

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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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 AGRICULTURE

February 18, 2016
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2718
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2746 that establishes within the Department of Agriculture a Korean natural farming pilot program that will "...be headed by a Korean natural farming coordinator who shall work in collaboration with the appropriate stakeholders to incorporate Korean natural farming techniques in combating agricultural pests in Hawaii". Funding for the pilot program's coordinator position is to come from the Agricultural Development and Food Security Special Fund for as long a period of time as the pilot program is to exist. The "barrel tax" amount to food security, currently set at 15 cents of the tax on each barrel, is blanked out. The Department of Agriculture supports alternative pest and disease control methods but has concerns about this measure.

The Department of Agriculture is uncertain how the promotion of Korean natural farming (KNF) via a KNF coordinator will result in the collection of data and information leading to findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation on pest and disease control. We are also concerned about the proposed amendment to Section 243-3.5 (Bill, page 3, line 17 to page 4, line 21) to "blank out" the existing 15-cent portion of the "barrel tax" going to the Agricultural Development and Food Security Special Fund.



Regarding the practice of KNF itself, an internet search revealed many local practitioners, workshops, and seminars promoting KNF in Hawaii. However, after conferring with University of Hawaii – College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources leadership, the Department understands that there is no science to back up the efficacy of the KNF program. Research by Department staff concluded that proceeding with the proposed program warrants caution.

For example, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)-funded research project evaluating the benefits of KNF on tropical vegetable crop production in Hawaii concluded that “KNF practice did not protect plants from diseases and insect pests, and should be avoided from heavy rainfall area.” (NRCS – Korean Natural Farming Progress Report. Title: “Evaluating the benefits of Korean Natural Farming Practice on Tropical Vegetable Crop Production in Hawaii”, page 4; Contract No. 69-9251-11-912; November 2011 to May 2012; Principal Investigator Koon-Hui Wang)

In another USDA-NRCS document, the Pacific Islands Area, KNF Technical Team reported on May 15, 2013 that “...scientifically collected data evaluating the benefits of Korean Natural Farming is less conclusive” than the testimonial reports of improved plant production from farmers. (USDA/NRCS Pacific Islands Area Current Developments, Spring 2013, page 8)

Should the committees decide to pass this measure, we ask that sections 2, 3, and 4 of the bill (page 2, line 6 to page 5, lines 8 and 12-15) be deleted.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 2:50 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: elle.cochran@mauicounty.us
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2718 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM*

HB2718

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elle Cochran	Maui County Council Member	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 2:29 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: wao-hsl@WeAreOne.cc
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2718 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM

HB2718

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments: Support Sustainable Non-Toxic Agricultural practices. We are not guinea pigs. www.WeAreOne.cc

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HAWAI'I CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY

House Committee on Agriculture

Hawai'i Center for Food Safety Supports HB2718 Relating to Agriculture

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

My name is Dr. Ashley Lukens and I am the Hawai'i Director for the Center for Food Safety (CFS). CFS is a nationwide public interest, sustainable agriculture nonprofit organization whose mission centers on furthering the public's right to know how their food is produced, through labeling and other means. We have over 750,000 farmer and consumer members across the country, including nearing 10,000 in Hawai'i. On behalf of CFS and our members, I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today regarding this important bill.

CFS has been dedicated to addressing the human health and environmental impacts of our increased reliance on pesticide use in food production, both in the State of Hawai'i and nationally. We were instrumental in providing legal and communications support in the passage of numerous ordinances relating to pesticide use and disclosure, such as Kaua'i's Bill 2491. Since 2014, as the inaugural director here in Hawai'i, I have worked closely with community members across the state, in all counties, and have played an instrumental role in the passage of Maui's moratorium on GE production until companies submit environmental and public health impact assessments.

I am writing in support of HB2718, which establishes and appropriates funds for the Korean natural farming pilot program to combat various agricultural pests in Hawaii.

As the Center for Food Safety, we feel strongly that there are better ways of combating pests rather than the use of chemicals. This bill allocates funds for a research pilot program to use indigenous organisms to fight pests like the little fire ant, coffee berry borer, macadamia felted coccid, macadamia fungus, ohia wilt, banana bungee, coqui frogs, and fire weed.

