

Comments:

Aina Momona is in strong support of sb 335. We need to provide easy access to farm lands for our local farmers to insure food independence for Hawaii.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:19:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Mcknight	Testifying for DPH Environmental Caucus	Support	No

Comments:

As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

One way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as employ local farmers and provide fresher food for Hawaii is to grow more of our food locally. Despite the statutory mandate, the Agribusiness Development Corporation has not achieved its goal for local food growth.

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation to annually lease at least fifty percent of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production. This bill will help stimulate more local food production. To the extent feasible, the companies leasing the land should be local companies. This bill would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve soil health, increase local farm jobs, and provide for fresher local food with greater food security.

Please pass this bill! Mahalo

LATE



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 9:30 pm

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

SENATE BILL 335 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE: DoA and ADC to lease 50% of lands for local food production

SENATE BILL 337 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: Cover crop reimbursement

SENATE BILL 338 – RELATING TO A FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM: Grant Funding and GOB

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Donovan Del Cruz, Vice-Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

The Energy and Climate Action Committee of the Environmental Caucus takes the unusual step of supporting all three of these bills in the same testimony for essentially the same reason: Hawaii needs to begin solving multiple problems simultaneously, and with climate change finally appearing, it is time we got our house prepared.

The most recent (6th) UN/IPCC Synthesis Report (February 26, 2021) leading into November's international talks in Glasgow indicate that despite fine words and pledges, the Paris Agreement has accomplished virtually nothing to date. It raises a double warning: 1) climate change is happening sooner than we anticipated and is accelerating due to feedback loops kicking in; and 2) the pledges that nations have made in the Paris Agreements are not being followed.

In a nutshell, we are trying to prevent climate change from becoming permanent because the species that we are familiar with on this planet (including humans) are not adapted to it. The Sixth Mass extinction is already underway, with horrendous losses being posted by the month. The best science estimates that we must constrain the rise in the average global temperature to well below 2°C (3.6°F) above pre-industrial levels, preferably to 1.5°C (2.7°F). In order to accomplish this, our greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere need to be reduced 45% by 2030. If we implemented the pledges made in the Paris Agreement, the reduction would be about 1%. That is, we are into the final decade when we might accomplish a halt to climate change, and we are doing next to nothing about it.

What needs to be done simultaneously is threefold: (1) cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; (2) ramp up GHG sequestration using regenerative land practices in agriculture, forestry, and pasturage; and (3) ramp up implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures.

Last year Hawaii was fortunate to dodge several hurricanes, and elsewhere storms are more frequent and more severe. Our hurricane season begins again, and it is only a matter of time before Southshore O'ahu is flattened – possibly more than once. Shipments of food and other everyday essentials to our shores can be disrupted by crop failures and production facility destruction taking place as we speak and even by ocean storms bringing them.

Several bills before you this session address cutting fossil fuel emissions, and several others address composting, which is simultaneously a program to eliminate a large waste stream from entering our landfills and also restoring our soils for far more effective GHG sequestration. Three before you on this agenda address mitigation and adaptation by contributing to both healthy soils and improved GHG sequestration, encouraging local food production, and creating innovative and production space for converting crops in the ground to food on the table.

The Energy and Climate Action Committee of the Environmental Caucus heartily supports:

SB 335 – requiring the Department of Agriculture and the Agribusiness Development Corporation to lease half of available lands for local food production. This is essentially the payoff for having secured important agricultural lands and irrigation systems from private hands not using Hawaii’s legacy farm lands for local food;

SB 337 – providing a reimbursement program to guarantee access to cover crop seeds and green manure to bolster productivity of local farm lands, building them up for productivity and GHG sequestering (far more carbon is bound up underground in microbes than in standing crops above ground!). Over a period of years, our legacy farm lands will become both more productive and less contaminating than with fossil-fuel-derived supplements; and

SB 338 – establishing a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. Food hubs have proven to be innovative, community-building, and regional centers for education and health care. They have the potential of producing healthy meals and value-added products to enlarge the complete use of the harvest.

These are relatively inexpensive measures to make a large difference in the lives of Hawaii residents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address these issues.

/s/ Charley Ice, Co-Chair, Energy and Climate Action Committee, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 8:41:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

One of the main hurdles farmers often cite is lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawai'i. This will help reduce our dependence on imported food and support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 8:00:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashleigh Loa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB335.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 8:09:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

If the ADC does not get eliminated (preferable), then at least get it to do what it is supposed to be doing - supporting and enhancing Hawaii's farmers.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 8:43:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in support of having more accessible land for farmers. We've been talking about this for decades. We know we are very susceptible to mainland shortages and it puts Hawaii in danger of being cut off. Shipping costs drive up food costs.

