

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026
3:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2246, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL GRANT ADMINISTRATION**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2246, House Draft 1 that creates an agricultural grant program and revolving fund for the purposes of grant application, execution, reporting and auditing to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB). The Department strongly supports the bill.

Creating an agricultural grant program and revolving fund maximizes the Department's ability to submit successful grant applications by providing resources to seek, apply, and administer federal agricultural grant opportunities that benefit Hawaii producers.

Many federal grant applications include reimbursement for indirect overhead costs and an allowable grant administration fee to reimburse the state for costs associated with the management of the grant, such as executing the contract agreements, drawing down funds, submitting the required reports and closing the grant. This bill provides for a portion of these fees to be deposited in a grant revolving fund to be expended by the Department for grant applications and administrative purposes such as to secure consultant services for outreach and data collection required by the application as well as to hire temporary staff for the management of the grant. The Department requests fifty percent of the indirect cost funds be deposited into the grant revolving fund.

Thank you for consideration of our request and the opportunity to testify.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 23, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 2246, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
3:00 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.

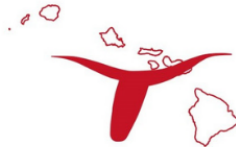
The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 2246, HD1, which establishes an agricultural grant program and revolving fund within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to improve the State's capacity to pursue, manage, and administer federal agricultural grants.

Federal agricultural grants are a critical source of funding for Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers, supporting research, infrastructure, value-added production, food systems development, and on-the-ground implementation of agricultural programs. However, limited administrative capacity and rigid funding structures can constrain the State's ability to fully leverage these opportunities.

HB 2246, HD1 provides a practical and fiscally responsible solution by allowing the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to retain and reinvest allowable federal indirect cost reimbursements to support grant development, execution, compliance, and auditing. This approach strengthens accountability while ensuring that Hawai'i is better positioned to compete for and manage federal agricultural funding.

By improving the State's administrative capacity and reducing barriers to accessing federal agricultural funding, HB 2246, HD1 supports the long-term growth, resilience, and sustainability of Hawai'i's agricultural industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

HB2246 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL GRANT ADMINISTRATION.

March 23, 2026, 3:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB2246 HD1** which creates an agricultural grant program and revolving fund for the purposes of grant application, execution, reporting and auditing to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Creating this grant program will provide a pathway for the federal grant funds obtained by the state to be distributed to producers in the state. Allowing for overhead costs to be applied to the program will ensure that the support to seek, apply for, and administer these grants continues. This program will provide more opportunities for Hawaii's producers to utilize federal grant funds through the state, supporting our goals to increase local food production.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Ranchers produce a high-quality protein and are the stewards of almost 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or nearly 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB2246 HD1

Monday, March 23rd, 2026 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 224

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

HAPA supports HB2246 HD1 which creates an agricultural grant program and revolving fund for the purposes of grant application, execution, reporting, and auditing to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB).

The legislature found that \$8,899,450.16 in federal grant funds have been obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture via DAB's current efforts. Establishing this fund for the state can improve the administrative capacity of DAB as they continue to seek future federal grant opportunities to support our agricultural producers. Many of these federal grants provide for indirect overhead reimbursements for administrators and access to funds that our local producers need.

By increasing capacity to submit more grant applications and successfully administer them, DAB will have greater ability to secure more funds. As we look to increase the funding for grant programs in our state we also need to increase the capacity to manage existing grants, and new grants. This legislation intends to increase Hawai'i agriculture producers and programs access to funding through the State as DAB increases capacity to secure more funding from federal programs.

Please support HB2246 HD1 and funding for DAB's agricultural grant program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned below the text 'Respectfully,'.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 11:42:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Shay Chan Hodges | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support HB2246 HD1 which creates an agricultural grant program and revolving fund for the purposes of grant application, execution, reporting, and auditing to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB).

