



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

GWEN S. YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HAWAII GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

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Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Tuesday, February 8, 2022
Time: 8:50 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room No. 325 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2493
RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION INCENTIVES

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2493, relating to carbon sequestration incentives. This bill proposes to establish the Hawaii Farmland & Forest Soil Health Carbon Smart Incentive Program (“Program”), to be administered by the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (“HGIA”), in collaboration with the Departments of Land and Natural Resources and Agriculture. HGIA **supports** this bill.

Through its work financing clean energy infrastructure, HGIA has been actively contributing to the State’s efforts in addressing the problem of climate change. The Program will encourage and incentivize local food producers to implement resilient practices that improves soil health and water security by providing technical support to land managers on implementing climate smart practices that restore and/or maintain soil health in forests and working agricultural lands.

This bill leverages the strengths of the Department of Agriculture (“DoA”), the Department of Land and Natural Resources (“DLNR”) and HGIA, with DoA and DLNR providing technical expertise and HGIA providing fiscal oversight and fund management of the Program.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2493.

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 ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2493

**February 8, 2022
8:50 a.m.
Room 325 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION INCENTIVES

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

House Bill No. 2493 adds a new part to Chapter 193, HRS, that establishes the Hawai'i Farmland and Forest Soil Health Carbon Smart Incentive Program (program) under the Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA) to promote carbon sequestration activities through incentives contracts that provide for compensation eligible practices by program participants; appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 for HGIA to establish 5.00 positions for the program and fund operating costs; appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to the Department of Agriculture to establish 1.00 position to provide support for the program; and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish 1.00 position to provide support for the program.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriations in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that

states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are 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 these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Tuesday, February 8, 2022
8:50 AM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2493
RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION INCENTIVES**

House Bill 2493 proposes to establish the Hawaii Farmland and Forest Soil Health Carbon Smart Incentive Program (Program) to incentivize carbon sequestration activities through compensation for eligible practices and appropriate funds for positions and for administering the Program. The bill also proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to: Identify and prioritize selected soil health and carbon positive activities; Recommend compensation rates and contract terms for eligible phase I activities; Assist in estimating sequestration rates for carbon positive practices; Serve on the reviewing committee for project applications and reports; Research and develop the technical underpinning of compensation rates for phase II eligible practices; and Conduct community and landowner outreach activities. **The Department supports this bill.**

The State of Hawaii's commitment to uphold the Paris Climate Accord and progressive move towards zero emissions clean economy by 2045 requires that we actively invest in reducing our emissions and mitigate greenhouse gases (primarily carbon dioxide - CO₂). Agriculture, Forests and other Land Uses (AFLOU) are currently the State's only carbon sink. Investing in carbon positive actions such as afforestation, reforestation, soil carbon sequestration, or local organic plant food production is one of the most effective ways to start mitigating our carbon footprint.

The Department recognizes that small land managers play a significant role in managing natural and working lands but often operate on small profit margins. Providing incentives to land managers will allow them to make changes on their lands to increase carbon sequestration and improve healthy soils to help the state meet food security and carbon emission goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Tuesday, February 8, 2022
8:50 AM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2493
RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION INCENTIVES**

House Bill 2493 proposes to establish the Hawaii Farmland and Forest Soil Health Carbon Smart Incentive Program (Program) to incentivize carbon sequestration activities through compensation for eligible practices and appropriate funds for positions and for administering the Program. The bill also proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to: Identify and prioritize selected soil health and carbon positive activities; Recommend compensation rates and contract terms for eligible phase I activities; Assist in estimating sequestration rates for carbon positive practices; Serve on the reviewing committee for project applications and reports; Research and develop the technical underpinning of compensation rates for phase II eligible practices; and Conduct community and landowner outreach activities. **The Department supports this bill.**

The State of Hawaii's commitment to uphold the Paris Climate Accord and progressive move towards zero emissions clean economy by 2045 requires that we actively invest in reducing our emissions and mitigate greenhouse gases (primarily carbon dioxide - CO₂). Agriculture, Forests and other Land Uses (AFLOU) are currently the State's only carbon sink. Investing in carbon positive actions such as afforestation, reforestation, soil carbon sequestration, or local organic plant food production is one of the most effective ways to start mitigating our carbon footprint.