Let's remove the roadblocks and do what we know we have to do. More locally made food and products are a win win for everyone. It creates jobs, promotes health and wellbeing, helps sustainability for the Hawaiian Islands and tells the citizens of Hawaii that their local government representatives have their best interests in mind.

Mahalo,

Natalie Brown Norberg

Pukalani, Maui

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 8:47:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I'm writing in support of SB335 because of the following reasons:

- One of the main hurdles farmers often cite is lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii
- Will help reduce our dependence on imported food
- Will support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy

Please support this bill.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 9:00:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I live in Kaneohe and support SB 335.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 9:48:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
claudia rosenbaum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Claudia Rosenbaum and I strongly agree with making sure our state has 50% of our available farm land being used for growing produce for our state. This will not only provide food security but also the necessity to grow more generations of farmers, which is a dying breed. We have seen that we need to diversify our economy, not relying solely on tourism. I hope you vote in favor of this bill, taking care of islanders first, is the right thing to do!

Sincerely,

Claudia Rosenbaum

Kula, HI

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 10:17:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support truly diversitfying our agriculture to grow food for local consumption.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 10:52:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chelle Galarza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi I'm a resident of Maui and a mother of two. I support SB335 SD1 because farmers should have access to affordable lands. This measure will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii. We must reduce imported foods and the dependence on those foods. We have the ability to grow organic healthy fruits and veggies on all islands. This bill will help grow agricultural for local families and support everyone who lives here. We shouldn't rely on shipped in goods when we can grow in a sustainable way here in Hawaii.

Thank you, Chelle Galarza

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 10:55:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support!

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 11:11:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support our `Ä• ina.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 2:38:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 335 SD1 as it will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawai'i, reduce our dependence on imported food and support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy. With climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing food security in Hawaii by supporting local farmers in any way possible is essential for Hawaii's health and economy. Thank you.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 6:51:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Dean	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Let's get the ball rolling on food self reliance and organic local agriculture.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 11:31:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill that will expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii, reduce our dependence on imported food and support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 12:42:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support sb335 sd1.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 6:59:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rexann Dubiel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please.

Be wise. Encourage young farmers and provide land so we have food security in Hawaii.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 7:15:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Sevy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

-One of the main hurdles farmers often cite is lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii, and as a result, reduce our dependence on imported food. This is a win:win for increasing our food security and decreasing our carbon footprint.

-Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide health benefits to locals. The pandemic has made it very clear that we need greater food security and self-sufficiency. This will not only help us be better prepared for any possible future pandemics, but from the growing affects of an unstable climate.

-I strongly support this bill that will expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii, reduce our dependence on imported food and support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy. With climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing food security in Hawaii by supporting local farmers in any way possible is essential for our sustainability and resiliency. Thank you

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 7:59:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB335.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 9:01:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- One of the main hurdles farmers often cite is lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii
- Will help reduce our dependence on imported food
- Will support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 10:44:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

We need more local food production, a commitment made by the governor and previous legislative sessions...this is the way!

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:07:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This requirement should read: a minimum of 50% of state ag lands on each island shall be leased for local food production with a requirement that a processing plant also be built on a portion of those lands. State and County can partner to borne the cost of those plants.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:13:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support having at least 50% of state Ag land used for local food production.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:25:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Creating sustainable ag for the islands is the number one security issue for Hawaii.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:35:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rona Bennett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. It is necessary for us to grow our own food here as climate change on the mainland gets worse. At least here we haven't had as extreme weather. We need to support local farmers, increasing organic farms and grow as much of our food locally as possible. We need diversity in food grown here as well.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:42:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please help increase our local food security and farming skills!

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:53:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT!!! Keep the Country Country including ability to grow our own food on the land!!

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:56:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Momi Ventura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Alohamai My Name Is Momi Ventura, I Currently Have No Home. About Our Mostly Imported Food, Instead Of Growing Our Own This Is At The Forefront Of This Testimony. We Need To End Our Serious Dependence On Imports And Food From Another Country Other Than Our Own Islands. We As Hawaii's Host People Have Had Generations Of Knowledge Handed Down To Ensure That It Cycle Never Ends.. Unfortunately The Lands Transfer To For-Profit Crops Like Pineapple And Sugarcane.!!

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 12:37:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brianna Ansley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern I fully support SB335. I am a small local farmer committed to helping improve Hawaii's agricultural production and reduce our reliance on imported food. Access to viable and affordable land is scarce and it is important that we make land accessible to small scale and larger farmers who are increasing our local food production. Thank you for your time.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 12:44:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Claire Kamalu Carroll	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee

We are facing a new normal here in Hawaii. Facing less shipments and increase in prices certainly effects our residents in Hawaii. Dedicating Agriculture land for Agriculture use is certainly a start in the right direction. Making land affordable for farmers will be a benefit to make it affordable and try to protect the bottom line especially for our small farmers. To have Hawaii be more sustainable will help in solving problems in delayed shipping and food sources that we depend on. Affordable land for farmers is already a big hurdle to cross

Mahalo,

Claire Kamalu Carroll

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 12:45:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill, but I do not trust ADC to implement it with it's present leadership.

