

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 25, 2016
11:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 1996 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1996 HD1. The bill proposes to establish a two-year pilot project to investigate and prosecute agricultural theft and vandalism. The bill will dedicate an enforcement officer specifically to prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism incidences in the county of Hawaii; identify best practices for prevention and provide recommendations for a statewide program to address agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism. The department supports this bill provided that it does not impact the priorities submitted in the department's executive budget.

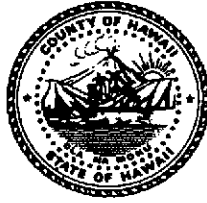
Agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism have been a constant problem for farmers on the island of Hawaii, increasing the cost of production and preventing farming operations to be successful. The vast farming land area on the island of Hawaii and limited law enforcement officers make it difficult to capture perpetrators.

If the intent of this bill is for a two-year project, the department respectfully requests that the department be allowed to submit a report of the findings and recommendations to the legislature by December 31, 2018.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



From the office of -
Council Member
District 4 – Puna Makai



Office: (808) 965-2712
Fax: (808) 965-2707
Email: gilagan@hawaiicounty.gov

GREGGOR ILAGAN

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 24, 2016

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
And Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Dear Chair Luke and Committee members,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1996, HD1, regarding agricultural theft and vandalism.

The district of Puna, a portion of which I represent on the Hawai'i County Council, has been in agricultural production for more than a century. Beginning with sugar plantations and continuing to the present day with diversified crops like papayas, macadamia nuts, avocados, ornamental flowers, and livestock. As a result, the large district of Puna is particularly susceptible to this crime, as are the other districts of Hāmākua, Hilo, Ka'ū, Kona, and Kohala.

Agricultural theft and vandalism has wide-ranging impacts in the form of lost wages for the farmer and higher food costs for the customer.

Again, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greggor Ilagan". The script is cursive and fluid.

Greggor Ilagan
Council Member

MITCHELL D. ROTH
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DALE A. ROSS
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1996 HD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 25, 2016, 11:00 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee on Finance, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in support of House Bill No. 1996 HD1.

This measure establishes a two-year Agricultural Theft Pilot Project in the Department of Agriculture to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the County of Hawai'i. Appropriates funds.

Agricultural theft and vandalism in the county of Hawai'i is not only an impediment to running a successful and profitable farming operation, but can also prove harmful to consumers. In 2011, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) halted the importation of all Mexican-sourced papayas into the United States. The FDA found salmonella in about 16% of imported papayas from Mexico and the finding of this human pathogen in papayas caused the FDA to stop the importation of a food-source from the entire country of Mexico. We cannot allow this to happen here. At the time, 65% of all U.S. imported papayas came from Mexico.

Hawai'i county is the breadbasket of the State. Having the ability to identify and track the sources of agricultural products from field to table is crucial in the event a contamination is found to exist.

Agricultural theft is a serious, ongoing problem statewide, with farmers reporting the theft of crops, animals, equipment/tools, and vandalized fences and gates. Much of the theft and trespass goes unreported, as a result, the actual losses can only be estimated, but are believed by many industry experts to run from hundreds of thousands of dollars to millions annually. This pilot project will provide an enforcement officer within the county of Hawai'i with the ability to focus on investigating and prosecuting these agricultural issues, as our over-tasked police department does not have the ability to provide a permanent officer to investigate agricultural crimes.

This pilot project has the capability to increase the safety and sustainability of our farming and agricultural industry by allowing farmers to focus less on the security of their crops and more on high-quality products and safe farming techniques. By having a committed investigator when crime, vandalism, or contamination of our agricultural products occur, we will be able to act swiftly and decisively to tackle the issues.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai‘i supports the passage of House Bill No. 1996 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



February 23, 2016

Representative Sylvia J. Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

**Comments in Support of HB 1996, H.D.1, Relating to Agriculture.
(Establishes a two-year Agricultural Theft and Vandalism Pilot Project in
the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to focus on investigating and
prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the County of
Hawaii. Appropriates funds.)**

Thursday, February 25, 2016, 11:00 a.m., in Conference Room 308

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to provide comments **in support of HB 1996, H.D.1.**

HB 1996, H.D.1. This bill proposes to establish in the DOA, a two-year agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft and vandalism in the county of Hawaii. The effort involves partnering between DOA and the County of Hawaii to hire an enforcement officer within the prosecuting attorney's office or any other law enforcement agency to assess the implementation of the pilot project, including the project's effectiveness after two years.