The Department recognizes that small land managers play a significant role in managing natural and working lands but often operate on small profit margins. Providing incentives to land managers will allow them to make changes on their lands to increase carbon sequestration and improve healthy soils to help the state meet food security and carbon emission goals.

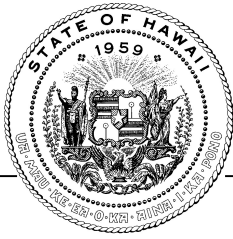
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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Web: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Coastal Zone
Management
Program

Environmental Review
Program

Land Use Commission

Land Use Division

Special Plans Branch

State Transit-Oriented
Development

Statewide Geographic
Information System

Statewide
Sustainability Branch

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

8:50 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of

HB 2493

RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION INCENTIVES.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the House Committee
on Energy and Environmental Protection:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) supports the intent of HB 2493, which establishes the Hawai'i farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentive program (program) to incentivize carbon sequestration activities through incentives contracts that provide for compensation for eligible practices by program participants and appropriates funds for positions and for administering the program.

For the past five years, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development has been researching, publishing materials, and working on carbon sequestration issues with extremely limited and no funding through the Carbon Farming Task Force (established 2017), now expanded to the permanent Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force (established in 2018). As one of the State's two climate-related boards and commissions, the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force is a 19-member permanent State task force with many experts from the forestry, agricultural, land use, environmental, academic, and soil science communities committed to the task force's subject-matter and mission set by Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) §225P-4. Since 2018, the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force received only 1 sole appropriation of \$150,000 funding, with the following direct results:

1. The creation of a ["Healthy Soils Hawai'i" Pilot Project with the Hawaii Agricultural Research Center and the Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) (the original pilot program that the proposed program in HB 2493 is modeled after)
2. [The Desktop Analysis to Compare Pathways of Carbon Storage](#) (April 2020)
3. [Hawai'i Natural and Working Lands Baseline and Benchmarks](#) (Aug 2021)

In relation to greenhouse gas sequestration, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development also published the [*Feasibility and Implications of Establishing a Carbon Offset Program in the State of Hawai'i*](#) in December 2019, strongly recommending the establishment of:

1. A greenhouse gas sequestration incentives program, and
2. A greenhouse gas reduction fund, and financing mechanisms

to subsidize and support greenhouse gas/carbon sequestration efforts within the State of Hawai'i (pages 57-59) as an alternative to establishing a Carbon Offset Program administered by the State Government.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development has a long and strong record supporting greenhouse gas sequestration, despite its funding challenges and lack of staff support to administer the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development believes that in an effort to not duplicate roles and responsibilities between state agencies and state boards and commissions that the reviewing committee as proposed on Page 7 of HB 2493, could be conducted by the State's permanent Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force, which must also provide annual reports to the Legislature on their work.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development further suggests that the language in this bill be inserted and replace the language in HRS §225P-6; since the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development has previously recommended against state-administered Carbon Offsetting.

Finally, given the intense land use planning and land management as described in HB 2493 and the OPSD's strong relationships with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, Hawai'i's four counties, and landowners across the state; the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development strongly recommends that the Legislature consider the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development as the coordinating agency of the proposed "Hawai'i farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentives program."

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development is on record for the past 5 Legislative Sessions since 2018 requesting staff support for the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force and the promotion of greenhouse gas sequestration projects and incentives. This carbon smart incentives program directly aligns with the goals of the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force, and if provided the funding, staffing, and programmatic authority in this bill, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development would be very prepared to implement this important climate mitigation program for the benefit of the State of Hawai'i, it's people, and future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022
8:50 A.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2493
RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION INCENTIVES**

Chairperson Lowen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2493 that establishes the Hawaii Farmland and Forest Soil Health Carbon Smart Incentive Program to incentivize carbon sequestration activities through incentives contracts that provide for compensation for eligible practices by program participants. This Program is to be established within the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority which is administratively attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. The Department of Agriculture offers comments.

The Department of Agriculture acknowledges that agricultural lands and agricultural operations may have a role in sequestering carbon. The program outlined in this measure is meant to achieve additional sequestration by what appears to be voluntary participation of landowners and lessees of agricultural land to undertake certain practices in exchange for compensation that is based on the amount of carbon sequestered. Participation by landowners, lessees, and particularly agricultural operators will require unambiguous evidence that such participation makes economic sense.