I read the testimonies of flower growers and seed producers who were concerned that passage of this bill would take away their farming rights. Surely their farms are included in the 50% that are not food-producing.

The testimony from HAPA says it all for me about what's been happening on Kauai. They cite the statistics of how much land and at what price was leased to Sygenta etc. to grow gmo corn for fructose production and cattle feed, and how they sprayed harmful chemicals on these crops, at the detriment of our westside families.

I also like the amendments that Gary Hooser suggests in this testimony, that there is no room here to list. Mahalo for considering the needs of the people of Hawaii over corporations.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 1:25:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this Bill

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 1:31:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allison Jacobson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Allison Jacobson and I am writing today in support for SB335.

Growing our own food is essential for the future of our islands. We cannot continue to rely on importing our food. If COVID-19 has taught us anything, it is that we should be investing in industry that doesn't rely on tourism. Let's focus on moving toward a more sustainable future where we can sustain the people of Hawaii on the food we grow here. It will have a positive impact on our economy and the health of our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,

Allison Jacobson

adnojacobson@gmail.com

96703

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 1:52:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Enomoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to use land to grow food not condos or expensive places for non-residents.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 2:01:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. We need food security! What just happened in Texas should alert us to the changing climate, and the danger of strong storms taking our infrastructure. As in Purto Rico, it is the small farmers who will keep people alive here after a hurricane. Also, we should be making it a lot easier for them to compete, not harder. Mahalo, Laura Gray R.N.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 2:16:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a major step towards Hawaii becoming food self-sufficient. If we don't, there will come a day when we wish we had.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 2:28:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

please support food security in our state. This bill helps do that by requiring at least 50% of state ag lands leased for local food.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 2:47:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna Maltz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There has never been a more urgent time to support local regenerative agriculture. We must! Ignoring this would be irresponsible and put our state in jeopardy. Thank you for doing the right thing. Investing in young farmers and ecological restoration will secure our food system, create jobs, and rebuild the land and culture of Hawaii.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:00:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dee Green	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill requiring at least 50% of state ag lands be leased for local food production. This past year alone has shown us how important having sustainable food production on the islands is and we should stand together to ensure that happens.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:11:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chezlani Casar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It seems more or less obvious that the Hawaii Department of Agriculture should be focused on feeding the people of Hawaii. But if it must be legislated, so be it. I support this bill.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:27:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Bishop	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Daniel Bishop and I am in Strong Support os SB335

Mahalo

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:47:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

A current article in Civil Beat reported on a recent audit of the Agricultural Development Corporation's poor performance to date. This legislation would ensure the ADC takes action no later than 1 Jan 2022 to lease at least 50% of the lands it overseas to farmers that will grow food for consumption here in Hawaii. This is a great step in the right direction for the ADC, but more importantly for all of us who live here in Hawaii.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 4:40:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii needs to produce more food locally in order to reduce our dependence on imported food. Local farmers need access to affordable land in order to achieve this goal. If we remain so dependent on imported food, it will increase our carbon footprint and make us vulnerable to food shortages in an emergency.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 4:54:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Hixon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha-- I strongly support SB335 SD1. This legislation will not only support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy, but also decrease our carbon footprint associated with imported food. One of the main hurdles local farmers often cite is lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand farmers access to agricultural land in Hawaii, and as a result, reduce our dependence on imported food. This is a win:win for both increasing our food security and decreasing our carbon footprint. Mahalo!

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 6:24:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Webster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

This bill is incredibly important at this time since Covid just reminded all of us of our dependence on the mainland for everything.

Yes, people have started growing food at home but this will not be enough to sustain all of Hawaii's people in the long run. We need more local farmers growing food here in Hawaii.

Local food has a smaller carbon footprint. Plus, it's healthier because it can be eaten closer to harvest.

Our farmers do not have access to land. 50% of Hawaii's ag land being used for food is the minimum we should aspiring to.

When so much land is being used to grow landscape ornamentals and GMO corn seed, we have got to ask ourselves if this is even reasonable.

We have year-round growing seasons, volcanic soil, and clean water. We are wasting our opportunities to become self-sufficient if we continue to neglect our new, young farmers' great need for ag land.

Please support this bill.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 7:48:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

We can't keep shipping in most of our food from thousands of miles away!

