SHAN S. TSUTSUI Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER 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 SCOTT E. ENRIGHT CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 26, 2015 10:30 A.M. ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 205 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 205. This bill would amend Section 226-7(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to include the following two new agriculture objectives: to perpetuate, promote and increase traditional Hawaiian farming, and to increase and develop small-scale farms. The Department of Agriculture (DOA) supports the intent of this bill and provides comments.

The Department supports the practice of traditional Hawaiian farming as a means to promote Hawaii's agricultural self-sufficiency. The DOA also supports all forms of commercial agricultural activities on a farm, regardless of size. After the state of Arizona, Hawaii's median farm size of five acres is the second smallest in the nation. We note that in the Hawaii State Plan's Economic Priority Guidelines under section 226-103(d)(8), HRS, support of small scale farms is recognized through "continu[ing] the development of agricultural parks and other programs to assist small independent farmers in securing agricultural lands and loans." Thus, we believe that the second part of the bill, to increase and develop small scale farms, may not be necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





HB205 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE House Committee on Agriculture

February 26, 2015 10:30 a.m. Room 312

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) <u>STRONGLY SUPPORTS</u> HB205, which is part of OHA's 2015 Legislative Package. HB205 promotes the food security, self-sufficiency, and cultural heritage of our islands, by recognizing the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian traditional farming techniques and crops and the growth and development of small farms, as agricultural objectives of the State.

OHA is the constitutionally-established agency responsible for protecting and promoting the rights and interests of Native Hawaiians. Accordingly, OHA has a kuleana to ensure the perpetuation of traditional practices and technologies, as well as advocate for the appropriate and sustainable use and development of our beneficiaries' ancestral lands.

Time-tested Native Hawaiian traditional farming methods represent successful agricultural technologies that are ecologically sustainable, culturally significant, and critical to Hawai'i's long-term food security and self-sufficiency goals. Traditional Native Hawaiian farming techniques, such as loko i'a and lo'i kalo, are integrated into natural ecological systems, and have a minimal impact on our environment while allowing our agricultural resources to remain viable for generations. These agricultural methods and crops are particularly suitable for our climate, and history demonstrates their ability to sustain a population commensurate with that of our islands today. In addition, traditional farming communities act as critical repositories of cultural knowledge and values. Therefore, promoting traditional farming methods and crops also supports the cultural heritage of our state.

Similarly, supporting Hawai'i's small farms, many of which already utilize such traditional farming methods, would also provide a substantial and durable increase in local food production. As noted in this bill, the United Nations Committee on Trade and Development strongly urges the promotion of both traditional farming methods and small farms as an essential response to the threat of climate change to regional food security. The flexibility and resilience of a well-developed small farm network will provide the greatest assurances of a local food supply notwithstanding changing environmental conditions, while also reducing our dependency on imported agricultural products.

OHA notes that this measure may also represent an investment in our islands' economic stability. Small farms are small businesses. Supporting small farming operations in Hawai'i supports our local economy and the spirit of entrepreneurship, in the same manner as supporting other sectors of the small business community.

Finally, this bill levels the playing field for traditional agriculture and small farms, by expressly allowing state agencies to consider these important components of food security and self-sufficiency in supporting programs, leasing lands, and taking other relevant actions. This would ensure that traditional Hawaiian agriculture and small-scale farms are prioritized equally, while still maintaining priorities for large-scale farming operations that are already recognized in the state planning act. Such a diversified agriculture portfolio with both small- and large-scale farming operations, along with a variety of crops and farming technologies, will better ensure our islands' food security and resilience to unexpected impacts, as well as celebrate our cultural heritage and values.

As a housekeeping matter, OHA notes that the word "ulu" on page 6, line 7, is missing an 'okina; the correct spelling should be "<u>'</u>ulu". Accordingly, OHA would appreciate a technical amendment to correct this misspelling.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB205. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Agriculture Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 10:30 am By Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor And Maria Gallo, Dean And J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 205 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, we respectfully submit testimony in <u>support</u> of HB 205, which updates the State's agricultural planning statute to add the growth and development of traditional Hawaiian farming systems and traditional Hawaiian crops, and the growth and development of small-scale farms, as agricultural objectives.

