

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

MARCH 14, 2023
ROOM 430
9:30 A.M.

SENATE BILL NO. 831
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Ichiyama and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 831. This measure grants the Department of Agriculture (Department) the statutory power to own land and property for immediate or future use. The Department supports this measure to the extent it complements our existing agricultural land, irrigation, and agricultural enterprise programs that are meant to increase agricultural production by providing stable tenure and access to agricultural resources for commercial agricultural producers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 14, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

TESTIMONY ON SB 831
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 430 & Via Videoconference
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, 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 831, which grants the Department of Agriculture the statutory power to own land/property for immediate or future use.

HFB believes that in order for agriculture to flourish in Hawai'i and reach its full potential, land availability, and long-term leases at affordable and predictable lease rental rates are critical. Authorizing HDOA to acquire, acquire by grant, or purchase any real, personal, or mixed property will significantly increase the available agricultural land under the State's control and will provide farmers with long-term leases that will enhance the economic viability of Hawai'i's agriculture industry.

The success of ranchers and farmers is a key component in the State's goal to double local food production. Farmers and ranchers need long-term leases in order to prudently invest in infrastructure improvement on the leased land. HDOA rules are set up to encourage agriculture and make it practical to do so.

We believe this is an opportunity to further support and expand the state's ability to provide agricultural lands for farmers, which is consistent with the State's goal of increasing self-sufficiency and sustainability.

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