

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2023
9:00AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 970
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 970. This bill makes technical changes to the statutory definitions of "agricultural enterprise lands" and "non-agricultural park lands" for clarification and consistency purposes. The Department strongly supports this bill.

Act 221, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022 (Act 221), created the Agricultural Enterprise Program within the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). Act 221 gives the HDOA the ability to lease lands managed by the HDOA for related agricultural activity, rather than solely for crop development and production. However, the definition of "agricultural enterprise lands" in Act 221 inadvertently created an inconsistency with the definition of "non-agricultural park lands" in chapter 166E, HRS. This bill remedies the inconsistency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





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February 15, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HB 970
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, 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 970, which makes technical changes to the statutory definitions of "agricultural enterprise lands" and "non-agricultural park lands" for clarification and consistency purposes.

Act 221, Session 2022, established the Agricultural Enterprises program as Chapter 141D. This bill appears to establish the same program that Act 221 (HB 871, HD1, SD1, CD1) did last year.

This much-needed program can boost Hawai'i's agricultural production and success to the levels our state needs to become more self-sufficient. Our farmers need this assistance. Our communities need the results of this program.

With the Agricultural Enterprise Program, HDOA is better able to support and promote agriculture through increased management and control of the lands under its jurisdiction.

HB 970 merely makes technical changes for clarification and consistency purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important measure.