The bill also appropriates funds to the Department for one permanent position to support program actions on State lands and provide technical and research assistance to the program.

(page 13, line 14 to page 14, line 2)

"SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ _____ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent position to support soil health and carbon sequestration actions on state lands and provide technical and research assistance to the Hawaii farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentive program established by this Act.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of agriculture for the purposes of this Act."

The Department notes that the position, while located within the Department of Agriculture, is dedicated to assisting HGIA and the administration, development and rollout of the program. The Department is concerned with implementing a permanent program without information and metrics regarding carbon sequestration for farmers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony on this measure.

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:27:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Morris Atta	Hawaii Department of Agriculture	Comments	Yes

Comments:

I am available to answer questions on behalf of HDOA.

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:33:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
earl yamamoto	dept. of agriculture	Comments	Yes

Comments:

I will be testifying on behalf of the Department of Agriculture

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting HB 2493, RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION INCENTIVES.
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
February 8, 2022, 8:50 am
Conference Room 325 via videoconference**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) strongly supports on HB 2493, Relating to Carbon Sequestration Incentives, which would establish the Hawai'i farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentive program to incentivize carbon sequestration activities through incentives contracts that provide for compensation for eligible practices by program participants, and appropriates funds for positions and for administering the program.

As a member of the US Climate Alliance Natural and Working Lands Hawai'i Research Team (Team), TNC appreciates the opportunity to testify on this bill. As you may know the Team worked closely with the US Climate Alliance and American Forests to design this program to address the needs of our natural and working land managers.

A Hawai'i farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentive program is vital to support our local producers and reach a carbon neutral clean economy by 2045. Agriculture, forests and other land uses are currently the State's only carbon sink. Actively investing in carbon positive actions such as restoring forests through tree planting, forest protection, and improved management, soil carbon sequestration, improved pasture management, and local organic plant food production are the most effective and efficient ways to mitigate our carbon footprint. Establishing this program will help small land managers employ healthy soil and carbon smart practices to sequester additional carbon on natural and working lands.

TNC also supports the Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA) as the host of this program. Through its work financing clean energy infrastructure, HGIA has been actively contributing to the State's efforts in addressing the problem of climate change and can effectively continue this work through this program.

Carbon smart practices will not only sequester carbon but improve soil health protecting agriculture into the future, increase the amount of water that filters into our aquifers, reduce erosion and therefore protect our reefs from sedimentation and stress, and support our local producers and growers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2493.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i and Palmyra is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and work in over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties, and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and for the many benefits they provide to people.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Duke E. Ah Moo Paul D. Alston (Chair) Kris Billeter Dr. C. Tana Burkert Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III Ka'iulani de Silva
Dave Eadie Matt Emerson Hon. Judith Epstein Dr. Alan M. Friedlander Benjy Garfinkle Sean A. Hehir Brett MacNaughton
Kathy M. Matsui Janet Montag Alicia Moy Bradley E. Smith Julie Smolinski Peter K. Tomozawa Richard N. Zwern



COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

HB2493
Relating to CARBON SEQUESTRATION INCENTIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 8:50 AM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB2493** to establish the Hawaii farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentive program (program) to incentivize carbon sequestration activities.

We appreciate the legislature's acknowledgement that both forestry and regenerative agriculture can contribute to carbon sequestration and be a solution to curbing the detrimental impacts of climate change. These impacts, such as extreme weather, drought, sea level rise, are already affecting the state, and a focus on increasing local food security is necessary. We are learning more about the positive outcomes that well-managed rangelands can provide, including carbon sequestration and increased soil health, among others. A great resource is a recently published article in the Land Journal, titled "Maintaining the Societal Benefits of Rangelands: The Case of Hawaii" which can be read at <http://bit.ly/rangelandbenefits>. We highlight this because the review helps to illustrate that ranchers have the capacity, knowledge, and proven track record to maintain large land areas, thereby managing the rangelands and deriving ecosystem benefits. There are still gaps in quantifying the different benefits, and this bill will help progress to quantify those benefits while also incentivizing ranchers to either continue climate smart practices, or start new practices the increase soil health and reduce carbon emissions or sequester carbon.

