



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Statement of
SCOTT GLENN, Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEES ON FINANCE
Thursday, February 23, 2023, 11:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB 305 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** HB 305 HD1, which updates the Hawai'i State Planning Act by removing references to the sugarcane and pineapple industries.

When the Hawai'i State Plan was first enacted in 1978, sugarcane and pineapple were the dominant agricultural crops and a significant part of Hawaii's economy. The predominance of these industries was reflected in the Hawai'i State Plan's economic objectives and policies for agriculture, and in the economic priority guidelines. However, sugarcane and pineapple production in Hawai'i has declined significantly since then, but the State Plan has not accounted for this change. By deleting references to sugarcane and pineapple, HB 305 HD1 will result in the State Plan better communicating our collective interest in promoting diversified agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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
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Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON FINANCE

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023
ROOM 308
11:30 A.M.**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 305, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 305, HD1 that amends the Hawai'i State Planning Act by removing references to the sugarcane and pineapple industries. The Department of Agriculture supports this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.





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February 23, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 305, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
11:30 AM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, 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 HB 305, HD1, which updates the Hawaii State Planning Act's economic agricultural objectives and policies and priority guidelines by removing references to the sugarcane and pineapple industries.

The State's Agricultural Functional Plan was last updated in 1991. Since it was last updated, Hawai'i's agricultural industry has transitioned from plantation agriculture to a more diversified agriculture sector. Diversified agriculture in Hawaii includes flowers and nursery products, vegetables and melons, macadamia nuts, cattle, milk, fruits poultry, eggs, forest products, hogs, coffee, taro, ulu, mamaki, cacao, other livestock, and aquaculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
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Reba Lopez
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Madeline Ross
Kohala, Hawai'i

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Andrea Drayer
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Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lāna'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 Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Finance 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 HB305.**

The current legislation is dated and reflects an agricultural industry dominated by the sugarcane and pineapple industries, however the state of Hawaiian agriculture has vastly evolved with the growth of our local food producers, small farmers and agri-tourism. By removing references to the sugarcane and pineapple industries and updating the Hawaii State Planning Act, HFUU believes this piece of legislation will create an agricultural landscape that better meets the needs of our diverse agricultural communities. By removing outdated and restriction language, this Act will help foster an environment where Hawaii's small farmers and ranchers can continue to thrive and contribute to the growth of our local economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

HB-305-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 10:28:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HB305 HD1.