LURF's Position. LURF fully supports the intent of HB 1996, H.D. 1, which is to protect farmers who have been the victims of agricultural theft and vandalism for years and have reportedly suffered losses totaling millions of dollars. Currently, it is difficult for law enforcement agencies to enforce the agricultural theft and vandalism laws in effect. LURF understands that farmers have, in the past, initiated contact with the police in an attempt to work toward more effective enforcement efforts, but that such undertakings have proved unsuccessful.

The proposed pilot project should assist in, amongst other things, identifying best practices for prosecuting perpetrators of, and preventing agricultural theft and vandalism; and making recommendations for a statewide program to address this critical issue.

The bill confirms the need for collaboration amongst diverse sectors of the community - business, government, and agricultural stakeholders - and the importance for them to work together cooperatively to improve the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry.

LURF therefore **supports HB 1996, H.D.1** as an effort to promote the importance of the issue raised by the bill, as well as the issues relating to the enforcement of agricultural theft and vandalism laws. LURF further respectfully requests that the proposed project allow input by all stakeholders, including, but not limited to farmers and ranchers, government and law enforcement agencies, and legal experts in order that all interested parties may arrive at a consensus regarding the pilot project and any future statewide program that may be developed as a result.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.



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

February 25, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1996, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 308
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB strongly supports HB 1996, HD1, which would establish a two-year agricultural theft pilot project to work with the county of Hawaii to hire an enforcement officer within the county of Hawaii to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft.

Agricultural theft and vandalism are persistent problems facing agriculture. Weather, drought, pests, weeds, disease, activists, unstable markets, transportation and labor issues, and a changing climate all contribute to uncertainty for farmers and ranchers. Few businesses face such challenges, yet we are charged with producing food, fiber, fuel and flowers for the 99% of non-farmers. Add in the constant threat and impacts of trespass, theft and vandalism, and it's a wonder farms and ranches remain viable.

In working with our members, HDOA, and law enforcement, we have collectively concluded that a dedicated enforcement officer housed in the county prosecutor's office would be a giant step forward in minimizing agricultural crimes and enhancing public safety. Too often a farmer or rancher has sweated, worried, and worked to the bone to produce a crop, only to wake up one morning to find that an opportunistic criminal has helped himself to the harvest. Farmers and ranchers are fed up with this activity and frankly, deserve better. We understand that law enforcement resources are often prioritized for public health and safety. Is the health, safety and livelihood of a farmer and his family any less important? We think not.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HTFC

Hawaii Tropical Flower Council

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016
State of Hawaii



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2016

11:00 A.M.

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act

HB1996 HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

We SUPPORT House Bill 1996 HD1.

There has been an increase in theft that unfortunately targets Agriculture and it is clear that steps need to be taken to stop potential financial hardships to farmers..

Farms are being viewed as an easy source to thieves due to their size, open nature and lack of presence at night. We know of many farms that have been a recently victimized in theft, losing vehicles, farm equipment and other necessary supplies.

We supports this bill and hope that with passing, it will be of help to farmers, so that we may concentrate on being farmers and not security guards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thong Teng Neo", written over a horizontal line.

