

SB 2959

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 10, 2016
3:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 2959
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2959 relating to agriculture. The bill proposes to 1) establish a grant program for qualified feed developers within the Livestock Revitalization Program, 2) appropriate fund for feed developers and reimbursements to qualified producers for feed costs and 3) conduct a survey of local feed ingredient sources. The department supports this bill and offers comments.

The bill includes language for documentation of animal feed development costs requested by the department. However, for consistency, existing language in section 155-D (a) (5) (b), Hawaii Revised Statutes relating to the documentation for animal feed reimbursement costs requested by the department should also be amended to read as follows:

“(b) Documentation of animal feed costs, as requested by the department, shall be filed for feed purchased within the immediate preceding fiscal quarter of filing and shall be effective for feed costs incurred after [July 1, 2013] July 1, 2016.”



In addition, section 155-D (a) (5) (c), Hawaii Revised Statutes should also be amended to read:

“(c) The applicant shall submit a quarterly financial statement of farm revenues and expenses along with other supporting documents as deemed necessary by the department, and filed with the documentation of feed costs. An annual financial statement shall be filed with the department within ninety days following the close of the business’ fiscal year after [~~June 28, 2013~~], June 30, 2016 for final reconciliation of any reimbursement paid during the previous three quarters within the fiscal year. The financial statement shall be certified as accurate by the applicant and the preparer of the financial statement on forms prepared by the department.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:31:43 AM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

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
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 4:53:48 PM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 10, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2959
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 224
3:30 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, 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 is in strong support of SB 2959, which establishes within the Livestock Revitalization Program a grant program for qualified feed developers. It also appropriates funds for the Feed Developer Grant Program, reimbursements to Qualified Producers for feed costs, and a survey of local feed ingredient sources.

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

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

SB 2959 will help to keep fresh, locally produced milk, eggs, beef, pork, poultry, sheep, lamb, fish and crustaceans available to the residents of Hawaii and will help to revitalize our dwindling livestock industry. A decrease or absence of livestock production increases the State's reliance on the importation of food and threatens the State's food security.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



February 1, 2016

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Testimony in Support of SB 2959, Relating to Agriculture (Establishes Within the Livestock Revitalization Program, a Grant Program for Qualified Feed Developers; Appropriates Funds for the Feed Developer Grant Program, Reimbursements to Qualified Producers for Feed Costs, and a Survey of Local Feed Ingredient Sources).

Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 3:30 p.m., in Conference Room 224

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. One of LURF's missions 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 testimony in support of SB 2959, and to offer comments.

SB 2959. As an advocate for the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands in Hawaii, LURF supports this measure which seeks to help revitalize the State's livestock industries by establishing within the Livestock Revitalization Program, a grant program for qualified feed developers, as well as appropriating funds for the Feed Developer Grant Program; reimbursing qualified producers for feed costs; reimbursing qualified feed developers for the costs of development of feed for sale to qualified producers; and a survey of local feed ingredient sources.

LURF's Position. LURF members include private property owners, farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider such measures critical to the conduct of their operations and to help sustain their businesses. These land owners and agricultural stakeholders believe SB 2959 and the ensuing establishment of such a grant program will greatly assist

with feed costs which have been a contributing factor to the decline of the State's livestock industry.

As this Committee may already be aware, Hawaii's livestock industry faces numerous challenges, one if not the greatest being the unsustainable availability and cost of feed for livestock production. Most local dairies and egg and poultry farms have already gone out of business or are currently threatened with closure due to rising production (mainly feed) costs. This measure will assist in continuing to make locally produced milk, eggs, beef, pork, poultry and other products available to Hawaii residents, and will help revitalize the State's declining livestock industry.

Decreased or limited livestock production increases the State's reliance on the importation of food and threatens the State's food security. As potential issues relating to public health, and food safety and security continue to be a significant concern, LURF and its members appreciate this measure being taken to assist agricultural stakeholders.

