

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023
1:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 224 AND VIDEO CONFERENCING

SENATE BILL NO. 782
RELATING TO TARO

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill 782. This bill appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to provide grants to Hawaii farming groups to be dispersed to taro farmers. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.

The Department respectfully requests striking out language on page 2, lines 5 to 7, as it has not published nor issued any statement to that effect. On page 4, the Department recommends a tighter standard in Section 2. Under Section 2 (b), lines 8 to 9, the Department suggests the committee adopts a definition for qualified applicant. Qualified applicant could include farmers cultivating taro plants, taro corm, leaf, and taro huli. Likewise, the qualified farmers could include limited liability companies, partnerships, sole proprietorships, non-profit organizations, and agricultural cooperatives that meet necessary insurance requirements.

Additionally, the Department recommends that language in Section 2 (b) (1) and (3) be deleted since money spent or costs incurred in the past favor existing taro farmers but may preclude new, younger farmers from accessing proposed funding. Finally, the Department recommends that qualified applicants seeking grant funding to draft a plan for increasing their taro production, including activities in which the applicant intends to engage in, such as loi improvements to enable sustainable cultivations, construction or improvements of washing and packing shed to comply with food safety requirements, leasing of farm equipment, and purchase of farming materials.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
S.B. NO. 782, RELATING TO TARO.

BEFORE THE:
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

DATE: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 **TIME:** 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 224

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Jodi K. Yi or Bryan C. Yee, Deputy Attorneys General

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments regarding this bill.

This bill would appropriate money and establish within the Department of Agriculture a grant program to assist taro farmers. The purpose of the grants is to assist farmers in meeting the costs of cultivating taro for consumption. (Page 4, lines 5-7).

The grant program would be subject to article VII, section 4, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, which provides, "[n]o grant of public money or property shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law." This bill does not appear to contain sufficient standards for grants of public money. Therefore, we recommend that this bill be amended to insert appropriate standards. Examples of existing statutes that provide standards for agencies to issue grants are found in part II of chapter 9 and sections 10-17, 210D-11, and 383-128, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Additionally, we have attached draft standards to this testimony as a sample to work from and we are happy to work with you on developing more specific standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

POSSIBLE STANDARDS FOR THE GRANTS IN THIS BILL

- (1) Any grant shall be used exclusively for the purposes of this program.
- (2) The applicant shall indicate capability to properly use the grant for costs that were incurred cultivating taro for consumption, provided that no grant shall be given unless money has already been spent by the applicant toward producing taro for consumption.
- (3) The applicant shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, disability, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law.
- (4) The grant shall not be used for purposes of entertainment or perquisites.
- (5) The applicant shall comply with other requirements as the department may prescribe.
- (6) All activities undertaken with funds received shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and county statutes and ordinances.
- (7) The applicant shall indemnify and save harmless the State of Hawaii and its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims arising out of or resulting from activities carried out or projects undertaken with funds provided hereunder, and procure sufficient insurance to provide this indemnification if requested to do so by the department.
- (8) The applicant shall agree to make available to the department all records the applicant may have relating to the grant, to allow state agencies to monitor the applicant's compliance with this section.

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:36:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maureen Datta	Testifying for Adaptations Inc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai‘i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers’ and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source– while building up our own food security here in Hawai‘i.

- SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai‘i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.
- This measure is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai‘i’s staple food. Supporting taro farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices & its vital agricultural knowledge alive.
- Kalo is a valued landscape and is recognized as the State Plant. Kalo farmers need and deserve support to ensure taro farming continues to grow and expand into the future. This measure helps to incentivize farmers to grow taro, one of the healthiest staple starch foods available.
- SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers’ and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source.

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:40:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai‘i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers’ and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source– while building up our own food security here in Hawai‘i.

Please support SB782.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nancy Redfeather



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

February 8, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 782
RELATING TO TARO

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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 782, which appropriates funds to the department of agriculture to provide grants to Hawaii farming groups to be disbursed to taro farmers.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau recognizes taro's importance in Hawai'i's cultural identity and role in local food security. This measure is aimed to assist taro farmers in their efforts to increase their production and viability. We support this effort to improve the taro farmer's ability to not only sustain themselves but also to expand their long-term success.