Thong Teng Neo
Vice President
Hawaii Tropical Flower Council

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 6:26 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: gordines@kauaiflowers.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1996 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM

HB1996

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Hawaii Tropical Flowers & Foliage Assn.	Support	No

Comments: Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016 State of Hawaii COMMITTEE ON FINANCE Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2016 11:00 A.M. Conference Room 308 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street A bill for an act HB1996 HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE. We SUPPORT House Bill 1996 HD1. There has been an increase in theft that unfortunately targets Agriculture and it is clear that steps need to be taken to stop potential financial hardships to farmers.. Farms are being viewed as an easy source to thieves due to their size, open nature and lack of presence at night. We know of many farms that have been a recently victimized in theft, losing vehicles, farm equipment and other necessary supplies. We supports this bill and hope that with passing, it will be of help to farmers, so that we may concentrate on being farmers and not security guards.

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HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

HCIA 2014 - 2016 Board of Directors

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Laurie Yoshida

President Emeritus
Mark Phillipson

Executive Director
Bennette Misalucha

OUR MISSION

HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices and build a healthy economy.

In Strong support of HB 1996-HD1
Relating to Agricultural Theft

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Feb. 25, 2016 . 11 am. House conference room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and members of the Agriculture Committee,

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA). HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization promoting agricultural bio tech to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy state economy.

HCIA is in full support of the intent of HB1996-HD1.

We recognize that there are many challenges that confront today's farmers: weather, pests, soil conditions, among many. Unfortunately, for some, there is also the issue of agricultural theft and vandalism. It is a serious ongoing problem with reports of thefts of crops, machinery and tools, animals and the vandalism of property, fences and gates or equipment.

We have seen these instances particularly on the Big Island with papaya farms indiscriminately victimized. We assert that there needs to be additional focus on this crime since the perpetuation of these acts have increased the cost of production and stymied agriculture.

With the proposed pilot program, it definitely will be a step in the right direction of seeing justice appropriately served.

We humbly ask for the Committees' support of HB 1999-HD1.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Bennette Misalucha
Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT Y. NISHIMOTO, VICE CHAIR**

DATE: Thursday, February 16, 2016
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 312

HB 1996 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Establishes a two-year Agricultural Theft and Vandalism Pilot Project in the Department of Agriculture to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the County of Hawaii. Appropriates funds.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dale Sandlin, and I am Managing Director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 140+ 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 approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports** HB 1996 HD1 as this bill addresses agricultural theft and vandalism, issues felt in all agricultural industries in Hawaii.

This issue has become a major problem for ranchers across the state. Many ranchers feel the effects from the actions of trespassers. These include the cut fences, damage to infrastructure, vandalism and damage to farm infrastructure and theft of private property.

Ranchers often experience stretches of fence that have been cut or laid down. Up to 800 feet of fence in one stretch has been found destroyed by the actions of these trespassers. At times these pastures can contain cattle or other livestock and the trespassers actions produce an access point for the livestock to get out. This can lead to other unintended consequences including an animal loose on the roadway or onto a neighboring residential property and could lead to a threat to the animal's safety and that of the public safety.

Damages to infrastructure can also be very costly. Many ranchers utilize gravity flow water systems with flexible pipe to serve remote water troughs for their cattle. Some ranchers have discovered these flexible pipes broken by trespassers, causing great expense to fix these issues.

Our ranchers have also experienced theft of private property including gas cans, chains, spotlights, or anything that they can be easily removed. Ranchers and farmers have installed large and elaborate locking systems to secure their private property and protect themselves from theft and vandalism. Also, gates have been pulled down and boulders that were placed to prevent access have been removed hours after being installed.

The penalties for trespassing carry little penalty and are difficult to prove. This pilot program should help to address these issues.

We ask this committee pass this important measure and we appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony.





Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016
State of Hawaii

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2016

11:00 A.M.

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act

HB1996 HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) **SUPPORTS** House **Bill 1996 HD1.**

Our industry has noticed an increase in theft targeting Agriculture and agree that steps do need to be taken to help ease the burden off farmers.

We find it unfortunate that farms are being viewed as an easy source of theft due to their size and open nature. My own farm of Green Point Nurseries has been a victim of theft, with vehicles and farm equipment and supplies being stolen. We feel the need to patrol our farms at night and worry that we will be unable to work the next day with tools and supplies gone missing, or that all of our hard work will go towards replacing the items that were stolen.

