

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. 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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022  
10:00 A.M.  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2466  
RELATING TO TARO**

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 2466. This bill establishes an exemption from state income tax for the first \$100,000 of income derived from taro, taro products, and land used to produce taro, provided the total amount of land used to cultivate taro in the State does not exceed thirty thousand acres at any point in the year. The Department of Agriculture appreciates the intent of the bill to reduce the tax liability for taro farmers and value-added producers but defers to the Department of Taxation with respect to the proposed amendments to Chapter 235.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**HB-2466**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 8:26:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
M. Loke	Dept. of Agriculture	Comments	Yes

Comments:

Available to comment.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN M.D.  
LT. GOVERNOR



ISAAC W. CHOY  
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**  
P.O. BOX 259  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540  
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

To: The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair;  
The Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair;  
and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

From: Isaac W. Choy, Director  
Department of Taxation

Date: Friday, February 4, 2022  
Time: 10:00 A.M.  
Place: Via Video Conference, State Capitol

**Re: H.B. 2466, Relating to Taro**

The Department of Taxation (Department) appreciates the intent of H.B. 2466 and offers the following comments for the committee's consideration.

H.B. 2466 adds a new section to chapter 235, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to establish a new income tax exemption for "persons engaged in the business of taro cultivation and production of value-added taro products," and exempt the following categories from taxation up to the first \$100,000 of gross income:

- Taro plants; taro corm; leaf; and huli for taro farms or portions of farms dedicated to taro plants, taro corm, leaf, and huli;
- Taro lands planted with taro, including fallow rotation lands specifically for taro production of less than or equal acreage to lands in active taro production by each individual grower; and
- Preparations of taro, poi, and value-added products produced with taro.

The exemption shall not apply if at any time during the tax year the Department of Agriculture (DOA) determines that the total amount of land for locally-grown taro in the State surpasses 30,000 acres. The measure applies to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021.

First, the Department notes that the Department lacks the knowledge and expertise necessary to administer significant portions of this tax exemption as drafted. For example, the measure does not define "poi mill," "taro corm," or "taro huli," all terms which need to be properly understood in order to administer the exemption. The Department suggests amending this measure by defining all terms that are unique to this exemption.

Similarly, the Department lacks the ability to verify compliance with some of the exemption's requirements, such as the requirement in subsection 2 of Section 2 that taro lands restrict their portion of fallow rotation lands to less than or equal acreage to lands in active taro production in order to qualify for the exemption.

Second, the language in Section 2, subsection 3, restricting the credit's applicability to preparations "produced with taro exclusively sourced from taro grown in the State" may create an issue under the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Third, the Department notes that first and second paragraphs seem to conflict. As drafted, the language at the beginning of Section 2 broadly states that "persons engaged in the business of taro cultivation and production and production of value-added taro products shall not be taxable" under chapter 235, however, the second paragraph limits the exemption to certain types of income and limits the exemption to \$100,000 of gross income. The Department suggests resolving these conflicts.

Fourth, the Department has concerns about the availability of the exemption being based on a DOA the 30,000-acre determination. Taxpayers and the Department require consistency so administer taxes properly. Forms, instructions and computer systems need to be in place well before the close of the taxable year. Because it is conceivable that a DOA determination could occur after these changes are made in preparation for tax filing season. As such, the Department strongly suggests the deletion of the DOA determination provision. In the alternative, the provision could be amended so that the exemption is not available for the year following the DOA determination.

Fifth, the Department notes that this measure as currently written does not disallow the deduction for ordinary and necessary business expenses associated with the production of income from the exempted business activities. As a result, qualifying taxpayers will be able to use these deductions to offset other income that is not exempted by this measure. For example, qualifying taxpayer could also have a part-time job and earn wages. The business deductions could be used to offset the wage income. The Department suggests amending this measure to disallow the deduction for any ordinary and necessary business expenses incurred in producing the income exempted by this measure.

Finally, notwithstanding the comments discussed above, the Department is able to administer the measure with its current effective date.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Hawaii State Aha Moku  
State of Hawaii  
Post Office Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of  
Hawaii State Aha Moku

Before the House Committee on  
Agriculture

Friday, February 4, 2022  
10:00 A.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

In **SUPPORT** of  
House Bill 2466  
**Relating to Taro**

House Bill 2466 establishes an exemption from state income tax for the first \$100,000 of income derived from taro, taro products, and land used to produce taro if the total amount of land used to cultivate taro in Hawaii does not exceed thirty thousand acres at any point in the year.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku System encompasses the eight main Hawaiian Islands and supports the traditional and generational knowledge of the people who are connected to each of the 46 moku and 606 ahupua'a. The system was brought forward from the 9<sup>th</sup> century, a time where sustainability and protection of resources ensured existence. It was a time where the focus of the people of the land was on survival.