Please support this bill to have the department of agriculture and agribusiness development corporation to lease at least fifty per cent of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is, or supports, local food production,

mahalo,

Cory Harden

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 8:30:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hi Joan here from West Hawaii supporting SB335. This bill requires at least 50% of state land be leased for local food production. This will help us to live sustainably here in Hawaii. Good for residence and good for the environment.

Thank You

Joan Gannon

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 8:40:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee on Ways and Means.

Please support SB335 SD1.

I strongly support this bill that will expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii, reduce our dependence on imported food and support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy. With climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing food security in Hawaii by supporting local farmers in any way possible is essential for our sustainability and resiliency.

If a tsunami or severe hurricane were to take out the Honolulu Airport and the Honolulu Harbor, our entire state would have no alternative way to ship or fly in the massive food supply that is needed for all of the islands.

We need to take advantage of our tropical sunny weather that allows us to grow food all year round.

Thank you for taking the time to review this issue. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 8:53:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators:

It is imperative to support this bill, since it will support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy, while reducing our dependence on imported foods. This will assist one of the main hurdles farmers often have problems with - which is the lack of access to affordable land in Hawaii, but of course it needs to be land that is suitable for farming.

Thank you for your consideration,
Elizabeth Hansen, Hakalau HI

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 9:39:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators:

It is imperative to support this bill, since it will support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy, while reducing our dependence on imported foods. This will assist one of the main hurdles farmers often have problems with - which is the lack of access to affordable land in Hawaii, but of course it needs to be land that is suitable for farming.

Thank you.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 12:51:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Valkenaar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a huge and important step for this state to take in order to increase our local food production. There is no guarantee that the shipping will continue forever, uninterrupted, and somewhat affordable. Growing our own food, and changing the diets of those who reside here, should be a goal for all who are concerned about our health.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 1:01:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Hathaway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. Providing more affordable land to farmers is a sure way to promote this essential service to our state and communities. How exciting to be on the verge of prioritizing local food production. I know it will boost our islands toward self-sufficiency. This is where it begins. Stimulate food production by making state agriculture lands more accessible and affordable to those needing a boost to get started or others to expand.

I have farmed my acre in Hawaiian Paradise Park, Puna, for 34 years. I support SB 335, please pass this measure.

Thank you for reading my testimony. And thank you for your service as state representatives.

Cynthia Hathaway

HC1 Box 5377, Keaau, HI 96749

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 5:49:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Freeman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill be significantly reduce dependency on imported food, making Kauai's food supply more stable during crises.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 6:21:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

First off consumer/social justice/environment/food sovereignty groups and individuals have a very limited capacity to respond to the bill cycle. We often don't know of a bill until shortly before the 24 hr deadline (and sometimes after the deadline). We volunteers and community activist have to drop everything to quickly respond to new bills. Thankfully there are activist out there that do the hard work to keep democracy alive and well and write briefs on the bills. PLEASE don't discredit our verbatim responds to these bills just prior to the deadlines for comment. Why can't we have a heads up one week period prior to the bills being considered? It seems to me that the committees that release these bills for comment actually DON'T WANT COMMENTS...?

Re SB335 SD1 The following comments are NO WAY an endorsement of the ADC. I hope the ADC is dissolved and the Dept of Ag takes over the reporting. How can we have an entity like the ADC have almost no accountability, transparency or reporting mechanism to measure how incompetent they were for so long?

We need to put cheap land into the hands of farmers. We need to have bills like the Dept of Education mandated to buy a certain % of their foods locally. We to have all State agencies what prepare food to buy local.

- One of the main hurdles farmers often cite is lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawai'i
- Will help reduce our dependence on imported food
- Will support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy.
- I hope that regenerative/organic/bio-dynamic etc farmers are given preferential selection.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 7:33:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
P Noel Bobilin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB335 SD1 because this bill will expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii, reduce our dependence on imported food and support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy. With climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing food security in Hawaii by supporting local farmers in any way possible is essential for our sustainability and resiliency. Mahalo

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:04:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodney Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We should never put economy above sustainable ability to survive without economy!

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:15:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear chair and committee members,

This bill would be grateful support for sustainability for our islands while lowering our carbon footprint and act as a carbon sink with use of cover crops.

Mahalo for your support,

Diane Ware 99-7815 Kapoha Volcano

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:43:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Lukens	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the oppotunity to testify. Please pass this bill!

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:47:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Noelani Ahia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill for the following reasons:

- One of the main hurdles farmers often cite is lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii
- Will help reduce our dependence on imported food
- Will support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:48:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arika Rains	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii needs to not be dependent on the mainland for food. Now that the mills are all closed we need to maintain the land so we don't burn up. This bill would help more people grow amazing things here!

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:03:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jeanne lindgren	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing in support of SB335. One of the main hurdles farmers often cite is lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawai'i. Additionally, SB335 will help reduce our dependence on imported food and support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy.