HFNA supports this bill that will help everyone understand this problem that is facing agriculture and hope that it will help farmers to continue to be farmers.

We thank you for your consideration of HB1996 HD1. If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,



Eric S. Tanouye
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 9:36 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: katc31999@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1996 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM*

HB1996

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katarina Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 9:33 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: shannonkona@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1996 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM

HB1996

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

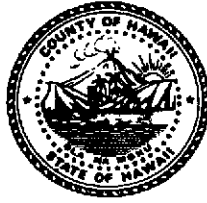
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support

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From the office of -
Council Member
District 4 – Puna Makai



Office: (808) 965-2712
Fax: (808) 965-2707
Email: gilagan@hawaiiicounty.gov

GREGGOR ILAGAN
25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

LATE

February 24, 2016

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
And Members of the Committee on Finance

Dear Chair Luke and Committee members,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1996, HD1, regarding agricultural theft and vandalism.

The district of Puna, a portion of which I represent on the Hawai'i County Council, has been in agricultural production for more than a century. Beginning with sugar plantations and continuing to the present day with diversified crops like papayas, macadamia nuts, avocados, ornamental flowers, and livestock. As a result, the large district of Puna is particularly susceptible to this crime, as are the districts of Hāmākua, Hilo, Ka'ū, Kona, and Kohala.

Agricultural theft and vandalism has wide-ranging impacts in the form of lost wages for the farmer and higher food costs for the customer.

Again, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Greggor Ilagan
Council Member

*From: JEFF MARCUS <jmarcus@interpac.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:36 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft*

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY ON HB 1996 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE THEFT

STRONGLY SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Luke and Committee Members

I support Hb 1996 HD1 which establishes a two-year agricultural theft pilot project to work with the county of Hawaii to hire an enforcement officer within the county of Hawaii to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft.

Agricultural theft is a serious, ongoing problem statewide, with farmers reporting the theft of crops, animals, equipment/tools, and vandalized fences and gates. Much of the theft and trespass goes unreported, as a result, the actual losses can only be estimated, but are believed by many industry experts to run from hundreds of thousands of dollars to millions annually.

This pilot project will provide an enforcement officer within the county of Hawai'i with the ability to focus on investigating and prosecuting these agricultural issues, as our over-tasked police department does not have the resources to provide a permanent officer to investigate agricultural crimes.

Thank you for the Opportunity to testify on this matter.

JEFF MARCUS

Kurtistown, HI

*From: Rhonda Stoltzfus <Stoltzfus34@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:18 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft*

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY ON HB 1996 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE THEFT

STRONGLY SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Luke and Committee Members

I support Hb 1996 HD1 as Hawai'i County is the breadbasket of the State. Having the ability to identify and track the sources of agricultural products from field to table is crucial in stopping ag theft.

Agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism have been a constant problem for farmers on the island of Hawaii, increasing the cost of production and preventing farming operations to be successful. The vast farming land area on the island of Hawaii and limited law enforcement officers make it difficult to capture perpetrators.

The penalties for trespassing carry little penalty and are difficult to prove. This pilot program should help to address these issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Rhonda Stoltzfus

Kihei, HI

From: Jerry Brower <letfarmersfarm@jbbrower.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:16 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

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The penalties for trespassing carry little penalty and are difficult to prove. This pilot program should help to address these issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Jerry Brower

Hilo, HI

*From: Susan Hicks <butterflysh@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:12 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft*

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY ON HB 1996 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE THEFT

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This pilot project will provide an enforcement officer within the county of Hawai'i with the ability to focus on investigating and prosecuting these agricultural issues, as our over-tasked police department does not have the resources to provide a permanent officer to investigate agricultural crimes.

Thank you for the Opportunity to testify on this matter.