We fully support both inclusion of traditional crops and agricultural practices, and support for small farms in the economic objectives for the State of Hawai'i. The most recent (2012) census documents that 63% of the 7,000 farms in the State are less than 10 acres in size. These very small farms produce family food, vegetables and animal products for local sale and consumption, and such high value crops as herbs and cut flowers. Further, 88% of our farms are less than 50 acres in size, and would still be considered small by many standards. These small and very small farms represent diversified agriculture in Hawaii, and in large part are the agricultural clients served by the extension service of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Traditional crops such as taro and breadfruit are nutritious, culturally significant and viewed as essential components of food security in Hawai'i; and are also now recognized as having great potential value for export as well (e.g., gluten-free breadfruit flour). Traditional agricultural practices are not only valuable means of crop production, but also serve to inform all agricultural development in the Hawaiian Islands.

Thank you for this opportunity to express the support of the University of Hawai'i for HB 205.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair Mason K. Chock Gary L. Hooser Arryl Kaneshiro KipuKai Kuali'i JoAnn A. Yukimura



Council Services Division 4396 Rice Street, Suite 209 Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 24, 2015

TESTIMONY OF MASON K. CHOCK COUNCILMEMBER, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL ON HB 205, RELATED TO AGRICULTURE House Committee on Agriculture Thursday, February 26, 2015 10:30 a.m. Conference Room 312

Dear Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 205, Related to Agriculture. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as Planning Committee Chair and as an individual Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council.

The purpose of HB 205 is to expand the agricultural objectives of the State to include traditional Hawaiian farming systems, traditional Hawaiian crops, and small-scale farming. It is important for our State to continue its efforts to perpetuate and promote greater self-sufficiency, crop diversity, and food security in our islands, which I wholeheartedly support.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the House Committee on Agriculture to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

MASON K. CHOCK Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

Ricky Watanabe, County Clerk Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, Deputy County Clerk

> Telephone (808) 241-4188 Fax (808) 241-6349 Email cokcouncil@kauai.gov

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, Deputy County Clerk

Fax

Ricky Watanabe, County Clerk

Telephone (808) 241-4188

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(808) 241-6349

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair Mason K. Chock Gary L. Hooser Arryl Kaneshiro KipuKai Kuali'i JoAnn A. Yukimura



Council Services Division 4396 Rice Street, Suite 209 Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 24, 2015

TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALI'I COUNCILMEMBER, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL ON HB 205, RELATED TO AGRICULTURE House Committee on Agriculture Thursday, February 26, 2015

10:30 a.m.

Conference Room 312

Dear Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 205, Related to Agriculture. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Chair and as an individual Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council.

The purpose of HB 205 is to expand the agricultural objectives of the State to include traditional Hawaiian farming systems, traditional Hawaiian crops, and small-scale farming. As the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Chair on the Kaua'i County Council, I wholeheartedly support efforts that perpetuate and promote greater self-sufficiency, crop diversity, and food security in our islands. Hawai'i's traditional farming systems are important agricultural technologies that have sustained a thriving and robust community for many years. These traditional systems continue to play a key role in providing agricultural products for food, medicine, and many cultural practices today. By including traditional Hawaiian farming systems, traditional Hawaiian crops, and small-scale farming in the State's agricultural planning statute, we are ensuring the growth and development of this sector for the future while perpetuating the Hawaijan culture.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the House Committee on Agriculture to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

Augurtan Quali

KIPUKAI KUALI'I Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs P. O. Box 1135 Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

HB 205 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Thu; 02/26/15; 10:30 am; Room 312

Aloha Chairman Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and members of the House Committee on Agriculture. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC), founded in 1918 by Prince Kuhio as an advocacy organization on behalf of Native Hawaiians, supports this bill. What began with one club 95 years ago now stands at sixty-seven component clubs throughout Hawaii and sixteen states of the continent.

