

SB 356

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**JANUARY 30, 2017
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 356
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

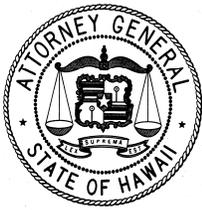
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 356 that encourages the development and implementation of a “whole farm system approach” to agriculture in Hawaii. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure provided it does not impact the Department’s priorities submitted in the Executive Budget and offers comments.

The Department of Agriculture supports efforts to improve the capacity of new and existing farms to succeed in their endeavors. We support all forms of agricultural activities and practices. However, the Department of Agriculture is not structured for or has any practical experience with establishing and implementing an agricultural educational program. In turn, the Department would rely on the expertise that currently exists in the local community, such as the Go Farm program.

The bill asks the chairperson to offer grants to mentoring programs throughout the State, specifically one grant per county. The measure is not clear as to how the funding is limited per grant to ensure available funds for each potential county mentor program. Section 3 of the bill makes an appropriation for a “grant pursuant to chapter 42F,” which are grants made by the Legislature to a named recipient. The Department would like to know who the recipient(s) that the Legislature is granting this money to, and the amount to each person.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.





**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
S.B. NO. 356, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

BEFORE THE:
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

DATE: Monday, January 30, 2017 **TIME:** 1:15 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 224

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or
Margaret S. Ahn, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

This bill authorizes the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture to approve “grants” to organizations with farmer apprentice mentoring programs without setting forth any standards. It further appropriates funds “as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes,” for the farm apprentice mentoring programs to be expended by the Department of Agriculture.

First, article VII, section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii provides, “[n]o grant of public money or property shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law.” This bill does not include any standards for making the grants, and without such standards, the Department of Agriculture cannot make the grants intended by this bill.

Second, chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, applies to grants made by the Legislature to recipients specified by the Legislature. An executive department cannot make or designate the recipient of a grant “pursuant to chapter 42F.”

We respectfully recommend the following changes:

1. Amend lines 18-21 on page 3 and lines 1-4 on page 4, to read as follows:

“SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 ~~as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes,~~ for at least one farm apprentice mentoring program in each county to provide mentoring on a whole farm system approach to agriculture.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.”

2. Insert standards for making the grants, or in the alternative, delete lines 11-14 on page 3, in their entirety:

~~“(b) The chairperson of the board of agriculture shall be responsible for approval of any grants to organizations with farmer apprentice mentoring programs. There shall be at least one grant approval for each county.”~~

We believe these amendments will allow the Department of Agriculture to expend the funds to carry out the Legislature’s intent to fund farm apprentice mentoring programs.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Monday, January 30, 2017 at 1:15 pm

By

Rachel Novotny, Interim Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 356 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 356, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish and support a farmer apprentice mentoring program, with successful commercial farmers serving as mentors.

Successful farmers have a great deal to contribute to mentoring the next generation of farmers, but as small businessmen usually cannot afford the time necessary to do this. The intent of this bill, reflecting the desire of the farming community, is to set up a means of grant administration within the Department of Agriculture to support a mentoring program in each county by successful commercial farmers, based on the pilot program developed by the Hawai'i Farmers Union on Maui, as an alternative or adjunct to the more formal and structured educational programs offered by the University of Hawai'i, such as the GoFarm Hawai'i program directed by the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and the community colleges. Although we defer to the Department of Agriculture on the fiscal and management implications of SB 356, we believe that this is a practical approach for creation and management of a grants program to support on-farm mentoring by working farmers. CTAHR and other units of the University of Hawai'i will be glad to collaborate with the Department of Agriculture in matters such as curriculum design.

Hawai'i needs more successful farmers, and those who are successful certainly have expertise to share. The purpose of the bill is to engage commercial farmers in individualized, on-farm mentoring of new farmers by providing them with a financial incentive to do so. We support the goal of SB 356 of a farmer apprentice mentoring program as a path to new farmer success.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 10:42 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: jsimpliciano@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM*

SB356

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james simpliciano	HFUU	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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 10:48 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

SB356

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments: Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike, learning while doing is the best way to learn the "craft" of farming. Hawaii has many small and larger farmers who are successful, and have developed systems that work for their families and the bottom line. Learning directly from those farmers, while providing a bit of labor in exchange is the fastest and deepest way to learn the art of agriculture. Mahalo to HFUU for stepping up to this new and every effective system of agricultural education. Ka Ohana O Na Pua has been providing agricultural education to Hawaii's communities since 1991.

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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 11:02 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: pamelaboyar@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM*

SB356

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Boyar	Farm Lovers Farmers Markets	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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 11:30 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: ralphgorgoglione@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

SB356

Submitted on: 1/28/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ralph Gorgoglione	Pipi's Produce	Support	No

Comments: Maui can be self-sustainable. Just allow the citizens to create the agricultural industry that we are so capable of creating, and the benefits will spread throughout the state. We are islands in the middle of the Ocean. It is dangerous for us to NOT be self-sustainable and dependent on air and water transportation for everything.

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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 3:06 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: stella.i.caban@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM*

SB356

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stella Caban	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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 1:37 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: neil.vonhof@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM*

SB356

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neil Vonhof	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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 12:50 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: mpshaw10@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM*

SB356

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Shaw	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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 12:39 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: ambrosejs@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

SB356

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The Regional Nutrient Cycling pilot program for Maui County will help lower farmer production costs by creating large amounts of affordable certified organic compost and other soil amendments. Essentially this is a fertilizer factory that will have a teaching element to it, that will educate farmers and agriculturalists how to create their fertility on farm. This program will help Maui's transition from sugar cane to the family farming model many want to see

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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 11:15 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: mmcardle19@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

SB356

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peggy McArdle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha. I fully support SB356. Excellent idea. Mahalo.

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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 8:56 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: jacmnelson3@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

SB356

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacob Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This measure provides support for mentors and their apprentices to teach and learn whole systems farming practices that use regenerative practices. We are asking that the Legislature appropriate \$1M to the HDOA for the purposes of funding a state wide farmer apprenticeship program.

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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 7:04 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: jahniappleseed@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM*

SB356

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Harley Simmons	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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 6:25 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: hokuokekai50@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM*

SB356

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 6:19 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: sunnysavage@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM*

SB356

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sunny Savage-Luskin	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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 5:01 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: bmurphy420@mail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

SB356

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, I SUPPORT SB356 relating to RELATING TO Agriculture; Food Sustainability; Farmer Apprentice Mentoring; Whole Farm System; Hawaii must move ASAP to organic farming methods, for the health of our people, and the wealth of our economy. GROW ORGANIC!

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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 4:12 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: mary@mauivortex.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

SB356

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Overbay	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, I support SB356 relating to RELATING TO Agriculture; Food Sustainability; Farmer Apprentice Mentoring; Whole Farm System; Hawaii must move ASAP to organic farming methods, for the health of our people, and the wealth of our economy. GROW ORGANIC!

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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 3:37 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: bioniclove@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

SB356

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
adrian blackhurst	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Support this, its good for the future of Hawaii! We need more home grown food!

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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 10:53 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

SB356

Submitted on: 1/28/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Aloha, I strongly support this Bill. Mahalo, Ms. Barbara Barry

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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 1:22 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: kshimata@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

SB356

Submitted on: 1/28/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Our farmers are aging. I support efforts to enable a new generation to grow our food here at home.

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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 10:57 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: williamrandysmith@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB356 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM*

SB356

Submitted on: 1/27/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William R Smith	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.

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