We do comment that these incentives would apply to both private land owners as well as those who lease on state lands, and in order to apply these practices, long term leases are necessary. The investment in the practices and monitoring or results do not happen over a short time period, but



instead are realized over the years. This is one of the key reasons the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council advocates for agricultural leases to be transferred from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (where leases are often on revocable permits) to the Department of Agriculture where appropriate lease are given for long-term planning of agricultural operations, and aid in encouraging investment into other climate smart practices.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 9:51:08 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Henry Curtis	Life of the Land	Support	No

Comments:

Life of the Land supports this measure.

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 3:57:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
laurel brier	Kauai women's caucus	Support	No

Comments:

Sequestering carbon is a critical part of climate action. Preserving and maintaining our forests are a crucial part of the formula as well as protecting our watersheds, cooling our climate, and keeping natural environments for all our health and enjoyment. Regenerative agriculture is a powerful sequester of GHG emissions and alternative to highly carbon intensive industrial or traditional farming. This bill will benefit the local population with greater food self sufficiency and access to more nutritious food.



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 8:50am

In support of HB2493

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Energy and Environmental Protection Committee members,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **supports HB2493** that would establish the Hawaii farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentive program to incentivize carbon sequestration activities through incentives contracts that provide for compensation for eligible practices by program participants.

Establishing a farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentive program will promote keeping forests and farmlands intact and sequester additional carbon on those lands. This program will incentivize actions that will improve soil health and sequester carbon. This would allow small farmers, ranchers, foresters, and landowners to be compensated for taking measures to help Hawaii reach its climate readiness goals.

Climate change has led to an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events which increases the risks to our already vulnerable food supply chain. Hawaii needs to reduce its contribution to climate change, increase local food production, improve soil health, and secure resilient water sources through watershed protection. Programs such as the Hawaii farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentive program are an effective means to do that.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:18:34 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dave Mulinix	Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Committee Members [Hashem](#), [Matayoshi](#), [Matsumoto](#), [Perruso](#), [Todd](#), [Tokioka](#),

My name is David Mulinix, Organizer & Cofounder of Our Revolution Hawaii and on behalf of our 5,000 members and supporters statewide we stand in Strong Support of HB2493 that establishes the Hawaii farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentive program to incentivize carbon sequestration activities through incentives contracts.

This legislation is important because, just like the rest of the world, Hawaii needs to dramatically cut carbon emissions to prevent perpetual Climate Chaos. However that is not enough, Hawaii also needs to mitigate climate change by sequestering greenhouse gases through regenerative agriculture and forest preservation. HB2493 would incentivize these efforts and thereby help Hawaii reach its climate readiness goals.

Please vote in support of HB2493.

Mahalo Nui Loa for you kind attention,

David Mulinix, Organizer & Cofounder

Our Revolution Hawaii



**Testimony to
The Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection**

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

8:50 AM

VIA Video Conference

Conference Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol

HB 2493

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the committee,

Hawaii Gas **supports HB 2493**, which establishes the Hawaii farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentive program to incentivize carbon sequestration activities through incentives contracts that provide for compensation for eligible practices by program participants and appropriates funds for positions and for administering the program.

Hawaii Gas is a national leader in the production and distribution of renewable gas in a gas utility system and has committed to support the state's march towards carbon neutrality by 2045. Despite representing less than 1% of the greenhouse gases emitted into Hawaii's atmosphere, we agree that it's everyone's responsibility to do everything we can to make sure Hawaii meets that milestone.

Carbon sequestration programs have shown great promise in other states around the country, and Hawaii offers a unique environment and local species that make the state compatible with such programs. As we move towards 2045, it's important that Hawaii look to multiple avenues, fuel sources, and other opportunities to meet that goal. By incentivizing farmers in various projects — including the growth of biofuels — the state makes it possible to bring more renewable fuel options to meet our goal of carbon neutrality

We urge the committees to pass HB 2493.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 8:31:11 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair, the Honorable Lisa Marten, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing HB2493 RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION INCENTIVES.

Tuesday February 8, 2022, 8:50 a.m., by videoconference

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection!

Position: **Strongly Support INTENT OF HB2493!**

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis and encouraging Hawai'i to lead the world towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. The Climate Protectors Hawai'i **SUPPORTS the intent of HB2493!**

As a tropical island State, Hawai'i 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.