This fund can improve the administrative capacity of DAB as they continue to seek federal grant opportunities to support our farmers, ranchers, and producers. Many of these federal grants provide for indirect overhead reimbursements for administrators and access to funds that our producers need.

By increasing capacity to submit more grant applications and successfully administer them, DAB will have greater ability to secure more funds. As we look to increase the funding for grant programs in our state we also need to increase the capacity to manage existing grants, and new grants. This legislation intends to increase Hawai'i agriculture producers and programs access to funding through the State as DAB increases capacity to secure more funding from federal programs.

Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 12:21:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support HB2246 HD1 which creates an agricultural grant program and revolving fund for the purposes of grant application, execution, reporting, and auditing to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB).

This fund can improve the administrative capacity of DAB as they continue to seek federal grant opportunities to support our farmers, ranchers, and producers. Many of these federal grants provide for indirect overhead reimbursements for administrators and access to funds that our producers need.

By increasing capacity to submit more grant applications and successfully administer them, DAB will have greater ability to secure more funds. As we look to increase the funding for grant programs in our state we also need to increase the capacity to manage existing grants, and new grants. This legislation intends to increase Hawai'i agriculture producers and programs access to funding through the State as DAB increases capacity to secure more funding from federal programs.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula. HI 96717

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 1:04:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Sulara James | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support HB2246 HD1 which creates an agricultural grant program and revolving fund for the purposes of grant application, execution, reporting, and auditing to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB).

This fund can improve the administrative capacity of DAB as they continue to seek federal grant opportunities to support our farmers, ranchers, and producers. Many of these federal grants provide for indirect overhead reimbursements for administrators and access to funds that our producers need.

By increasing capacity to submit more grant applications and successfully administer them, DAB will have greater ability to secure more funds. As we look to increase the funding for grant programs in our state we also need to increase the capacity to manage existing grants, and new grants. This legislation intends to increase Hawai'i agriculture producers and programs access to funding through the State as DAB increases capacity to secure more funding from federal programs.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Sulara James

Maui

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 1:51:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Judith White | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please help our agricultural economy grow!

Judith White, Kapaa

Aloha Committee Chair and Members,

I support HB2246 HD1 which creates an agricultural grant program and revolving fund for the purposes of grant application, execution, reporting, and auditing to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB).

This fund can improve the administrative capacity of DAB as they continue to seek federal grant opportunities to support our farmers, ranchers, and producers. Many of these federal grants provide for indirect overhead reimbursements for administrators and access to funds that our producers need.

By increasing capacity to submit more grant applications and successfully administer them, DAB will have greater ability to secure more funds. As we look to increase the funding for grant programs in our state, we also need to increase the capacity to manage existing grants, and new grants. This legislation intends to increase Hawai'i agriculture producers and programs access to funding through the State as DAB increases capacity to secure more funding from federal programs.

Please pass HB2246 HD1. Mahalo for your consideration!

Helen Cox, Kalaheo

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 4:22:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| kimdonghyeon | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support HB2246 HD1 which creates an agricultural grant program and revolving fund for the purposes of grant application, execution, reporting, and auditing to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB).

This fund can improve the administrative capacity of DAB as they continue to seek federal grant opportunities to support our farmers, ranchers, and producers. Many of these federal grants provide for indirect overhead reimbursements for administrators and access to funds that our producers need.

By increasing capacity to submit more grant applications and successfully administer them, DAB will have greater ability to secure more funds. As we look to increase the funding for grant programs in our state we also need to increase the capacity to manage existing grants, and new grants. This legislation intends to increase Hawai‘i agriculture producers and programs access to funding through the State as DAB increases capacity to secure more funding from federal programs.

Mahalo for your consideration!

kimdonghyeon

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 10:56:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Glen Kagamida | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!!! MAHALO!

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:13:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Georgia L Hoopes | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members.

Please support HB2246 HD1 which creates an agricultural grant program and revolving fund for the purposes of grant application, execution, reporting, and auditing to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB).

