

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

JANUARY 31, 2022
1:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 2622
RELATING TO BIOFUELS

Chairpersons Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2622. The bill establishes and appropriates moneys for a 2-year pilot project to grow biodiesel crops on the island of Molokai and requires a report to the Legislature. The Department supports the intent of this bill.

Sustainable agriculture and energy security are critical to the diversification of Hawaii's economy. Establishing a pilot project on Molokai will demonstrate and validate the potential of a biodiesel crop program, establish a framework for similar programs in other rural areas and create a much-needed avenue for diversified agriculture expansion.

As such, the Department supports this measure provided it does not adversely impact the Department's priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2622

January 31, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Room 224 and Videoconference

RELATING TO BIOFUELS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2622 establishes a two-year pilot project within the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to grow crops on Moloka'i for the production of biodiesel fuels; requires the DOA to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the 2024 Regular Session; and appropriates \$1,500,000 in general funds in FY 23 to implement the pilot program.

B&F notes that the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

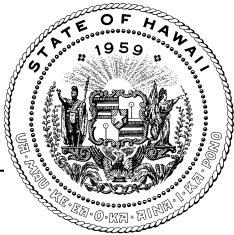
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE Committee on AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Monday, January 31, 2022
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

COMMENTS in consideration of
SB 2622
RELATING TO BIOFUELS.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 2622, which establishes and appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture for a 2-year pilot project to grow biodiesel crops on the island of Moloka'i and requires a report to the Legislature.

HSEO's comments are guided by its mission to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation to help achieve a resilient, clean energy, decarbonized economy.

Although HSEO is not named in the bill, HSEO is supportive of efforts for Moloka'i communities to identify energy opportunities that could provide local jobs and economic benefits in both the energy and agricultural sectors. The bill notes that a variety of crops can provide both fuel and other products, including food, animal feed, and inputs to cosmetics and health products. HSEO has been impressed with the efforts on Moloka'i, including those of the Moloka'i Clean Energy Hui, to identify, understand and develop a variety of energy options and economics for the island. HSEO believes that projects such as this can provide useful information and contribute to those efforts and would recommend a more flexible timeline to allow for planning, implementation, growing of the crops and reporting.

HSEO defers to the appropriate agency for comment on this matter.

HSEO supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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JANUARY 31, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2622
RELATING TO BIOFUELS

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 2622, which establishes and appropriates funding for a 2-year pilot project to grow biodiesel crops on the island of Molokai.

Renewable energy is important to the State's energy goals. Biofuels can play a critical role in helping Hawaii reach the goal of one hundred percent renewable energy by 2045, help to diversify Hawaii's economy and agricultural sector, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce our dependence on imported oil.

HFB supports the production of dedicated energy crops, crop residues, and agricultural wastes into economically and environmentally sustainable biofuels and value-added by-products such as livestock feed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure of great importance.

SB-2622

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 7:25:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gene Ross K. Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please Consider and Support SB2622

SB-2622

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 8:51:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Iolani Kuoha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I support SB2622, as a wife of a farmer, establishing and appropriating funds for a 2-year pilot project to grow biodiesel crops on the island of Moloka'i will help support the economy especially support our local farmers as well with the expensiveness of feed. I also agree that it shall be a requirement to provide a report to the Legislature for accountability and data assessment.

Mahalo,

‘Iolani Kuoha

SB-2622

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 9:22:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB2622.

Mahalo Rosie

SB-2622

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 1:46:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Winona Kaawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

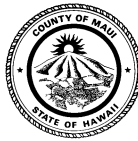
As a Hawaiian Homesteader, I support this bill that will help to promote the use of biodiesel.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Gabe Johnson
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

January 30, 2022

TO: Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

DATE: January 30, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB 2622, RELATING TO BIOFUELS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to establish a two-year pilot project to grow biodiesel crops on the island of Molokai.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. The growth of crops for biodiesel fuels will benefit the County by creating jobs, reducing food and fuel imports, diversifying the County's economy, and helping to reaching the State's mandate of 100 percent renewable energy by 2045.
2. Biodiesel, made from plant-based oils and animal fats, offers a safe and sustainable alternative to petroleum-based fuels.
3. The solution to reducing petroleum dependence and greenhouse gas emissions includes encouraging the use of biodiesel in diesel engines.

For the foregoing reasons, I **SUPPORT** this measure.

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SB-2622

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 8:23:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Faith Tuipulotu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this SB 2622!

SB-2622

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:02:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kelly King	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB2622 which will establish a sector of diversified agriculture on Molokai where jobs and revenue is sorely needed. The benefits of locally produced biodiesel include go beyond jobs and revenue to include energy security and firm power, especially in the event of climate and other natural disasters where back-up generation and evacuations cannot wait for batteries to be recharged. Community-based biodiesel is an important way for our residents to reap direct return on their climate efforts, produce locally used renewable fuel and diversify our economy!