In striving to become carbon negative, it will not be enough to limit greenhouse gas emissions; we must also draw carbon down from the atmosphere. **Substantial sequestration of carbon is needed as well as major greenhouse gas emission controls.**

The purpose of this Act is to establish a Hawai'i farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentive program that will promote keeping forests and farmlands intact and sequester additional carbon on those lands.

This bill would be a significant step toward reducing atmospheric carbon that is the major cause of the climate crisis.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i urges you to pass this important bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Energy & Climate Action Committee

Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 8:30 am

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

HOUSE BILL 2493 – RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION INCENTIVES

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

The Energy and Climate Action Committee joins our sister standing committee on Agriculture and Food Security in strong support of this thoughtful and far-reaching bill. Sequestration of atmospheric carbons is one of the planet's most pressing needs for the foreseeable future, and this bill will also benefit a prime priority for Hawaii communities – food security.

Soil depletion has been a deleterious by-product of commercial agriculture for a very long time, and soil health will benefit human health in multiple ways, including the production of more nutritious food for people and animals alike, and improving air quality with healthy microbes. Hawaii has every food-bearing biome in the world, rich native soils, and often multiple growing seasons in a relatively benign climate. Hawaii should be able to grow 100% of its essential foodstuffs, and its forests and rangelands could be doing our fair share of atmospheric greenhouse gas (GHG) sequestration. In addition, this program opens the door to ending food waste and sharply curtailing waste loads needing landfill or incineration – two more obsolete practices we need to resolve.

The technical support provided under this program will be essential to broad collaboration across all landowners, and for this reason, the development of this program actually has suggested a move of this program from the Green Infrastructure Authority to the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Forestry Division, to work in conjunction with the U.S. Climate Alliance Natural and Working Lands Research Team, the Department of Agriculture, the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force, the Nature Conservancy, and the Law School.

The program has a comprehensive understanding and a long-range strategy, with an early implementation phase to gear up and subsequent implementation phases, a thoughtful presentation of eligibility, incentives, and priorities, multiple benefits, site visits, and several staffing positions to administer this complex program of outreach, technical service, loans and reviews.

One concern has been the possibility of seed corn companies taking disproportionate advantage of these provisions. The program managers can apply the multiple benefit lens in review.

We appreciate your full support of this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this matter.

Charley Ice & Ted Bohlen, Co-Chairs, Energy and Climate Action Committee
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:50:12 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keoni ford	Dibshawaii llc	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha kakou

Chair Lowen, Vice chair Marten and committee members

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony to HB2493

This is an excellent opportunity for farmers, small business, and investors whom are pivoting to advanced farming practices vertical farming, protected farming, glass house agriculture all which will require dissolved co2 for irrigation systems to increase yields and food production by 30% and mitigate disease and pathogens on crops by 70%. Grown nutrient dense food and revitalization of carbon rich soil systems is a requirement that needs our states attention.

The benefits of these actions help to offset our imports on food and the direct application of carbon dioxide being absorbed into the soil systems building carbon rich soil systems in combat of 100 year on monoculture.

The bill will allow for education and awareness to the connection between food and energy and our ability to not only sequester carbon dioxide but mitigate our carbon footprint at commercial scale through pono actions.

Dibshawaii LLC in full support and has much appreciation to this committee for putting a bill that can open a door of carbon credits, technical assistance, and a platform to grow people to grow our food locally in support of our Hawaiian lifestyle.

Mahalo

Keoni Ford President

808 554 9247

Kford@dibshawaii.com

www.dibshawaii.com

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 12:33:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Scott Wong	Ohana Hui Ventures, inc	Support	No

Comments:

We are in support of hb2493. Hawaii is long over for serious education, training and positive action towards Carbon Sequestration. Ohana Hui Ventures is partnered with a dozen local farmers and organizations focused on Carbon Capture Storage Units.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Monday, February 7, 2022

To: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Hon. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Hon. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

Re: **HB 2493 – RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION INCENTIVES**
Hearing: Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 8:50 a.m., Via Videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in strong support of HB 2493. This measure would establish the Hawaii farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentive program (Program) to incentivize carbon sequestration activities through incentives contracts that provide for compensation for eligible practices by program participants. This measure appropriates funds for positions and for administering the program.