This fund can improve the administrative capacity of DAB as they continue to seek federal grant opportunities to support our farmers, ranchers, and producers. Many of these federal grants provide for indirect overhead reimbursements for administrators and access to funds that our producers need.

By increasing capacity to submit more grant applications and successfully administer them, DAB will have greater ability to secure more funds. As we look to increase the funding for grant programs in our state we also need to increase the capacity to manage existing grants, and new grants. This legislation intends to increase Hawai'i agriculture producers and programs access to funding through the State as DAB increases capacity to secure more funding from federal programs.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:55:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| B.A. McClintock | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support HB2246 HD1 which creates an agricultural grant program and revolving fund for the purposes of grant application, execution, reporting, and auditing to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB).

This fund can improve the administrative capacity of DAB as they continue to seek federal grant opportunities to support our farmers, ranchers, and producers. Many of these federal grants provide for indirect overhead reimbursements for administrators and access to funds that our producers need.

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Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 6:56:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Patricia Blair | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Strongly support

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 7:18:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ann Dorsey | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I urge you to support HB2246 HD1 which creates an agricultural grant program and revolving fund for the purposes of grant application, execution, reporting, and auditing to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB).

This fund can improve the administrative capacity of DAB as they continue to seek federal grant opportunities to support our farmers, ranchers, and producers. Many of these federal grants provide for indirect overhead reimbursements for administrators and access to funds that our producers need.

By increasing capacity to submit more grant applications and successfully administer them, DAB will have greater ability to secure more funds. As we look to increase the funding for grant programs in our state we also need to increase the capacity to manage existing grants, and new grants. This legislation intends to increase Hawai'i agriculture producers and programs access to funding through the State as DAB increases capacity to secure more funding from federal programs.

Thank you

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:05:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

support

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 10:50:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| ANDREW ISODA | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support HB2246 HD1 which creates an agricultural grant program and revolving fund for the purposes of grant application, execution, reporting, and auditing to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB).

This fund can improve the administrative capacity of DAB as they continue to seek federal grant opportunities to support our farmers, ranchers, and producers. Many of these federal grants provide for indirect overhead reimbursements for administrators and access to funds that our producers need.

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Mahalo for your consideration!

Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau'i

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 1:02:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christine L. Andrews, J.D. | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Mahalo nui for your support of this measure.

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 2:22:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB2246 because I believe it will help with administrative capacity in the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 1:29:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| laurel brier | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Support our local farmers and food indepenence for Hawaii

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 6:23:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melissa Barker | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to ask that you support HB2246 HD1 which creates an agricultural grant program and revolving fund for the purpose of grant application, execution, reporting and auditing to be administered by the Department of Agriculture & Biosecurity.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:19:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gregory Misakian | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support HB2246 HD1.

Gregory Misakian

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:27:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Jackie Keefe | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

My name is Jackie Keefe, and I am **in strong support of HB2246 HD1**, which creates an agricultural grant program and revolving fund for the purposes of grant application, execution, reporting, and auditing to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB).

This fund can improve the administrative capacity of DAB as they continue to seek federal grant opportunities to support our farmers, ranchers, and producers. Many of these federal grants provide for indirect overhead reimbursements for administrators and access to funds that our producers need.

By increasing capacity to submit more grant applications and successfully administer them, DAB will have greater ability to secure more funds. As we look to increase the funding for grant programs in our state we also need to increase the capacity to manage existing grants, and new grants. This legislation intends to increase Hawai'i agriculture producers and programs access to funding through the State as DAB increases capacity to secure more funding from federal programs.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:33:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Leo Nahe Smith | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support HB2246 which creates an agricultural grant program and revolving fund for the purposes of grant application, execution, reporting, and auditing to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB).

This fund can improve the administrative capacity of DAB as they continue to seek federal grant opportunities to support our farmers, ranchers, and producers. Many of these federal grants provide for indirect overhead reimbursements for administrators and access to funds that our producers need.

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Mahalo for your consideration!

Leo Nahe, Nu'uauu