HFB supports any initiative that reduces the cost of production so that locally produced goods can compete with imported products, strengthening our local economy.

Hawai'i Farm Bureau Policy states: "State tax and monetary policies should be designed to encourage private initiative to help stabilize farm economics in the State of Hawai'i, to promote employment and economic growth, and to distribute the tax burden equitably. Further such policy should be used by the state, when appropriate, to encourage agricultural growth and expansion."

HFB supports SB 782, which is an investment in Hawai'i's taro farmers.

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



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Madeline Ross
Kohala, Hawaii

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawaii

Puna, Hawaii

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawaii

Chantal Chung
Kona, Hawaii

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lana'i

Brynn Foster
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki
Kauai

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports SB782.**

Taro, the traditional Hawaiian vegetable crop, is an integral part of Hawaiian cultural heritage and our agricultural industry. Currently, taro farmers are struggling due to environmental factors, such as drought and flooding, and economic stressors, such as low prices and competition from imported taro. SB782 Taro would provide some much-needed financial support for our hardworking taro farmers by appropriating funds to the department of agriculture to offer grants to Hawaii farming groups to be disbursed to taro farmers.

The funds created by this bill will help taro farmers increase their effectiveness and ensure their continued presence in Hawaii's agricultural industry and landscape. In addition, it can be used to support innovation and research to find ways to create further stability for our taro farmers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB782

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 1 p.m. Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

We support SB782 which appropriates funds to the department of agriculture to provide grants to Hawai'i farming groups to be disbursed to taro farmers.

SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and is such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

We believe this measure is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices & it's vital agricultural knowledge alive.

Kalo is a valued landscape and is recognized as the State Plant. Kalo farmers need and deserve support to ensure taro farming continues to grow and expand into the future. This measure helps to incentivize farmers to grow taro, one of the healthiest staple starch foods available.

SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers' and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source.

Please support SB782.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 2:27:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Hawai‘i, we import 85% of our food. We are highly vulnerable in food insecurity as a state. Climate change significantly increases this vulnerability with sea level rise and intensified weather patterns in the Pacific bringing droughts, hurricanes, and floods.

In 2016, then Governor Ige pledged to double food production in Hawai‘i by 2030 at the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress, as part of Hawai‘i's commitments to the world and the state and in order to begin to address this heavy reliance on imports.

Small farms on 10 acres or less in Hawai‘i produce a significant portion of locally-grown and locally-consumed food on each island. The small farm sector of agriculture is growing, yet the 2017 census of agriculture reported that the average small-scale farmer in Hawai‘i made less than \$40,000 per year, with losses of almost \$10,000 annually due to the high costs of farming, including land and water. To accomplish the State's 2030 goal for local food production, there is an urgent need to better support small farmers, including through small economic incentives to build a larger market.

Taro is one of Hawai‘i's highest yielding staple starch food crops, producing 10,000 and 20,000 pounds per acre per annum under wet and dry cultivation, respectively. However, taro is severely underproduced in the state. The 2017 census of agriculture reported a total of 207 farms and 495 acres of taro in wetland and dryland production. An estimated 200–300 additional acres are unreported or in subsistence taro cultivation.

Taro plays a critical role in the health of families, particularly Native Hawaiians, yet the cost of poi renders poi inaccessible to families most in need of this important staple starch food. Taro imports are estimated to soon exceed local production.

Lo‘i kalo, or wetland taro systems, are also critical to mitigating other impacts of climate change by functioning as riparian buffers and sediment retention basins. Underground foods, such as taro, can often survive hurricanes or flood events and can be harvested to address immediate food shortages where the capacity to store and cook food can be retained.

The state should do everything it can to encourage the cultivation of kalo and the production of poi and other taro products.

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:37:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:09:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Cender	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai‘i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers’ and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source– while building up our own food security here in Hawai‘i.

Please support SB782.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jonathan Cender, Koloa, Kauai

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:10:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Cross	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai‘i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

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Please support SB782.

Thank you for your consideration,

Meredith Cross, Kapa'a HI

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:16:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai‘i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

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Please support SB782.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Molly Mamaril, Kaimuki, Oahu

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:22:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Support SB782 . Encourage food security especially for traditional foods of Hawaii Nei !

Mahalo,

JN Makawao

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:32:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Leo Braulick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai‘i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers’ and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source– while building up our own food security here in Hawai‘i.