For the reasons stated above, LURF is **in support of SB 2959**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: punachicksfarm@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 1:33:16 PM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily Taaroa	Punachicks Farm	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, My husband and I own and operate Punachicks Farm in Keaau on Hawaii Island. We began raising pastured broiler chickens 2 1/2 years ago to fill a void in the market for locally raised poultry. We are currently raising 600 birds / month and will soon be increasing to 800 birds / month, which is quadruple the amount that we started with several years ago. There is more demand for local poultry than we are able to produce and we recently purchased 25 acres to expand our farm from our current 5 acres of lease land. Feed is by far our largest expense and our biggest obstacle to overcome to be profitable. We enjoy farming and are it makes us happy to provide healthy, fresh food for our community, however it is just barely profitable and assistance with our feed costs would allow us to expand further to provide fresh pastured poultry to customers throughout the entire state. Currently, we are operating under the USDA 20K on farm processing exemption and eventually we aspire to become the first USDA inspected pastured poultry processor in the state. Any and all assistance from the State Department of Agriculture is always a large help and allows us to continue to farm and take care of our family with a modest profit. We hope to see the day when a locally produced feed will be available, and support any and all grants that would assist local feed research and development. Thank you for your efforts to improve Hawaii's agricultural diversity and assist farmers in the state to continue to provide food for our local community.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: Alana.Ross@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 3:07:13 PM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: rustysfarm@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 2:20:50 PM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: To grow feed here rather than ship everything sounds great, but PLEASE make it NON GMO!!!!!! !!!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 1:46:18 PM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill as long as there are NO GE Fodder crops included in the plantings. Mahalo

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: BenjiTheHammy@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 2:28:41 AM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: charobrien@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 8:54:24 PM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlotte OBrien	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Given that Hawaii Cattle Ranchers ship 40,000 head of cattle to the mainland each year at a cost of \$200 a head that is \$8 million spent on shipping. This is silly . That money could go into supplementing grass finishing and the building of island wide slaughter houses. There are new enzyme products that allow crop waste to be used for cattle feed because it pre-digests the forage for better animal utilization. I commend the legislature for looking for alternatives.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: ihemphi@live.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 3:13:52 PM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Key	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: whoru@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 12:14:27 PM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Include language for sustainable animal feed, if not already part of this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: info@beyondorganicresearch.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 10:19:43 PM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Jana Bogs	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: SB2959--Feed Developer Grant Program--This sounds like encouragement to grow Roundup Ready GMO corn and soy for feed usage. Our state already grows too much GMO and is suffering from toxic chemical contamination. Grazing animals are not meant to consume large quantities of grain products, especially those that are genetically engineered and doused with toxic chemicals. We do not need feedlots here. We need to develop quality pastures through excellent pasture management for grazing animals (including pastured poultry and pastured hogs). Note: I have a masters degree in Animal Science. Thank you.

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From: [harry_ako](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: SB2959
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 9:00:07 PM

My name is Harry Ako and I am a retired professor of the University of Hawaii. I was the Principal Investigator who did the research on industrial hemp. I testified orally of the potential of industrial hemp as an economic driver in Hawaii. I stand by this testimony of strong support of the current SB2959. I have two comments. Language on certified seeds needs to be removed. In the lists I have seen, the only seeds certified were temperate zone hems and they will not grow well in Hawaii. In addition, I wondered why an institution of higher education was referred to. The hemp project has been transferred to the Department of Agriculture.

Wed, Feb. 10, 2016.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: kauaihole@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:52:00 AM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louisa Wooton	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii can do this. Obviously, the agrochemical industry is growing corn, soybeans, etc. with success. Guess what...we could even do it ORGANICALLY without poisoning our most valuable assets- OUR WATER, OUR LAND, AND OUR FARMWORKERS!! Let's do this dear legislators!!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: luellacrutcher@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:54:01 PM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Luella Nohea Crutcher	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I hope I am understanding this bill correctly, in that it is relating to developing animal feed. My feedback is that this feed they are developing is made naturally, with NO GMO products. Because whatever you feed the animals, eventually will affect us. And going back to growing things without pesticides - naturally and Non GMO is healthier for all of us. Mahalo, Luella N. Crutcher

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: marie.janiszewski@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:13:39 AM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marie janiszewski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: naomi.picinich@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 2:08:42 PM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

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

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: neil.vonhof@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 10:42:07 AM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neil Vonhof	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: sunnysavage@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:57:51 AM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sunny Savage-Luskin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: tracy.emills@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2959 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 12:31:01 PM

SB2959

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracy E Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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