

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2022  
10:00 A.M.  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE & CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 3096  
MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION FOR AN AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER.**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 3096, which provides an emergency appropriation for the department of education to build an agriculture innovation center. The Department supports the intent of this measure and otherwise defers to the Department of Education.

Agricultural education is the cornerstone for ensuring a robust future agricultural workforce. The proposed agriculture innovation center will also enhance the efforts of ongoing, new, and future agricultural entrepreneurs to expand into and capitalize on the promising opportunities in the value-added products market.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/22/2022

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** CR 211 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 3096 MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR AN AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER.

**Purpose of Bill:** Provides an emergency appropriation for the department of education to build an agriculture innovation center.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 3096, an Administration bill, and appreciates the appropriation for the agriculture innovation center.

The Department supports the advancement of new agricultural technologies to increase agriculture production and advance educational and career opportunities for Hawaii's youth.

This measure builds on Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2015, that created a farm-to-school program and Act 175, SLH 2021, that set a goal that at least thirty percent of food served in public schools be locally sourced by 2030. The Department recognizes the importance of having agricultural programs available to students to promote the consumption of local food and healthy eating habits. Additionally, it is important to teach students about agriculture and potential career paths in the industry. As such, facilities are needed to meet this need.

The proposed facility has the potential to provide agricultural opportunities for students on Kauai, statewide, nationally, and internationally. Beyond growing food, students may be taught the development of value-added products, finance, soil research, and aquaculture, among other opportunities. One desired outcome is for the center to become a thriving hub for curriculum and career opportunities for numerous Hawaii youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.





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February 22, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 3096**  
MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION FOR AN AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER

Room 211 & Videoconference  
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

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

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 3096**, which provides an emergency appropriation for the department of education to build an agriculture innovation center.

HFB recognizes the need and importance of agricultural education and school farm programs, and as a farm organization, we would like to see an increased emphasis on agriculture in schools. We believe that agriculture education programs serve multiple purposes. They serve not only to educate students on how to grow crops but also what it takes to turn a farm into a successful business enterprise that can be a career choice. Agronomy, economics, science, business planning, entomology, pathology, and various technologies including programming, navigation, and robotics are some of the courses that can evolve around the farm. Programs that teach the principles behind good agricultural practices - steps that must be taken that protect the environment, product, and worker are critical components of a school farm. A goal of any Ag Education Program should be to educate and expose students to a career choice.

Developing and maintaining an agricultural workforce should be a vital component of Ag Education programs. A trained workforce with various skills is necessary to any agricultural operation. This need has to be addressed along with generating interest in our youth to pursue various careers and to become our future leaders in Hawai'i agriculture. HFB supports programs and initiatives such as the FFA, 4-H, Farm to School, Aina Pono, and School Garden programs because they help to educate and reconnect

our children with agriculture. Through agricultural education programs, our children will gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture which will result in healthier eating habits, stronger support for Hawai'i's agriculture industry, and will contribute to Hawai'i's food security. An agriculture innovation center would help facilitate this. A new agriculture innovation center on Kauai should be viewed as an investment in Hawai'i's future to develop well-informed consumers and supporters of our local agricultural industries and can be a model for other centers across the state.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**SB3096**  
MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR AN  
AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER.

Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 10:00 AM  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB3096** to Provides an emergency appropriation for the department of education to build an agriculture innovation center. Agricultural education is a key component to ensuring the longevity and resilience of Hawaii's agriculture sector. This innovation center will give opportunities for young people to learn about the importance of growing food for our community, the value of innovation in the industry, and motivate them to take up a career in agriculture. Farming and ranching is in need of a spurred interest in younger participants. We support this bill that will assist with that and provide career opportunities for the community.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this critical matter for our industry.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director