At the AHCC quarterly Board meeting in January staff of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) presented their legislative package. HB205 is one of those measures that were presented and after some discussion the Board agreed to support the OHA bills.

HB205 is intended to update the State's agriculture planning to include growth and development of traditional Hawaiian farming and crops. While there is an element of customs and culture involved, it is also plain good sense to encourage crop diversity and assure sustainability here in Hawaii.

Traditional plants, proven over centuries to be suitable for Hawaii's climate and growing conditions, are a natural extension into modern Hawaii's attempts at farming and self-sufficiency. We would like to suggest that the rehabilitation of Hawaiian fishponds should also be considered when discussing food sustainability as a form of ingenious

near-shore ocean farming that worked successfully for many generations of Hawaiians.

It's very unfortunate that once highly productive fishponds have been filled in or converted to other purposes – i.e. Wailupe and Niu fishponds developed for high-end homes, and Kawainui(Kailua) and Nuupia (Kaneohe Marine Base) fishponds are now protected as bird sanctuaries. Fish from those few ponds alone could easily feed thousands of people and assure food sustainability efforts for Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB205.

Contact: Jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, February 24, 2015 8:41 PM
То:	AGRtestimony
Cc:	darakawa@lurf.org
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM

<u>HB205</u>

Submitted on: 2/24/2015 Testimony for AGR on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS HB 205, Relating to Agriculture, which proposes to include traditional Hawaiian farming and small-scale farming to the objectives and policies for the State economy.

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.



Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth in Support of HB205 Related to Agriculture

House Committee on Agriculture 26 February 2015, 10:30am, Room 312

Audrey Newman Hawai'i Green Growth P.O. Box 535 Hoʻolehua, Hawai'i 96729

Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 70 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) supports the Office of Hawaiian Affairs priority HB205 to update the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives to support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops, and small farms.

The language proposed by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs recognizes the important role of traditional farming and Native Hawaiian cultural practices in building a more sustainable, resilient future for Hawai'i. This bill seeks the promotion and growth of traditional Hawaiian agricultural technologies – including loko i'a (fishponds), māla (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated patches) – crops, and small-scale farms to perpetuate culture, support disaster preparedness, and food security in a changing climate.

In addition to supporting local agriculture and perpetuating Native Hawaiian culture, **HB205** will help us to continue building smart sustainable communities and aid in climate resilience. This bill will advance action on the *Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona 'Ae'oia*, a joint leadership commitment to achieve six sustainability targets by 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, green jobs and education. The *Aloha+ Challenge* was unanimously endorsed by the 2014 Legislature (SCR 69), and signed by Hawai'i's Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The *Aloha+ Challenge* was also internationally recognized as a model of integrated sustainability at the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa.

We respectfully urge your support for HB205. Mahalo nui for your consideration,

Audrey Newman Senior Advisor, Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) *Bringing leaders together to achieve sustainability in Hawai'i & be a model for a green economy* http://www.hawaiigreengrowth.org

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, February 23, 2015 3:07 PM
То:	AGRtestimony
Cc:	samkapoi@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM

<u>HB205</u>

Submitted on: 2/23/2015 Testimony for AGR on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT HB205 which updates the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives to support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops, and small farms. Currently, our State Planning Act prioritizes sugar and pineapple industries and diversified agriculture. Although these objectives have merit, I believe it should be updated to reflect community-driven efforts to feed Hawaii's communities through traditional Hawaiian farming practices and small farms from mauka to makai. I feel we can support the State's efforts to further food security and self-sufficiency by prioritizing traditional Hawaiian agriculture technologies such as loko i'a (fishponds), mala (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated patches). These agricultural systems have historically fed large number Hawaiian communities with minimal impact to the environment. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

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.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, February 23, 2015 5:19 PM
То:	AGRtestimony
Cc:	snfire2001@hotmail.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM* $$

<u>HB205</u>

Submitted on: 2/23/2015 Testimony for AGR on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Autumn Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, February 24, 2015 6:11 AM
То:	AGRtestimony
Cc:	malia.hulleman@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM

<u>HB205</u>

Submitted on: 2/24/2015 Testimony for AGR on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Malia Hulleman	Individual	Support	No	

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT HB205 which updates the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives to support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops, and small farms. As a Native Hawaiian young adult I have grown without the knowledge of my ancestors, yet I walk the same land as they do. Support for traditional Hawaiian techniques such as loko i'a *fishpond, mala *gardens, and lo'i *irrigated patches will not only perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and help our keiki grow with the mana'o *knowledge of our culture, but it will also create a sufficient amount of sustainable practices that will help to feed our community. Our islands are meant to be farmed on, our soil is rich in nutrients (what hasn't been GMO'd yet) and is waiting for it's kanaka *people to mālama *take care of it so that it can take care of us by providing us food. It's sustainable food for everyone. No kou mālama 'ana i ka 'āina, na ka 'āina e mālama iā 'oe

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.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, February 23, 2015 5:38 PM
То:	AGRtestimony
Cc:	mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM* $$

<u>HB205</u>

Submitted on: 2/23/2015 Testimony for AGR on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony Submitted to the Committee on Agriculture In Support of HB205

HOUSE BILL NO. 205 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of traditional Hawaiian farming and small-scale farming to the objective and policies for Hawai'i's economy. Both traditional Hawaiian farming and small-scale farming are pivotal to the sustainability of our island home and our nation as a whole. These methods of farming contribute positively in cultivating future farmers, contributing to our food security (and ultimately our food sovereignty) and increasing our capacity to diversify our economy.

Cultivating future farmers

According to the 2012 U.S.Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistics Service, the average age of Hawai'i farm operators are 60 years and over. We need and will continue to need future farmers to not only fulfill these roles, but to learn and gain the necessary experience from our elder farmers. Both Hawaiian farming and small-scale farming can support these efforts by creating scalable job opportunities. Compared to industrial farming that relies more on technology for lower overhead, small-scale farming is labor-intensive enabling more opportunities for future farmers to work, make a living, learn, and grow. I believe in the same way we were able to revitalize our ways of traditional ocean navigation through the Hōkūle'a and Polynesian Voyaging Society, we can also renew our cultural farming practices to feed our communities.

Contributions to our food security, and ultimately our food sovereignty

Traditional Hawaiian farming and small-scale farming practices are more flexible and better able to adapt to changing conditions and local surroundings. As such, they allow for growth of food that is not only native to the environment, but is also relevant to our diet and local palate increasing healthy food access for all.

Capacity to diversify our economy

According to the 2012 report by the Office of Planning Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, replacing just 10 percent of the food our State imports would result in approximately \$313 million dollars that would remain here in Hawai'i and create more than 2,300 jobs! Traditional Hawaiian farming and small-scale farming contributes to this movement by maximizing available land – including marginal lands – for food production vs. export crops. Small-scale farming adds positively to rural development, creates employment, is successful in preserving ecosystems, and has better access to reach food insecure households than their commercial counterparts.

To support this bill is to support resiliency for our communities, our families, and vibrancy of our island home. I urge the committee to **PASS** this bill.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Elen far la

Elena Farden

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, February 24, 2015 3:07 PM
То:	AGRtestimony
Cc:	dakatz@aol.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM* $$

<u>HB205</u>

Submitted on: 2/24/2015 Testimony for AGR on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Godfrey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, February 24, 2015 3:05 PM
То:	AGRtestimony
Cc:	Kapinapalacat@gmail.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM*

<u>HB205</u>

Submitted on: 2/24/2015 Testimony for AGR on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, February 24, 2015 11:29 PM
То:	AGRtestimony
Cc:	amybrinker@mac.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM*

<u>HB205</u>

Submitted on: 2/24/2015 Testimony for AGR on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Wednesday, February 25, 2015 2:45 PM
То:	AGRtestimony
Cc:	shane.nelsen@gmail.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM* $$

<u>HB205</u>

Submitted on: 2/25/2015 Testimony for AGR on Feb 26, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Shane Nelsen	Individual	Support	No	l

Comments:

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