Please support SB782.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nathan Leo Braulick

Honolulu, HI 96826

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:37:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB782 - Kalo Farming Grants

Aloha AEN Chair, Vice Chair & Committee,

The last two years there have been some GREAT BILLS, SB 1010 & SB782 are two of them. Native Kanakas created this amazing mountain to sea sustainable forging garden of PLENTY! Kalo/Taro was at the heart of this sustainable and equitable food system.

I support SB782 because Kanaka Kalo culture was one of sharing and caring on many levels, *Traditional Cultural Practices* on kalo lands provide ecological and environmental buffers against flooding. Kalo lands are intricately connected to the protection of our riparian areas, coastal wetlands, and fishponds. Kalo lands are celebrated as important and sacred places in Hawaiian traditions and stories and often farmed by families for generations. Kalo farming maintains the ecological balance that checks flooding and destruction and when super storms hit - the local hui's have repair the Kalo lands at no cost to the taxpayer.

These grants will level the playing fields while Kanaka Kulture can flourish because they will be doing their traditional cultural practices.

Appropriates funds to the department of agriculture to provide grants to Hawai'i farming groups to be disbursed to taro farmers.

- SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.
- This measure is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices & its vital agricultural knowledge alive.

- Kalo is a valued landscape and is recognized as the State Plant. Kalo farmers need and deserve support to ensure taro farming continues to grow and expand into the future. This measure helps to incentivize farmers to grow taro, one of the healthiest staple starch foods available.
- SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers' and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source.

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SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers' and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source— while building up our own food security here in Hawai'i.

Please support SB782.

Mahalo for your consideration,

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:38:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
penny levin	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the intent of this measure (SB782). As a taro farmer, I offer the following comments. Grants should not be for past debt. There are also state and federal funds to assist with crop loss in the face of flooding and other natural disasters (although we recognize it never covers total loss). Grants are a different animal and should have clear purpose.

If we want to ensure there will be taro farms long into the future and taro farmers taking over from those who are entering retirement years (the majority of commercial taro farmers at this time), we need to focus on supporting a younger generation of taro farmers to succeed. Having a couple three years under your belt as a taro farmer is only one of a number of indicators that someone will stick with it in the long run.

Some of the biggest challenges they will have are things like the cost of leases, insurance, health insurance, installing fencing, fuel, irrigation pipes, poi making machines, the cost of a regular booth at a farmers market, cost or access to machinery, etc. For dryland taro farmers the cost of irrigating fields can also be excessive.

I would recommend that the HDOA draw upon the knowledge of the Taro Security and Purity (see the 2010 Report to the Legislature) and knowledgeable members of the taro farming community in developing such a program. In addition, I would draw your attention to SB1500 which calls upon DLNR and DOA to re-evaluate their lease rules to make taro lands more accessible and affordable to taro growers, a critical first step in this process.

Mahalo

Penny Levin

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:44:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bethan Pualani Baptista	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislatures,

As our leaders, I ask for your support on this Bill. Please KOKUA our Taro Farmers and all our Mahi'ai Ohana on the Pai'aina. A support for them is support for food sufficiency, best practice for wet lands, ecologically viable ecosystem balance, culturally and health supportive. Mahalo in advance for your support. Please KOKUA,

Bethan Pualani Baptista

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:21:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hugh Starr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members:

I support SB782

Taro cultivation is Hawaii food security, is culturally significant, and nutritiously a valuable native food source.

Thank you, Hugh Starr

Olinda, Maui

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:33:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sydney smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:13:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Marsh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support our kalo farmers with this bill throughout the islands.

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:09:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Please support SB 782!

SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers' and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source— while building up our own food security here in Hawai'i.

Culturely it is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your consideration,

pamela burrell, Kalihiwai, kaula'i

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:18:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene K. Rowley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai‘i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers’ and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source– while building up our own food security here in Hawai‘i.

Please support SB782.

Thank you for your consideration,

Charlene Kiana Rowley, 'Oma'opio, Maui

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:35:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
D'Anna Asher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai‘i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers’ and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source– while building up our own food security here in Hawai‘i.

Please support SB782.

