

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

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

**FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023**  
**ROOM 325**  
**9:30 A.M.**

**SENATE BILL NO. 511, SENATE DRAFT 1**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 511, SD1 that requires the Department of Agriculture (Department) to establish a two-year pilot program to identify and purchase the "outer shell" of small, foreign-made agricultural tractors and attempt to retrofit engines to comply with Environmental Protection Agency standards. A report is due to the 2024 Legislature. There are two consecutive appropriations to establish a pilot program and attempt to retrofit EPA-compliant engines. The Department offers a comment. We believe a better legislative vehicle to accomplish the same task is found in House Bill No. 313, HD1 which requires the University of Hawaii to establish a similarly configured pilot program at a community college of their selection.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.





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March 17, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 511, SD1**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference  
9:30 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 SB 511, SD1,** which appropriates funds to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify efficient agriculture equipment and retrofit engines to meet the United States Environmental Protection Agency's standards.

As the demand for agricultural labor continues to increase, while the availability of labor decreases, farmers and ranchers continue to look for alternative means to operate their farms through technology, like small equipment tractors. A limited number of weed management solutions and the increase in labor costs have made weed management a major challenge for many small farmers in Hawai'i. Many small farmers also require smaller harvesting and field prep equipment that is not readily available in Hawai'i. These growers include vegetable crops, wetland crops, and livestock forage crops. There is a need to identify high-technology small equipment and evaluate its applicability for Hawai'i's diverse agriculture systems.

Countries such as Japan have small equipment that is suitable for Hawai'i's small farmers, however, the engines that are attached to small equipment from foreign countries like Japan are not in compliance with EPA standard regulations. This pilot program would help identify desired small equipment as well as find solutions that would allow Hawai'i farmers to import foreign equipment that complies with EPA standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair  
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

Friday, March 17, 2023 9:30 a.m.  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
Conference Room 325  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**SB511 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE:** Appropriates funds to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program.

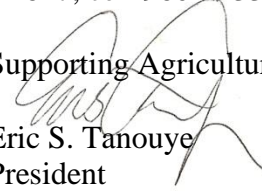
My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 350 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 511**

It is always important for an industry to embrace change and innovation to stay relevant and efficient. This bill will help to improve the abilities of our Nurserymen and women to become more competitive in production and possibly more efficient with workforce.

If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 2627, cell 960-1433 and email [eric@greenpointnursery.com](mailto:eric@greenpointnursery.com).

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,

  
Eric S. Tanouye  
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association



March 15, 2023

Representative Cedric Asuega, Chair  
Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

**Testimony in Support of SB 511, S.D. 1, Relating to Agriculture (Appropriates funds to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify efficient agriculture equipment and retrofit engines to meet the United States Environmental Protection Agency's standards. Requires a report to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/2050.)**

**Friday, March 17, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of SB 511, S.D. 1** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii.

**SB 511, S.D. 1.** This bill proposes to appropriate funds to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify and purchase the outer shell of foreign agriculture small equipment tractors that are retrofittable and thus, could comply with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's standard regulations if an appropriate engine were installed. This measure is vital to farmers and ranchers who must resort to alternative means and technology to operate their farms due to the increase in demand for unskilled labor.

**LURF's Position.** LURF members include farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider such assistance immensely helpful, if not critical to the conduct of their operations and to help sustain their local businesses.

The purpose of this bill is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes, Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution, “to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands.”

LURF therefore appreciates the objective of SB 511, S.D. 1, which is to support agriculture and provide needed assistance to agriculture-related or agribusinesses operations. Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be meaningless without implementation of such measures. The establishment of the foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program is critically needed to help support viable agricultural activity in this State.

By recognizing the need to assist the local agriculture industry and the significance of implementing incentives and measures which help to support the growth and maintenance of agriculture in the State, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

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



# HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of SB511 SD1  
Relating to Agriculture

House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Date: Friday, March 17, 2023  
Time: 9:30 AM  
Place: Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of SB511 SD1**, which appropriates funds to establish a foreign agriculture small equipment pilot program to identify efficient agriculture equipment and retrofit engines to meet the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) standards.

The Hawaii agriculture industry must continue seeking the best technology and mechanization possible to remain viable in a competitive global marketplace. With our high cost of doing business and labor shortages, farmers need to look at innovative ideas to overcome these challenges. Japan, for example, has adapted their equipment to meet the needs of their unique terrain which could potentially be applied here in Hawaii. This pilot program would explore these types of opportunities to retrofit foreign equipment to comply with EPA standard regulations and ultimately support our local farmers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support and we urge you to pass this measure.

*The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.*

**SB-511-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 10:09:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support