Susan Hicks

Keaau, HI

*From: Darcey Nobriga <info@heartofpalmhi.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:01 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft*

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY ON HB 1996 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE THEFT

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Thank you for the Opportunity to testify on this matter.

Darcey Nobriga

Laupahoehoe, HI

*From: Margaret Farias <mefarias@whshipman.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:00 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft*



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY ON HB 1996 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE THEFT

STRONGLY SUPPORT

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Margaret Farias

Keaau, HI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 7:48 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sarahentm@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1996 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM

LATE

HB1996

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Thompson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We SUPPORT House Bill 1996 HD1. There has been an increase in theft that unfortunately targets Agriculture and it is clear that steps need to be taken to stop potential financial hardships to farmers.. Farms are being viewed as an easy source to thieves due to their size, open nature and lack of presence at night. We know of many farms that have been a recently victimized in theft, losing vehicles, farm equipment and other necessary supplies. We supports this bill and hope that with passing, it will be of help to farmers, so that we may concentrate on being farmers and not security guards.

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

*From: Jon Tanouye <jon@greenpointnursery.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 7:37 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft*

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY ON HB 1996 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE THEFT

STRONGLY SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Luke and Committee Members

I support Hb 1996 HD1 as Hawai'i County is the breadbasket of the State. Having the ability to identify and track the sources of agricultural products from field to table is crucial in stopping ag theft.

Agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism have been a constant problem for farmers on the island of Hawaii, increasing the cost of production and preventing farming operations to be successful. The vast farming land area on the island of Hawaii and limited law enforcement officers make it difficult to capture perpetrators.

The penalties for trespassing carry little penalty and are difficult to prove. This pilot program should help to address these issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Jon Tanouye

Keaau, HI

*From: Alan Gottlieb <gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 6:38 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft*

LATE

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This pilot project will provide an enforcement officer within the county of Hawai'i with the ability to focus on investigating and prosecuting these agricultural issues, as our over-tasked police department does not have the resources to provide a permanent officer to investigate agricultural crimes.

Thank you for the Opportunity to testify on this matter.

Alan Gottlieb

Kamuela, HI

From: Kathleen Hashimoto <kathyhashimoto@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 6:37 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

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Kathleen Hashimoto

Kailua, HI

From: Ross Sibucan <Farmboyhawaii@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 6:31 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft



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Ross Sibucan

Hilo, HI

From: Curt Oishi <curtsoishi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 6:17 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

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Curt Oishi

Hilo, HI

*From: Renee Kester <rkester1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 6:00 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft*



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Renee Kester

Kaunakakai, HI

From: Matthew Graham <Grahammr@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 5:48 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

LATE

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Matthew Graham

Kihei, HI

*From: Robert Gandia <bitos1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 5:21 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft*

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Robert Gandia

Kekaha, HI

*From: Stephanie Iona <StepanieIona@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 5:18 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft*

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FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

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Thank you for the Opportunity to testify on this matter.

Stephanie Iona

Waimea, HI

From: Bill Walter <wwalter@whshipman.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 5:14 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

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Bill Walter

Keaau, HI

*From: Richard Ha <Richard@hamakuasprings.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 4:56 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft*

LATE

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FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY ON HB 1996 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE THEFT

STRONGLY SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Luke and Committee Members

If the farmer makes money, the farmer will farm.

I support Hb 1996 HD1 as Hawai'i County is the breadbasket of the State. Having the ability to identify and track the sources of agricultural products from field to table is crucial in stopping ag theft.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Richard Ha

Hilo, HI

*From: Carl Roth <Bigdadcdr@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 1:31 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft*

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Carl Roth

Mililani, HI

From: Kylie Matsuda-Lum <kylie@kahukufarms.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 1:30 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

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Kylie Matsuda-Lum

Kahuku, HI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 12:37 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lorie.farrell@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1996 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM

LATE

HB1996

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorie Farrell	Hawaii Farmers & Ranchers United	Support	No

Comments: STRONGLY SUPPORT

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*From: Richard Manshardt <manshard@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 12:32 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft*

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Richard Manshardt

Honolulu, HI

*From: Lorie Farrell <lorie.farrell@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 12:14 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft*

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Lorie Farrell

Honokaa, HI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:10 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1996 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM*

LATE

HB1996

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:59 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: shyla.moon@ymail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1996 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM

LATE

HB1996

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Hunting Farming Fishing Association	Support	No

Comments: Strongly supports the efforts to help agriculture protect their assets/food.