This Program would incentivize practices that increase soil health and reduce carbon emissions through carbon sequestration and storage over a designated period on eligible land. Such practices include reforestation, building windbreaks, conservation tillage and reduced field pass intensity, improved forages, controlling invasive species, efficient nutrient management, crop diversity through rotations and cover crops, manure management, rotational grazing and improved forages, waste-stream derived amendment application, improved cropping and organic systems, and feed management.

For these reasons, the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports HB 2493 as it will incentivize programs that will assist in combating the climate crisis through soil health and carbon sequestration activities. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Melodie Aduja

Alan Burdick

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus of the
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 5:15:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Teresa Gardner	Art Farm	Support	No

Comments:

As a farmer Im in **strong support of establishing** a carbon sequestering incentive program. It may be own of the gretest contribution to our islands.



February 7, 2022

The Honorable Thirty-First Legislature, 2022
House of Representatives, State of Hawaii,
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Honorable Legislators

My name is Alika Watts, I was born in raised in Hawaii and I am in full support of HB2493, Relating to Carbon Sequestration Incentives. This bill is on track, along with several other bills introduced this year related to the importance of recovering large volumes of vented carbon dioxide emissions from Hawaii industries.

I support HB2493 dedicated focus on Hawaii's responsibility to reduce its negative contribution to climate changes and at the same time make a positive spin through sequestering carbon into the soil to produce nutrient dense soils and replenish Hawaii's soil that has been depleted from harmful pesticides and other past bad outdated farming practices

This Bill supports Hawaii's ability to grow an abundance of safe, healthy, and nutritious food through advance technological processes, such as future vertical farming. Further reducing our dependence on importing pre-ripen fruits and vegetables. Creating an abundance of healthy and nutritious agricultural products for local consumption.

Hawaii and other island communities will be the first to experience climate change thru rising sea levels. It is imperative to do our part to mitigate our carbon emissions by capturing carbon dioxide stream and making a positive spin to not only benefit the citizens of the state of Hawaii, but the world.

Eco4Life is a Hawaii based, native Hawaiian, Veteran owned, company dedicated to providing state of the art, successfully proven, next generation technological advancements, to maximize community resources by increasing self-sustainability and decreasing reliance on external imports.

Sincerely,

COL (Ret.) Alika G. Watts
President
Eco4Life LLC
(808) 223-3268
alika@eco4life.us

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:17:20 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB 2493.

Mahalo,

Barbara Barry

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/5/2022 4:20:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Dinner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe that this will make a difference in solving the climate problem and improve our soil quality on a number of levels.

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:36:43 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Paul Bernstein	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and Vice Chair Marten:

Thank you for hearing HB 2493. I'm writing in support. If Hawaii is going to meet its 2045 emissions goal of net-zero and hopes to go negative thereafter, carbon sequestration must play a significant role. Carbon sequestration is a complex issue, and therefore as a state, we need to build up infrastructure to support the study, monitoring, and achievement of it. HB2493 will help the state move forward in these areas and build up the state's capabilities to sequester as much carbon as possible in the best ways possible.

Please pass this bill out of your committee.

Mahalo nui loa,

Paul Bernstein

HB 2493 TESTIMONY

To: House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Hearing on Feb. 8, 2022 at 8:50 a.m.

From: John Kawamoto

Position: Support

Climate change is accelerating as greenhouse gases in the atmosphere rise relentlessly. Storms, wildfires, droughts, heat waves, and floods have become more extreme and more prevalent, portending a catastrophic global future. Drastic action is needed to avert the collapse of civilization as we know it.

This bill seeks to sequester carbon dioxide, the most prevalent greenhouse gas. It is one of a multitude of steps that must be taken.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this bill.

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 4:51:27 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support HB2493

I support establishing a farmland and forest soil health carbon sequestration act.

Such an act shall provide for ecologically sensitive/thoughtful incentives promoting soil health, water and carbon sequestration.

Provisions shall be made for construction grade and other commercial use clumping Bamboo species.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Neal

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 5:01:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Roseann Michaud	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. We need to keep forest and farmlands intact and incentivize carbon sequestration activities. This will help Hawaii reach its climate readiness goals.

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 6:11:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Travis Idol	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am the President of Hawaii Interfaith Power and Light (HIPL), a local nonprofit dedicated to helping religious people and communities in Hawaii respond to the climate crisis from an interfaith as well as their own personal religious beliefs, values, and vision for the future.

