

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
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 FINANCE**

**FEBRUARY 20, 2025**  
**2:00 PM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1497, HD1**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1497 relating to agriculture. The bill requires and appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to develop an online reporting tool for restricted use pesticide reporting and appropriates funds to convert temporary environmental health specialist III positions into permanent positions. The Department is in strong support of this bill.

In 2020-21, the Department developed an online reporting tool for restricted use pesticide reporting pursuant to Section 149A-26, Hawaii Revised Statutes, but has not had consistent staffing to conduct outreach and education for full implementation of the tool. The two temporary positions provided in Act 45, SLH 2018, have turned over five (5) times since their establishment. Converting the positions to permanent status will provide stability for staff and allow the Pesticides Branch to complete the outreach required to fully implement the online restricted use pesticide reporting tool.

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](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 20, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1497, HD1**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, 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 1497, HD1**, which would require and appropriate funds for HDOA to develop and adequately staff an online restricted use pesticide reporting system.

HFB recognizes and supports the robust and evidence-based regulation of pesticides used to maintain public health, agricultural production, and environmental protection. The current system of reporting could be more efficient and better facilitated by an online system that is easier to navigate for the department and users.

We support measures that would give HDOA increased funding and capacity to perform its mandates, especially including pesticide use and safety education to ensure safeguards to protect farmers, the public, and our fragile island ecosystems.

Thank you for your continued support of Hawai'i agriculture.

**HB-1497-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 11:07:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>              | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ted Bohlen          | Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

SUPPORT



# HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

HB1497 HD1 – With Comments  
Relating to Agriculture

House Committee on Finance

Date: Thursd-day, February 20, 2025  
Time: 2:00 PM  
Place: Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide **comments regarding HB1497 HD1**, which requires and appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to develop an online reporting tool for restricted use pesticide reporting and converts temporary environmental health specialist III positions into permanent positions.

HCIA appreciates this measure's attempt to streamline the reporting process and make it more effective. A user-friendly online reporting tool should help with producing more timely submissions, less paperwork, and efficient data collection. Reducing administrative burden, particularly for smaller farmers, allows the agriculture sector to put greater resources towards growing their businesses and expanding the industry as a whole.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB1497 HD1.

*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.*