Today, the State of Hawaii is facing the same issues of food survival. The State is tasked with ensuring the continued existence and sustainability of growing its own food. One of the ways to do this is to protect and perpetuate the traditional cultural practice of traditionally farming taro.

Unfortunately, taro farmers have great difficulty in sustaining their lo'i and local food production for their communities due to low economic incentives even when they have access to the land and water.

House Bill 2466 provides the economic incentives that our taro farmers desperately need on every island.

We **SUPPORT** the passage of House Bill 2466. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i/Executive Director  
Hawaii State Aha Moku  
808-640-1214  
[Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov](mailto:Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov)

Rocky Kaluhiwa, Kahu Nui O Pae'Aina  
Hawaii State Aha Moku  
808-286-7955  
[rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com](mailto:rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com)

# TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 305

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

**SUBJECT:** INCOME, Exemption for Income Derived from Taro

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 2466

**INTRODUCED BY:** ELI, BRANCO, GANADEN, GATES, HASHIMOTO, ICHIYAMA, ILAGAN, JOHANSON, KAPELA, KITAGAWA, LOWEN, MARTEN, MATAYOSHI, MIZUNO, MORIKAWA, NAKAMURA, NAKASHIMA, NISHIMOTO, OHNO, PERRUSO, TAKAYAMA, TAM, TARNAS, TODD, WILDBERGER, YAMASHITA, LoPresti

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** Establishes an exemption from state income tax for the first \$100,000 of income derived from taro, taro products, and land used to produce taro if the total amount of land used to cultivate taro in Hawaii does not exceed thirty thousand acres at any point in the year.

**SYNOPSIS:** Adds a new section to chapter 235, HRS, providing that the following shall not be taxable under the Income Tax Law for a person engaged in the business of taro cultivation and production of value-added taro products: (1) Taro plants; taro corm; leaf; and huli for taro farms or portions of farms dedicated to taro plants, taro corm, leaf, and huli; (2) Taro lands planted with taro, including fallow rotation lands specifically for taro production of less than or equal acreage to lands in active taro production by each individual grower; and (3) Preparations of taro, poi, and value-added products produced with taro exclusively sourced from taro grown in the State. Provides that up to the first \$100,000 of gross income per individual, farm, or poi mill shall not be taxable under this chapter; provided further that this exclusion shall not apply if at any time during the year the total amount of land for locally grown taro in the State surpasses thirty thousand acres, as determined by the department of agriculture.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Applicable to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021.

**STAFF COMMENTS:** This measure proposes incentives under the income tax to encourage the production of taro in the state.

The use of the tax system to provide financial assistance in the form of preferential tax treatment under the income tax is an inefficient use of the tax system. This preferential treatment proposed in this measure amounts to nothing more than a subsidy as there is no obvious undue burden of taxes. If this measure is enacted, it will provide one industry with preferential treatment. That is bad tax policy.

This measure proposes an exclusion of income from the net income tax. It should be remembered, companies only pay taxes when they make a profit, that is income is greater than expenditures. As such, this bill rewards a company for making profits while all other businesses that make profits must pay the income tax. If this operation were not profitable, then income tax would be zero anyway. It would only seem fair that some of the profits made by the company go to pay for the public services provided to that business and its employees. Further, it should be

noted that by exempting the business from the state income tax on its profits, it exposes more of those profits to the federal income tax where the rates are much higher. (State income taxes are deductible by a business.) Thus, in the end, this exemption would end up sending more tax dollars to Washington.

Giving tax breaks to one select group of taxpayers comes at the expense of all other taxpayers. Rather than singling out a particular area for tax relief, concurrent efforts must be made to improve Hawaii's business climate to enhance the economic prospects for all businesses.

It should also be noted that an income exclusion affects taxpayers differently depending on the amount of net income they otherwise have. For example, a \$50,000 income exclusion would create a maximum \$5,500 tax benefit to an individual making over \$200,000 in adjusted gross income, where the same individual with \$35,000 adjusted gross income and \$15,000 net profit would see a benefit of perhaps \$725.

If lawmakers want to subsidize this specific project, then an appropriation of funds is far more accountable as taxpayers will then know who is to receive the subsidy, how much is being spent and then they can judge whether or not this is an appropriate use of state taxpayer dollars.

Issues remain to be addressed.