HIPL is in support of HB2493, a bill to support the Hawaii farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentive program. HIPL supports a holistic approach to responding to the climate crisis. It cannot just be cutting back on emissions or changing technologies to avoid greenhouse gas emissions. We need to cultivate a deeper and more meaningful relationship with the Creator and all of Creation. That relationship should result in actions and practices that support and restore the health and vitality of ourselves and the natural world. As part of that, it should reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and actually sequester atmospheric carbon into the living and vibrant systems of which we are a part.

This program can be an important part of that transformation of our perspective, relationship, actions, and outcomes. It has the potential to reduce our contribution to climate change, increase local food production, improve soil health, and secure resilient water sources through watershed protection. The Native Hawaiians cultivated these values, governance, and practices that ensured their own health and the ability to thrive in Hawaii. The phrase aina momona has been used to represent this healthful abundance that can only be achieved through this type of transformation.

This transformation requires deep personal and collective changes in values, goals, and attitudes, as well as practices in Hawaii. Thus, it is essentially a spiritual endeavor, and HIPL will strive to help bring it to fruition. But this effort can certainly be supported and facilitated by the Hawaii legislature. HB 2493 represents one important way the state can provide that support and participate in this transformation. Regenerative agriculture and forest conservation and restoration are important ways we can reduce climate-changing emissions and actually sequester greenhouse gases back into the living vibrant systems that support us all. Incentivizing Hawaii's people to engage in these activities reinforces the movement to restore amina momona.

We urge you to support HB2493.

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 12:51:26 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cara Oba	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Hello Representative Lowen and members of the EEP committee,

I just want to share that I really appreciate the basis for and direction of this bill and hope that this committee can move it forward so that there can be further public discussion around how to support positive climate actions very thoughtfully. The biggest positive to me is the bill's intent to serve the local community through trying to find opportunities to provide the most co-benefits. In particular, developing our scientific knowledge of our unique environment while building communities around resilience and awareness is a great way to address climate change. Whether we can make a dent in carbon sequestration remains to be seen but strengthening our communities, food/water systems, and knowledge promotes flexibility and readiness within our society. We can be more ready to recognize problems as they arise and be more likely to find community solutions for changing times. I would love to see this bill moved forward for discussion. Thank you!

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 5:42:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten and the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

I support HB2493 to establish a farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentive program that will promote keeping forests and farmlands intact and sequester additional carbon on those lands. Incentivizing nature—based actions that are soil health and carbon positive provide rich, diverse co-benefits such as restoring, maintaining, and improving landscape soil health and water security through payment for services programs.

Climate change has led to an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events which increases the risks to our already vulnerable food supply chain. Programs such as this that increase local food production are an effective means to promote greater food and water security.

Please support HB2493.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony for this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 7:04:08 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill supports local farmers and the environment by sequestering carbon in our soil. Please support HB2493.

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 12:04:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Saleh Azizi Fardkhales, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am fully in support of this bill that would have direct positive impacts on farming application and soil health via carbon sequestration.

We need to incentivize good climate behavior in agriculture so that Hawaii's farmers feel supported in transitioning from conventional to more sustainable land practices. Thank you

Saleh Azizi Fardkhales

8083835224

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:38:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tierra Bartolotti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i State Legislators,

I stand in full support for SB2493. By providing financial incentivizes for carbon sequestration activities, this would highly encourage more farmers to implement agroforestry techniques. This would also compensate many farmers on Hawai'i's rural outer islands whom are already acting in good faith in terms of soil conservation & land stewardship. I greatly appreciate that this bill has been introduced & is being heard.

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:54:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
DEREK CONSELVA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of Bill HB2493. My name is Derek Conselva, I am the President of Lokahi I ke Ola a Non-Profit Organization in building community farmers through education in new farm technology and the old style of Hawaiian farming from mountain to ocean. I am working with a company that is introducing carbon dioxide enrichment through irrigation systems. I will be using hemp to enrich the soil and rotate the food crops for better yields. I have ownership in a company called AKVO Ohana, we can create water from the air. With this technology, we can provide water to the farms and ranches throughout the State of Hawaii.

My goal is for a self-sustaining food-producing, Green Hawaii.