Mahalo for your time,

Jeanne Lindgren

2122 Hillcrest St Honolulu, HI 96817

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:10:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Leo Braulick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 28, 2021

Dear Members of the Committee:

I support SB335 because it requires the department of agriculture and agribusiness development corporation to annually lease at least fifty per cent of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is, or supports, **local food production**. Furthermore, it requires the ADC to submit reports to the legislature on leasing activities.

SB335 will also:

- expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii
- reduce our dependence on imported food
- support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy

I hope you will also support SB335.

Sincerely,

Nathan Leo Braulick

2333 Kapiolani Blvd.

Honolulu, HI 96826

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:55:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Bursack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In a time when the world has fallen apart as it did in 2020. It is essential that we create viable and self sustaining agriculture to secure Hawaii's food security.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 12:04:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stuart Coleman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, Chair, Vice Chair & Committee Members,

im writing in support of SB335 SD1. This measure will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii and help reduce our dependence on imported food. It will also help support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy.

Aloha, Stuart

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 12:10:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a 33 year resident of Kauai, I am writing in support of SB335. This will help increase the land available to local farmers for food production. If this pandemic taught us anything it is that we need to grow more of our own food in Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration,

Susan

Lawai, HI

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 12:13:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marsha Hee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB335 to increase affordable lands for food production in Hawaii as an important step towards building our state food security now and in the future. As a life long resident of Hawaii, I value growing, buying and eating locally grown and raised food for my family members and community. We need this now in order to transition away from our dependence on imported food and food products. We also need to support our local farm/agriculture business which impacts better food quality, nutrition and overall island economy from households, institutions, charitable organizations and small businesses.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 1:08:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marian Head	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please vote for every bill that encourages local food production and local food distribution on our island. This legislation will enable more farmers to have access to affordable land, ultimately reducing our dependence on imported food and expanding our economy into more life-enhancing ventures for and on behalf of Kauai citizens.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share my thoughts.

Marian Head, Kapaa

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 1:56:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melia Leslie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

One of the main hurdles farmers often cite is lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawai'i

Will help reduce our dependence on imported food

Will support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 2:20:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ron Reilly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz – Chair, Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran - Vice Chair and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am in strong support of SB335 SD1.

This will encourage growing of food locally, it will provide good long term careers in agriculture and reduce Hawaii's total carbon footprint that in part accrues from expensive trans-Pacific air freight of produce into Hawaii.

Our painful transition away from the cash crops of sugar and pineapple needs to be followed with maximum support for small and medium scale sustainable local food production.

I respectfully urge your unanimous support of SB335

Thank you, Ron Reilly, Volcano Village Hawaii 96785

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 2:29:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

- This is a good bill--it will help local people with jobs and provide local food for all of us
- One of the main hurdles farmers often cite is lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii
- Will help reduce our dependence on imported food
- Will support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy
- Can provide our schools with local produce--it simply makes sense!!!

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 2:36:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sydney Millerd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sydney Millerd and I am writing to express support for SB335. As a student of the University of Hawaii - West Oahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems program, I understand the importance of food self-sufficiency and security. It is well known that Hawaii is in a vulnerable situation as over 90% of our food is imported. Thus, we must increase our local food production. This measure would help to do this.

As a 22-year old soon-to-be college graduate, I look to our legislative leaders to make the right choices now to create a brighter future for Hawaii for my fellow youth and me to live in. This brighter future for Hawaii should include better food self-sufficiency and security through local production.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:01:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesse Palmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

-One of the main hurdles farmers often cite is lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii, and as a result, reduce our dependence on imported food. This is a win:win for increasing our food security and decreasing our carbon footprint.

-Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide health benefits to locals. The pandemic has made it very clear that we need greater food security and self-sufficiency. This will not only help us be better prepared for any possible future pandemics, but from the growing affects of an unstable climate.

-I strongly support this bill that will expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii, reduce our dependence on imported food and support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy. With climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing food security in Hawaii by supporting local farmers in any way possible is essential for our sustainability and resiliency.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:08:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
brandi corpuz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is Brandi Corpuz and I am a resident of Kihei Maui. This pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for food security in Hawaii. Most of the best foods and the worse (Nonfoods) that are grown in Hawaii are not for our consumption. They are sold to the highest bidders such as hotels, high end resturants and off island corporations. The Biotech corporations use and rape our lands to do experiements on the foods they create. Seed corn is a hazard to our communities and it is not even edible so it should not take up the majoriety of our ag lands. I support this bill to require atleast 50% of the ag lands in Hawaii to be used for local food production and consumption. Thank you, Brandi Corpuz

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:10:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Please, support this vital legislation.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:14:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB335 SD1.

It seems odd that we would need a Bill to assure that 50% our farmlands are producing food for the islands. I'd like to see that number bumped up to 100% personally but 50% is a good start.