Thank you for your consideration,

D'Anna Asher Kapa'a, HI

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:25:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irena Bliss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai‘i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers’ and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source– while building up our own food security here in Hawai‘i.

Please support SB782.

This is vital in the continued commitment to live Aloha ‘Āina, Mālama ‘Āina, and to build island food security for the well-being of all future generations.

Mahalo nui, thank you for your consideration.

Irena Bliss

Ha‘ikū, Maui 96708

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:47:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelle Galarza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

I support SB782, it is a necessary step in supporting food and farming security for Hawai'i and native traditional food ways. It is super necessary to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of kalo. Please support this bill.

Sincerely,

Chelle Galarza, Haiku

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 2:54:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai‘i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers’ and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source– while building up our own food security here in Hawai‘i.

Please support SB782.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 7:05:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai‘i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers’ and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source– while building up our own food security here in Hawai‘i.

Please support SB782.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 7:15:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Heller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Have your committe members spoken directly with most or all of the owned-by-farmers (on all islands) and asked how to help them?

I support what the taro/kalo grower needs and wants are, hope they have your support too!

Gratefully,

Joan Heller, POB 387, Lawai 96765

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 7:23:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Philips	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

Kalo is a valued landscape and is recognized as the State Plant. Kalo farmers need and deserve support to ensure taro farming continues to grow and expand into the future. This measure helps to incentivize farmers to grow taro, one of the healthiest staple starch foods available.

SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers' and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source— while building up our own food security here in Hawai'i.

Please support SB782.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Carol Philips - Haleiwa

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:09:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abbey Holmes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sample Testimony

Hello Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai‘i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers’ and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source– while building up our own food security here in Hawai‘i.

Please support SB782.

Thank you for your consideration,

Abbey Holmes Kilauea Resident

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:50:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:10:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ariana Datta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai‘i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers’ and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source– while building up our own food security here in Hawai‘i.

Please support SB782.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ariana Datta, Holualoa

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 12:42:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Waia'u	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming and particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo) which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers' and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source– while building up our own food security here in Hawai'i.

Please support SB782.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jessica Waia'u, Waiakea, Hawai'i

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 1:16:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Kealiinohomoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, and Vice Chair Herbert,

My written testimony stand in support of SB782. Which calls for the allocation of funds to the department of agriculture to distburse monies in the form of grants to kalo farmers. I would like to mention that the wording of this bill specifically support kalo farmer who mainly grow kalo.

Those who who mainly farm taro does not particpate in this trade to get rich but more so to continue on practices of our kupuna or they simply enjoy it.Taro (Kalo) was once a huge portion of local diet till the turn of the century, changing of water flow/access, and many other hurdles that hinder the growing of a high nutrient low calorie crop. Now with the little kalo farms and partial kalo farms left, we are seeing a rising participation of growing in the crops alongside another hurdle of cost of production. These grants will help to alleviate financial burden and support the farmer to find a footing in this unstable system. Please take the time to look into the plethora of benefits that producing kalo have on our communities.

Thank you for your time,

Jesse Mikasobe-Kealiinohomoku

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 1:47:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support our Kalo Farmers by passing SB 782.
Mahalo,

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 3:08:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB782, which appropriates funds to the department of agriculture to provide grants to Hawai'i farming groups to be disbursed to taro farmers.

SB782 is a critical and necessary step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support expansion of farming. Particularly the cultivation of taro (kalo), which in addition to being the State Plant, is culturally significant and an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community. Its very production is known to add to our watershed, and to help balance our ecosystem in addition to providing a vital starch crop should our state have the need to fend for ourselves in the future. Because of its sustainable generation, it could even be seen as a way to help aid us to mitigate climate change and the attendant effects such as sea level rise and brackishness to our freshwater due to salt intrusion from king tides.

As you are aware, many farmers here on Hawai'i are experiencing financial losses and hits when it comes to agriculture, and even a vital crop such as kalo is no different. This measure helps to incentivize farmers to grow taro, one of the healthiest staple starch foods available. Given all that, this measure is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices & its vital agricultural knowledge alive.

SB782 will create economic incentives for taro farmers and could reduce the cost of poi for local families. In doing so, this measure could help make taro more widely accessible and enable Hawaiian families to reconnect with this culturally important food source.

Please do what you can to support this bill. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-782

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 4:52:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support SB782