We support this bill as it is an alternative to pesticide use, a growing and serious problem in Hawai'i due to invasive species and agrichemical companies testing GE crops. Despite the continuous efforts by the State, an estimated 20 new species establish themselves in our state every year¹. Pesticides are used liberally to keep these pests at manageable numbers.

Although the easiest way to combat these pests may be to eradicate through pesticide application, we urge the committee to fund this pilot project so we can better understand sustainable pest management techniques in Hawai'i including "Korean Natural Farming."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any follow up questions or provide additional analysis.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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T: 202-547-9359 F: 202-547-9429

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303 Sacramento Street, 2nd Floor
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917 SW Oak Street, Suite 300
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T: 971-271-7372 F: 971-271-7374

HAWAII OFFICE

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 2107
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
T: 808-681-7688

office@centerforfoodsafety.org

centerforfoodsafety.org

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Lukens', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ashley Lukens
Director, Hawai'i Center for Food Safety

¹ CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service (2016). <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/site/ExtINV.aspx>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 1:42 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2718 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM*

HB2718

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 12:30 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: BronsonKSilva@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2718 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM*

HB2718

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bronson K. Silva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2016 5:43 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tasha96792@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2718 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM

HB2718

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natasha Boteilho	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha It's been awhile since I submitted testimony and felt excited about the potential of a bill that can help us learn to live a sustainable lifestyle here on our islands. Please support HB2718 Natasha Boteilho

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 8:00 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: taragrace808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2718 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM

HB2718

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tara Grace	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I'm in support of this measure passing. The lands need new & improved cultivation that moves in a forward direction of food security. We need healthy dirt & much more...

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Cedric Gates
PO Box 1162
Waianae, HI 96792
February 16, 2016

State of Hawaii, Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear State of Hawaii, Twenty-Eighth Legislature:

My name is Cedric Gates, I am currently the Chair of the Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board. I am testifying as an individual, and a life-time resident of the Waianae Coast. I'm writing to express my full support of **HB2718 (2016)** relating to the establishment of a Korean natural farming pilot program within the department of agriculture.

I support **HB2718 (2016)** because I believe it's important to establish such a program to pursue a process for the State of Hawaii to take a bold and innovative initiative in its approach to combating various agricultural pests in Hawaii, including but not limited to the little fire ant, coqui frogs, fire weed and other agricultural pest. I also support this measure because it may provide an additional funding source for agricultural purposes and natural farmers within the state.

I believe by pursuing natural methods in dealing with agricultural pest it not only protects the native species that are effected by man-made chemicals but most importantly it protects community residents and natural resources such as our water from being tainted with harmful pesticides.

I absolutely support the intent and integrity of **HB2718 (2016)** and I would like to ask that you all support this measure because I believe it is in the best interest of your constituents and communities state-wide.

Sincerely,

Cedric Gates

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 1:11 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: sharedpleasures@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2718 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM

HB2718

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
vicki levin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this companion bill in favor of the pilot project for KNF technology to be used with a coordinator to be funded.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 1:45 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Benjitthehammy@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2718 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM*

HB2718

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Hambright	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 2:51 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: amie.stokes@mauicounty.us
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2718 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM*

HB2718

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amie M. Stokes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 3:54 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jchang@pidfoundation.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2718 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM*

HB2718

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 11:39 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: rustysfarm@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2718 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM

HB2718

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Astrid Watanabe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: A method to control agricultural pests without pesticides is a very worthwhile project. I gladly would spend my tax money on that.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 10:48 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: foodsovereignty@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2718 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM*

HB2718

Submitted on: 2/17/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mitsuko Hayakawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 1:24 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: wkenkoike@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2718 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM

HB2718

Submitted on: 2/17/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
W. Ken Koike	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: As a small organic farmer in Wai'anae, I strongly support HB2718!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 2:07 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: danamalina@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2718 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM

HB2718

Submitted on: 2/17/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this important pilot program HB2718. Korean Natural Farming/JADAM is the answer to food security, soil regeneration, and pests and pathogens control for the State of Hawai'i. KNF utilizes locally sourced materials to make inputs. These inputs are organic and non toxic.

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