Mahalo,

Ms. Barbara Barry

Maui

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:21:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Ward	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a small farmer. I grow food for the local table and pay state GE taxes. I would have farmed all my life if I had access to land, but I worked until I was in my late forties before I could buy land to farm. Please support this bill to allow aspiring young farmers access to land when they are young and able to grow a sustainable supply of local food!

Thank you, Deborah Ward, Laiku Farm, Kurtistwon HI

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:28:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Please, SUPPORT this vital legislation.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 4:39:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** SB335 SD1 requires the department of agriculture and agribusiness development corporation to annually lease at least 50% of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is, or supports, local food production.

IT IS IMPORTANT to support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy, but it will also decrease our carbon footprint associated with imported food.

One of the main hurdles farmers often cite is lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii, and as a result, reduce our dependence on imported food. This is a win:win for increasing our food security and decreasing our carbon footprint.

IT IS IMPORTANT to expand our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide health benefits to locals. The pandemic has made it very clear that we need greater food security and self-sufficiency. This will not only help us be better prepared for any possible future pandemics, but from the growing affects of an unstable climate.

I strongly support this bill that will expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii, reduce our dependence on imported food and support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy. With climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing food security in Hawaii by supporting local farmers in any way possible is essential for our sustainability and resiliency.

Mahalo!

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 4:53:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
denise woods	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for considering my testimony. Please support this bill, helping our islands to be sustainable without imports is one of the MOST important issues we face. Passing this bill could mean the difference between starvation and life if there were ever a huge disruption of our shipping routes. We have seen with covid how crazy the world can turn so quickly, so we really don't know what the future holds. Please pass this bill.

Denise Woods,

Kauai, HI

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 4:57:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha committee members, please support SB335 SD1, which would require the government to annually lease at least 50 percent of state ag land to operations whose primary business is, or supports, local food production.

One of the main hurdles farmers often cite in producing food crops for the people of Hawai'i is a lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand access to affordable land in Hawai'i for local farmers, which will help reduce our dependence on imported food and support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 6:07:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We have dragged our feet for too long on building food self-sufficiency. It's time to take decisive action. Please move this bill forward so we can reduce our vulnerability that has only been heightened by the pandemic. Good governance must mean ensuring we don't have to import over 90% of our food. It means facilitating local farming and regenerative farming practices. This bill is greatly needed. Thank you for supporting this effort to address a dire situation.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 6:07:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Jahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I am writing to express to the WAM committee that I fully support SB335. Mahalo.

Me ke aloha,

Brian "loane" Jahn

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 6:30:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lanny Sinkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COVID has helped to clarify how important local food production is. Regenerative agriculture coupled with connecting markets to local growers is the path toward food security.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 6:30:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon douglas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please vote to have at least 50% of state ag land to be leased for local food production. COVID19 has highlighted the importance of securing a local sustainable food supply and it would also help diversify our economy which is way to dependent on the disruptive tourist dollar.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 6:42:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sylvia cabral	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

support land for all to grow foods such has mahi pono \$100 year leases.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 7:27:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emma Trainor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I live in Pahoia HI and am in support of SB335

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 7:37:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:02:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Uma Nagendra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing today to SUPPORT SB335, which requires that 50% of ADC land be leased to those whose primary business is local food production.

Food security and sustainability is of utmost importance for Hawaii-- issues that have become even more evident in this global pandemic. Access to affordable land is one of the biggest barriers that local farmers face. This bill will help alleviate that problem by ensuring that a large proportion of ADC land is leased to food producers.

This measure is necessary in order to support the local agricultural and food production industry. The continued growth of these industries also keeps Hawaii safe and healthy.

Reducing our reliance on imported food helps keep Hawaii safe and secure; as we have seen with the global pandemic, the supply chain can be broken at any time.

Thank you for your consideration,

Uma Nagendra

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:14:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB335 and look forward to seeing increased local food production for Hawai'i.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:28:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

It is time Hawaii begins to serve Hawaiians and not outside (off island) corporations. We need more local food production to protect the supply of food for these islands, rather than relying on the constant importaion of what we could supply ourselves. Asking that at least 50% of state leased lands be held for the production of local foods is totally reasonable and necessary in the long run to allow the islands to become self-sufficient. I highly recommend passage of this bill.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:31:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tane Datta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:42:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chandra radiance	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Farmers earnings are dirt cheap compared to anyone else's work output on the earth and yet they provide the most necessary substances to support of lives, so let's help them by making the land they grow organic food on very low cost or almost free. There are so many state lands sitting available that could be providing local sustainable agriculture to save on prohibitive shipping costs and also not fresh and keeping our money in our local economy is basic to our island health and happiness!

