



Email: [communications@uluponoinitiative.com](mailto:communications@uluponoinitiative.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Tuesday, February 3, 2015 — 2:45 p.m. — Room 414

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 382, Relating to Agriculture**

Dear Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am general partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally grown food, increase renewable energy, and reduce/recycle waste. Ulupono invests in projects that have the potential to create large-scale, innovative change.

**Ulupono strongly supports SB 382**, which provides grants to qualified feed developers via the Department of Agriculture's Livestock Revitalization Program. Feed costs for livestock production in Hawai'i can comprise 70 percent of production cost, and our concern is that we need to keep our livestock producers in business. We anticipate through grass-fed initiatives and feed research, that the agricultural sector will be able to affordably produce its own feed within a few years. We cannot afford to lose our people – our ranchers, aquaculture and poultry farmers. While the industry works to create more homegrown feed, the subsidy is needed to help sustain the industry.

Furthermore, after conducting an analysis on the provisions for this bill, we believe it will help feed development research by Hawai'i Pacific University, the University of Hawai'i and other universities, as well as for businesses that raise animals that are currently under development.

We believe that working together we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta  
General Partner

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



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February 3, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 382  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 414  
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFB is in strong support of SB 382** which provides funds to allow qualified beef cattle, dairy, hog, poultry, goat, sheep, fish, and crustacean farms to apply for funds for their farms' feed expenses. It also establishes a program to provide grants for livestock feed developers.

Hawaii's livestock industry faces numerous challenges. One of their biggest challenges is the rising cost of feed for livestock production. These costs have been a contributing factor to the decline of the state's livestock industry.

In 2007, there were 5 dairies and 6 egg farms in Hawaii. Since then, 3 of those dairies and 4 off those egg farms have gone out of business. The remaining egg farms and another dairy are currently threatened with closure, due to rising production costs, primarily the cost of feed.

SB 382 will help keep fresh, locally produced milk, eggs, beef, pork, poultry, sheep, lamb, fish and crustaceans available to the residents of Hawaii and will help to revitalize our dwindling livestock industry. A decrease or absence of livestock production increases the State's reliance on the importation of food and threatens the State's food security.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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**Date:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:14:12 PM

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**SB382**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 3, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alika Atay	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strongly support

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**SB382**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 3, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB382**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 3, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**SB382**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Courtney Turner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB382**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Denise Key	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB382**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 3, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Faith Ewbank	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT SB 382 that provides financial support for animal feed development. This is of deep personal interest as I was raised on a Maui cattle ranch and understand the concerns ranch owners and operators face with rising costs and questionable quality of expensive imported feeds. Thank you, Faith Ewbank

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**SB382**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Faye L Wallace	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Date:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 3:08:21 AM

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**SB382**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 10, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
james simpliciano	HFUU, HTF	Support	No

Comments: I believe we need to look at helping to protect our local bees also. To increase of planting cover crops for feed, and seed dispersal on vacant land for our bees continue to thrive away from pesticides, and herbicides. We must really take real care of our hardest workers on the farm.

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**SB382**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 3, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mercy Ritte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB382**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 10, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Phyllis Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB382**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Jacintho	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strong Support for Livestock Feed Development. We fully depend on imported feed to feed livestock. Having a viable local feed would help.

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