Mahalo, Derek Conselva

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:08:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Rodwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members, I am a long time Hawaii resident and an educator in our schools with a background in sustainability studies. I strongly urge the support of this Bill. Thank you!

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:24:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sidney Higa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House Bill 2493 to support Hawaii Farmland and Forest Soil Health Carbon Smart Incentive Program

Supporter Key Messages

My Name is Sidney Higa and live at 92-739 Makakilo Drive

I am a 40 year resident of Makakilo, a 24 year Military Veteran and I was born in the Ewa district when Hawaii was still a territory.

My father's family were farmers and had a Poi factory and Taro farm in Kahaluu Valley and my father worked for the sugar plantation in Ewa after returning from serving in the USMC during the Korean War.

My uncle Thomas "Taro" Higa served in the 442nd 100th battalion Military Intelligence and was a part of the group who restocked Okinawa with Pigs and other livestock after WWII left the Island barren.

Farming is not easy as referenced in Hawaii Business Magazine and my family can attest to that. The bottom line is that farming is very labor intensive, energy intensive, and water intensive and unless you can increase yields, Hawaii will not become food independent.

There are new technologies and methods that make it possible for regular farms and small urban gardens to be very productive. However these technologies are not free and farmers need to have incentives to ensure they can afford these new technologies and methods to become as productive as possible.

So I support House Bill 2493 because:

Land needs to be identified for farmers to establish new technologies and methods to increase productivity.

Invasive species need to be removed so farmers can utilize these lands for food production.

Compensation to farmers is needed to help them offset the costs to implement new technologies and methods.

Crop diversity and rotation methods are needed to help farmers maintain a steady stream of revenue.

Renewable energy and energy capture such as methane capture will help farmers cut down on energy costs.

Helping farmers helps carbon sequestration and grows food for the islands.

Sidney Higa

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:42:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Suzanne Fields	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We are again racing against time to "fix" our long-ignored agriculture community. It is critical to establish the Hawaii farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentive program to incentivize carbon sequestration activities through incentives contracts that provide for compensation for eligible practices by program participants.

Do what is right and appropriate the funds necessary for the positions and for administering the program.

I strongly support this propped legislation.

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:14:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Helmut Klauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:33:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB2493.

Sincerely, Deborah Umiamaka.

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:40:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen Reid	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha - I fully support this bill that establishes the Hawaii farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentive program (program) to incentivize carbon sequestration activities through incentives contracts that provide for compensation for eligible practices by program participants. Mahalo, Karen

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 5:09:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Charles Matthew Shofman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In Support of HB2493 Relating to Carbon Sequestration Incentives. We must do more to construct legal and social infrastructure to directing public action towards reducing the annual carbon emmisions spewed into our atmosphere. Carbon sequestration incentives are a key step in directing that public action against the envionmental threats facing Hawai'i. Mahalo.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2493 ON ESTABLISHING A FARMLAND AND FOREST SOIL HEALTH CARBON
SMART INCENTIVE PROGRAM

PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

By Sharlette Poe

February 7, 2022

Chair Nicole Lowen, Vice Chair Lisa Marten and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection. My name is Sharlette Poe and I am testifying in support of House Bill 2493, which establishes a farmland and forest soil health carbon smart incentive program that will promote keeping forests and farmlands intact and sequester additional carbon on those lands.

While I am still learning about the many important and advanced facets of carbon sequestration and its myriad resulting beneficial uses, including all the technological and technical pieces, I do understand that this program will have cascading benefits in multiple sectors leading to a more secure and resilient Hawaii. By supporting HB2493 and acting now we can increasingly reduce Hawaii's carbon footprint, reduce our dependence on food imports and mitigate our reliance upon non-sustainable and negatively impactful farming practices, while creating living-wages local jobs and opportunities for business development at the same time.

Mahalo,

Sharlette Poe

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 7:39:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

strongly support

HB-2493

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:08:54 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2022 8:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Drew Wilkinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear House Representatives,

I am in strong support of HB2493. As owner and operator of Growing Together Edible Landscaping and a small scale farm in Waialua, I believe this bill is a great step forward for Hawaii in terms of placing importance on soil health and agroforestry systems. I believe this program can not only have an impacts on carbon sequestration, but it can lead to regenerative agriculture and that is the way forward to local food production and buidling back Hawaii's soils.

thank you,

Drew Wilkinson