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 9:34:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Morgan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please require that at least 50% of state ag lands leased is for local food production.

Thank you,

Andrea Morgan

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 9:43:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marlies Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes, 100% for sure support 50% of AG land for farmers to grow food for our islands.

It's high time to do so!

Marlies Lee

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:02:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jared Brewer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please equires at least 50% of state ag lands leased for local food production.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:09:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tyler Jessica Levine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

With all of my heart, I support SB335!!!

I am a resident of Kailua and a young aspiring regenerative farmer.

There are those that say the future of this earth rests on the shoulders of my generation like a burden of some sort. Yet I see it differently, I see this time as a privilege because it is not too late, because I am not living 50 years in the future when the last aggregate of topsoil turns to dust, because there is still hope for our future, for the future of humanity and for a future of healing and regeneration because we have the power to plant the seeds of positive change. We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors we borrow it from our children- Chief Seattle

Here in Hawaii, more than 90% of our food is imported from external sources. Thus leaving Hawaii very vulnerable and food insecure in times of crisis unable to adapt to change. Large corporations and biotech companies destroy and deplete land growing monocultures and GMO crops and spraying pesticides and synthetic fertilizers that poison the people and the planet. Since the rise of modern-day industrial agriculture or the green revolution and commercialized patented seed, 90% of the world's food plant varieties have been lost along with and 75% of biodiversity among these food plants. Now across the globe, ecosystems are dying, temperatures are rising, species are being driven to the brink of extinction, gone lost forever. Right before our eyes, the world is changing in unimaginable ways never witnessed before, posing an existential threat to life on earth.

Believe it or not we have brought this fate upon ourselves, mother nature does not monocrop. We are the ones who continue to hurt this beautiful earth and inevitably ourselves.

We are now at a tipping point on this scale of balance, a crucial time when our everyday actions will essentially define the future of the world we know.

They say that the problem can be the solution but how are we to plant these seeds of change if we have no land to sow them into? Living on an island, land is a limited resource thus one of the biggest challenges farmers are often facing is acquiring affordable land. If this bill is passed our local economy will thrive like an ecosystem, a forest of biodiversity as we rise in resiliency through food the life-force. This measure will also help to create job opportunities, reduce our carbon footprint, increase local food production and grow our food security as the linear and unsustainable food system that once was will transform into a circular system of community and sustainability. Let my voice be heard from the tops of Maunakea to the deepest depths of the Pacific, let my voice be only an echo to the voices of Mother Earth and all of her children. We are the keiki o ka ania and it is our kuleana, it is your kuleana to malama honua!!!!!! I want to bring Mother Earth's voice to the table and I am empowered to create everlasting positive change, planting seeds of love that will one day grow and through photosynthesis, sequester immense quantities of greenhouse gases restoring the delicate balance of our climate.

Thank you for planting seeds of hope for our future

Tyler Levine

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:19:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sierra Sonene Donnelly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please require that at least 50% of state ag lands leased are for local food production. Thank you!!

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:32:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Laliberte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I strongly support the passage of SB335 because it will decrease the financial obstacles faced by our food producers. State Ag land is plentiful and accessible and should play a key role in boosting local food production. It's critical that Hawaii grow more food. This will diversify the economy as well as reduce our imports of food from elsewhere. A win-win for farmers and local people.

Thank you very much,

Liz Laliberte

Hilo, HI

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:10:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Renee Riley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Maui resident since 1985, I know we need a reliable, local - hopefully organic - food supply.

This pandemic has shown, especially in the early weeks and months, that we can quickly be out of essential items. Please support SB335 to

- reduce dependence on imported food,
- expand farmers access to affordable land, and
- help grow our agriculture and local food economy.

Please vote in support of SB335. We -- and future generations will thank you.

Aloha,

Renée Riley, Kīhei, Maui voter

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:40:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Alice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 1:47:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 3:11:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and WAM Committee members,

For several years the state of Hawaii has talked about becoming more sustainable by growing more food locally. So far that remains a pipe dream: the average age of Hawaii farmers (60.1) is still rising; prime farmland has given way to housing projects; and the farmland we do have has not been rejuvenated (after sugar and pineapple were grown) or is not in use. Aside from seed farmers (who export their seed worldwide), few crops have come along that are of benefit to Hawaii's people.

I strongly support SB335 SD1 in hopes that it can meet its goal of 50% local food production on state ag lands. This would be a boon to Hawaii's local economy: farmers spend less money for their land; money spent on food stays in Hawaii; and we decrease our carbon footprint by importing less food.

Issue that may need to be addressed:

- Finding farmers to occupy the land (although the Go Farm program and the West Oahu Sustainable Community Food Systems program can help with training).
- The need for Food Hubs for centralized food processing
- The need for strong oversight to avoid previous slowdowns and missteps in working towards local food sustainability
- Intermediate goals to ensure that progress is being made

I believe with the right leadership and a solid plan the Hawaii farming community can be a thriving enterprise that will benefit the entire state.