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*From: Maria Larriera <alejandralarriera@yahoo.es>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:47 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft*



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Thank you for the Opportunity to testify on this matter.

Maria Larriera

Kihei, HI

From: Rhonda Stoltzfus <Stoltzfus34@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:36 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

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Rhonda Stoltzfus

Kihei, HI

From: Sarah Thompson <sarahentm@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:25 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

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Sarah Thompson

Lawai, HI

*From: Joni Kamiya <JoniKamiya@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:20 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft*

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Joni Kamiya

Kaneohe, HI



Orchid Growers Of Hawaii

P.O. Box 4153 Hilo Hawaii 96720

Email : info@ogoh.org

Website : www.ogoh.org

February 24, 2016

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016 State of Hawaii

Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Thursday February 25, 2016

11:00 am

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

HB1996 HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

We Strongly SUPPORT House Bill 1996 HD1

I am the current President of the Orchid Growers of Hawaii (OGOH) a statewide association of more than 60 commercial cut flower and potted plant Orchid Nurseries.

We SUPPORT House Bill 1996 HD1.

There has been an increase in theft that unfortunately targets Agriculture and it is clear that steps need to be taken to stop potential financial hardships to farmers..

Farms are being viewed as an easy source to thieves due to their size, open nature and lack of presence at night. We know of many farms that have been a recently victimized in theft, losing vehicles, farm equipment and other necessary supplies often repeatedly.

We supports this bill and hope that with passing, it will be of help to farmers, so that we may concentrate on being farmers and not security guards.

Sincerely,

Elton Mow
President,
Orchid Growers of Hawaii (OGOH)

Elton Mow
OGOH President



LATE

Orchid Growers Of Hawaii

P.O. Box 4153 Hilo Hawaii 96720

Email : info@ogoh.org

Website : www.ogoh.org

February 24, 2016

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016 State of Hawaii

Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Thursday February 25, 2016

11:00 am

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

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Sincerely,

Elton Mow
President,
Orchid Growers of Hawaii (OGOH)

Elton Mow
OGOH President

FINTestimony

From: Dean Okimoto <nalofarms@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 12:05 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY ON HB 1996 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE THEFT

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Dean Okimoto

Waimanalo, HI

FINTestimony

From: masao nakamura <nakamura1382@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 11:45 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

LATE

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masao nakamura

Hilo, HI

LATE

FINTestimony

From: Edie Ratum-Nagtalon <ernagtalon.4777@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 11:15 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

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I support Hb 1996 HD1 which establishes a two-year agricultural theft pilot project to work with the county of Hawaii to hire an enforcement officer within the county of Hawaii to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft.

Agricultural theft is a serious, ongoing problem statewide, with farmers reporting the theft of crops, animals, equipment/tools, and vandalized fences and gates. Much of the theft and trespass goes unreported, as a result, the actual losses can only be estimated, but are believed by many industry experts to run from hundreds of thousands of dollars to millions annually.

This pilot project will provide an enforcement officer within the county of Hawai'i with the ability to focus on investigating and prosecuting these agricultural issues, as our over-tasked police department does not have the resources to provide a permanent officer to investigate agricultural crimes.

Thank you for the Opportunity to testify on this matter.

Edie Ratum-Nagtalon

Honolulu, HI

From: Lisa Nakamura <Hula2271@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 10:38 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY ON HB 1996 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE THEFT

STRONGLY SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Luke and Committee Members

I support Hb 1996 HD1 as Hawai'i County is the breadbasket of the State. Having the ability to identify and track the sources of agricultural products from field to table is crucial in stopping ag theft.

Agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism have been a constant problem for farmers on the island of Hawaii, increasing the cost of production and preventing farming operations to be successful. The vast farming land area on the island of Hawaii and limited law enforcement officers make it difficult to capture perpetrators.

The penalties for trespassing carry little penalty and are difficult to prove. This pilot program should help to address these issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Lisa Nakamura

Honolulu, HI

LATE

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 10:26 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: janetmason@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1590 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

HB1590

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Mason	League of Women Voters of Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments: The League will provide comments only in written testimony

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 12:07 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: surfgeorge@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1996 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM*

HB1996

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Pace	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

From: Dennis Miyamoto <dennmiya@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 9:09 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY ON HB 1996 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE THEFT

STRONGLY SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Luke and Committee Members

I support Hb 1996 HD1 as Hawai'i County is the breadbasket of the State. Having the ability to identify and track the sources of agricultural products from field to table is crucial in stopping ag theft.

Agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism have been a constant problem for farmers on the island of Hawaii, increasing the cost of production and preventing farming operations to be successful. The vast farming land area on the island of Hawaii and limited law enforcement officers make it difficult to capture perpetrators.

The penalties for trespassing carry little penalty and are difficult to prove. This pilot program should help to address these issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Dennis Miyamoto

Honolulu, HI

From: Tad Sumida <tad.bibuilt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 9:08 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY ON HB 1996 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE THEFT

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Tad Sumida

Hilo, HI

From: GLENN TOYAMA <hawaflowgrdnflow@iglide.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 9:01 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY ON HB 1996 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE THEFT

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

GLENN TOYAMA

MOUNTAIN VIEW, HI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:53 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: meedolly@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1996 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM

HB1996

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
taylor sumida	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB1996 HD1

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: peter houle <houlep1234@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 10:25 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY ON HB 1996 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE THEFT

STRONGLY SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Luke and Committee Members

I support Hb 1996 HD1 which establishes a two-year agricultural theft pilot project to work with the county of Hawaii to hire an enforcement officer within the county of Hawaii to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft.

Agricultural theft is a serious, ongoing problem statewide, with farmers reporting the theft of crops, animals, equipment/tools, and vandalized fences and gates. Much of the theft and trespass goes unreported, as a result, the actual losses can only be estimated, but are believed by many industry experts to run from hundreds of thousands of dollars to millions annually.

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Thank you for the Opportunity to testify on this matter.

peter houle

keaau, HI

LATE

From: Julie Ratum <ichthus808@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 10:22 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY ON HB 1996 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE THEFT

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Julie Ratum

honolulu, HI

From: yellowohia@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 10:19 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

LATE

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Thank you for the Opportunity to testify on this matter.

HI

From: HI PAPAYA INDUSTRY ASSN <papayas@aloha.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 10:18 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY ON HB 1996 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE THEFT

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HI PAPAYA INDUSTRY ASSN

Hilo, HI

LATE

From: Mario Gaggero <tanegg@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 10:17 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mario Gaggero

Kihei, HI

LATE

From: Rhonda Russell <rrussell@keck.hawaii.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 9:34 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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Rhonda Russell

HONOKAA, HI

From: JAMES FANG <jamesfang@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 2:03 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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JAMES FANG

Mountain View, HI

LATE

From: Alicia Wills <alicia@palmvalleyfarm.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 2:00 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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Alicia Wills

Hakalau, HI

From: Andrew Yamada <yamadaa008@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 1:57 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

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Andrew Yamada

Mililani, HI

From: David S De Luz Jr <djr@teamdeluz.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 3:01 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 in Conference Room 308

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Thank you for the Opportunity to testify on this matter.

David S De Luz Jr

Hilo, HI

FINTestimony

From: Lukas Kambic <luke.kambic@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 12:12 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I Support HB 1996 - Relating to Ag Theft

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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Lukas Kambic

Hilo, HI