- The bill excludes the first \$100,000 of gross income, but the income tax is imposed on net income. Under normal tax rules (IRC section 265 as operative in Hawaii), expenses associated with exempt income are not deductible so taxpayers can't double dip. We have seen this recently with the discussion over forgiven PPP loans. Lawmakers should make sure that this result is intended.
- The bill describes the exemption in terms of tangible objects and not income. To be unambiguous, the bill should describe the income sought to be excluded.
- The bill applies the exemption to preparations of taro produced with taro "exclusively sourced from taro grown in the State." This restriction is unconstitutional under the Commerce Clause of the Constitution. See *In re Hawaiian Flour Mills, Inc.*, 868 P.2d 419 (1994); *Bacchus Imports, Inc. v. Dias*, 468 U.S. 263 (1984); Hawaii Tax Information Release No. 93-4.
- If the taro acreage passes 30,000 acres at any time during the year, the exclusion is disallowed for everyone, which may dash settled expectations that farmers had been relying upon when planning their plantings.

Digested: 2/3/2022

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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

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

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2466

**February 4, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Room 325 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO TARO

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

House Bill No. 2466 adds a new section to Chapter 235, HRS, to establish an income tax exemption for the first \$100,000 of income derived from taro, taro products, and land used to produce taro, provided that the total amount of land used to cultivate taro does not exceed 30,000 acres at any point in the year.

B&F notes that the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act restricts states from using ARP Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF) to directly or indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue resulting from a change in law, regulation, or administrative interpretation beginning on March 3, 2021, through the last day of the fiscal year in which the CSFRF have been spent. If a state cuts taxes during this period, it must demonstrate how it paid for the tax cuts from sources other than the CSFRF, such as:

- By enacting policies to raise other sources of revenue;
- By cutting spending; or



- Through higher revenue due to economic growth.

If the CSFRF provided have been used to offset tax cuts, the amount used for this purpose must be repaid to the U.S. Treasury.

The U.S. Department of Treasury has issued rules governing how this restriction is to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with this ARP restriction.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 4, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2466**  
RELATING TO TARO

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference  
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 2466**, which establishes an exemption from state income tax for the first \$100,000 of income derived from taro, taro products, and land used to produce taro if the total amount of land used to cultivate taro in Hawaii does not exceed thirty thousand acres at any point in the year.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau recognizes taro's importance in Hawaii's cultural identity and role in local food security. This measure is aimed to assist taro farmers in their efforts to increase their production and viability. We support this effort to improve the taro farmer's ability to not only sustain themselves but also to expand their long-term success.

HFB supports any initiative that reduces the cost of production so that locally produced goods can compete with imported products, strengthening our local economy.

Hawaii Farm Bureau Policy states: "State tax and monetary policies should be designed to encourage private initiative to help stabilize farm economics in the State of Hawaii, to promote employment and economic growth, and to distribute the tax burden equitably. Further such policy should be used by the state, when appropriate, to encourage agricultural growth and expansion."

HFB supports HB 2466 which is an investment in Hawaii's taro farmers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

**HB-2466**

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:45:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Scott Crawford	Kipahulu Ohana, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

An exemption from income tax on sales of taro is a good way to support small taro farmers and encourage production of our most culturally significant crop.



## **House Committee on Agriculture**

### **Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB2466**

Friday, February 4th, 2022 10:00 a.m. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee,

HAPA is in strong support of HB2466 SD1 which establishes an exemption from state income tax for the first \$100,000 of income derived from taro, taro products, and land used to produce taro if the total amount of land used to cultivate taro in Hawai'i does not exceed thirty thousand acres at any point in the year.

HB2466 will provide relief to taro growers from the heavy burden of increasing land tax rates. Tax relief of this nature helps create resources that enable farms to reinvest in their farm and offer more opportunities for the next generation of taro farmers.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

HB2466 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

Taro is a valued landscape and is recognized as the State Plant. Taro farmers need and deserve support to ensure taro farming continues to grow and expand into the future. This measure helps to incentivize farmers to grow taro, one of the healthiest staple starch foods available.

Taro lands provide ecological and environmental buffers against flooding. Taro lands are intricately connected to the protection of our riparian areas, coastal wetlands, and fishponds. Taro lands are celebrated as important and sacred places in Hawaiian traditions and stories and often farmed by families for generations.

HB2466 will create economic incentives for taro farmers' and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source.

Unfortunately, taro farms are typically rural and located on some of the most beautiful lands in our state. As such they have become desirable to the real estate market. Every year, more and more we see more multimillion-dollar homes encroaching on taro growing communities.

The result has been significant increases in tax assessments for taro lands from the counties, as well as excessive lease rates from DLNR. If a taro farmer can't afford to pay the taxes for their property and live on their own lands there are few places left for them to continue to farm.

This is a very concerning and important issue for us to address this legislative session, not just for the above reasons, but also because taro lands are some of our most productive agricultural lands and they have never been needed so much. This past year the COVID-19 crisis has reminded us all how important it is to urgently grow our food security. By encouraging more people to grow and produce taro we can help increase local food self-sufficiency and help Hawai'i reach its food security goals.