Please support Hawaii local agriculture by passing SB335 SD1.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas – Aiea, Hawaii

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 5:53:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Camp	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill, and believe 50% local food production is a minimum.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 7:58:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

As a teacher of Environmental Resources and Agriculture it is my hope that my students will be able to find employment locally on our island in an industry that will directly benefit themselves, their community, and the aina. In able to do such, they must have access to land. Land that is currently used and occupied by large corporate entities consume the scarece land resources needed to provide opportunities to our local families,

I stringly support the passade of SB335 SD1 to provide land for the people of Kaua'i to live off ov.

Mahalo,

Patrick Bruno

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:24:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniela Escontrela	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:53:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jericho Castro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB335 because of what is happening to us during this pandemic. Some reasons why I support this is because Hawaii is being supported by the mainland. Why we should grow our own crops is so that we don't have to rely on the mainland bringing in our goods. Another reason is because if the mainland businesses shut down we won't be able to survive because Hawaii is relying on goods coming from the mainland. So being able to start growing our own crops and having more agriculture land Hawaii will be much more sustainable.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:01:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a resident of O'ahu's predominantly agricultural North Shore district, I am writing in strong SUPPORT of SB 335 SD 1 which requires the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) and Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to annually lease at least fifty per cent of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production beginning 1/1/2022. Requires the HDOA and ADC to submit reports to the legislature on leasing activities.

I strongly support the recommended amendments in the SD 1 from the Center for Food Safety:

1.) That two members of the ADC Board shall be representatives of local farmers' or ranchers' associations, as nominated by the chairs of the House and Senate Agricultural Committees; and the number of at-large members be reduced from four to two.

2.) Requires ADC Board meetings to be subject to the Sunshine Law.

As the current pandemic has magnified the need for a diverse, well balanced economy, we witness time and time again the urgency for island-wide accelerated food production for local consumption.

I would like to suggest prioritizing regenerative farming practices on these publicly owned lands since water conservation and soil health not only support and help amend Hawai'i's fragile ecosystem, it would also encourage the implementation of traditional Hawaiian land management principles.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:04:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kian Rapozo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

I am a student at Kapaa high school and i really suport this bill. We learn a lot about agriculture and growing plants, this some what relates to my class witch is good cause i have some knoledge on this topic. This bill is good tho because it will help the students and future kids to get jobs in local runned buisness and in agriculture. Its also a good thing because were using the land up for good purposes and helping out the community buy growing and planting local products which is much better than getting products from out of state or other states.

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:09:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tira Ann Kauai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Having more lands for us to eat healthier is important for us people in Hawaii. If we can stop importing fake, not healthy foods it would be better. It will benefit our health and our families to start eating better to be more fit to change our mindsets. This will also provide businesses with more products to help out, and sell fast. There are a lot of ways that more land can help out us people in growing our own crops.

Mahalo

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:11:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James McCay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the WAM Committee,

I'm pleased to SUPPORT SB335 after years of active involvement and membership with Hawaii Farmers Union United. Farmers are GOOD people who are challenged by access to land. State Ag lands MUST be opened for State production of healthy and local foods.

Please support this important bill and mahalo for your service,

James McCay
Honolulu

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:20:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support!

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:28:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ingrid Peterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill that supports agriculture, a sector of our economy we need to promote as we work toward diversifying our economy. Doing so also lessens our vulnerability of being so heavily reliant on food from outside Hawaii. (From a Windward O'ahu resident since 1963.)

LATE

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 2:04:47 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle K.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

One of the main hurdles farmers often cite is lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii. This bill will help reduce our dependence on imported food and will support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy.

LATE

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 2:49:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB335

I am extremely worried about the climate crisis, the impact of CO2 emissions (and other greenhouse gases) in particular. Our current inaction threatens our very existence and the survival of humanity. I have 8 grandchildren, ages 1 to 7. Their future hangs in the balance along with that of all future generations.

For that reason, I am wholeheartedly in support of Hawaii SB 920. As I see it, the produce and sell locally movement helps move us towards some level of island - self-sustainability. Producing locally also reduces the need for excessive transportation of produce. Thank you for your consideration.

John Latkiewicz

4266 Kalaheo Dr.

Kalaheo, HI 96741

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 5:54:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this bill because it would require the ADC who have been plagued with mismanagement to actually lease 50% of Hawaii land to local farmers that produce food for Hawaii and will make our communities more sustainable. We currently import 92% of our food and demanding the ADC to lease state land to local small farmers will make our communities more sustainably.

Mahalo,

Fitz

SB-335-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 6:07:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Rodwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I thoroughly support this Bill