By exempting taro production from state income taxes HB2466 will improve the economic landscape for taro farmers' as well as their ability to overcome financial barriers and setbacks.

We strongly support HB2466 and believe it will reduce the cost of production and help locally produced goods compete with imported products, which in turn helps to strengthen our local economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Anne Frederick  
Executive Director

**HB-2466**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:59:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Drew Wilkinson	Growing Together Edible Landscaping	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

As the owner and operator of Growing Together Edible Landscaping and a small 5 acre farm, our company fully supports HB2466. Providing financial incentive by eliminating state income tax for the resources necessary for cultivating Taro is a great idea and will significantly influence more farmers to grow this crop. Please heavily consider passing this bill as farmers need all the help they can get to help Hawaii reach its goal of local food production by the year 2030.

Kind regards,

Drew Wilkinson

Owner and Operator of Growing Together Edible Landscaping

**HB-2466**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:51:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Harriet Witt	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

Taro knows how to live and thrive here. The more we support taro ag, the more we reduce our dangerous dependence on imported mainland foods. This bill needs support!

**HB-2466**

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:08:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Richard Medeiros	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this bill to help our kalo farmers stay in business and be prosperous as well as encourage food sustainability across Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Richard



**HB-2466**

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:16:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kilia Purdy-Avelino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kilia Purdy-Avelino. I am a homestead subsistence farmer from Molokai hoping to increase production in the near future so that we can feed our community and reduce the amount of food being imported. The cost of shipping to Molokai is high making the cost of food even higher. I strongly support HB2466 making taro farmers exempt from state tax up to the first \$100,000 of income. I support any bill that benefits the small farmer and in turn, the communities they live in.

Mahalo,

Kilia Purdy-Avelino

**HB-2466**

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:46:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Helmut Klauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**HB-2466**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:49:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB2466.

Sincerely, Deborah Umiamaka.

**HB-2466**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:46:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
brandon slowey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need more help!

**HB-2466**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:15:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Charles Matthew Shofman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to support our farmers and encourage more people to become farmers to ensure food sustainability on our island. We can do this with financial incentives such as tax breaks. Especially in conjunction with healthy farming practices which is why the other legislative matters (like composting, cover crops, etc) is very important too. Mahalo.

Charles Matthew Shofman

Concerned Farmer

**HB-2466**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:44:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Evan Lam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha to the Members of the Committee.

Please support this bill. Relieving kalo farmers from taxes for the first \$100,000 of income is an excellent way to support the strength of our local, decarbonized agriculture system. As a resident of Big Island, I want to be able to access kalo and kalo products but it is short supply as being a full-time farmer is unachievable for most. Allowing farmers to build income, support their families and farms before having to pay taxes is likely a highly beneficial move in the interest of Hawaii's food security.

Especially, in the face of fertilizer price spikes, food price spikes, inflation, and supply chain shortages.

Kind Regards,  
Evan

**HB-2466**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:03:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Timothy Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Help the Taro farmers. Mahalo

**HB-2466**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:32:02 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ian schiller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Pueo Orchards is in support of this bill.



**HB-2466**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 3:41:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Weston Yap	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem and the House Committee on Agriculture,

I write in support of HB 2466 to exempt from state income tax a grower's first \$100,000 of income derived from taro, taro products, and land used to produce taro. We have seen similar bills in the past.

The challenge remains how does the kalo mahi'ai prove they qualify for this benefit? I imagine the farmer's submission of accounting records to the *Department of Taxation* would be the solution, but this record keeping in a ledger or Excel spreadsheet tracking could be a new skill set for some of our taro farmers. I assume the aim is to help our small family farms. Most of the time the taro is grown for family ues. Often times taro is traded, so revenue records and pounds of production records can be sparse.

If DOT, or DBEDT could help coach our farmers on how to prepare accounting and production records, that would be a major service.

E kala mai, I may have made things more complicated, but I sincerely want to see our taro growers achieve more steady income.

Sincerely,

Weston Yap

**HB-2466**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:17:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha nui kākou

Mahalo for considering this bill to assist farmers in the cultivation and perpetuation of kalo. In Hawai'i, we need to establish stronger ways to protect kalo, wai, 'āina, mahi'ai and strengthen the industry from within. We cannot lose kalo as an Agriculture way. Helping our farmers with this exemption is important to sustaining kalo farming families. This is one step forward to food sovereignty and sustainable practices.

Mahalo nui,

Kimeona Kane

**HB-2466**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 7:36:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kenani Gramberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'd like to support this bill.