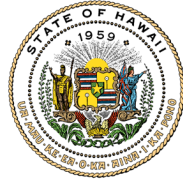


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

WRITTEN ONLY

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026

2:00 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM 308

**SENATE BILL NO. 2110, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2110, House Draft 1 that establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. An annual report and a triennial program evaluation are required. There is an appropriation request. The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) supports the intent of this measure to the extent that the program to be developed tangibly increases local food production and the economic viability of participating agricultural operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Parwinder Grewal, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience
and

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Interim Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2110 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2110 SD1 HD1
Relating to Agriculture.

The measure establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program
within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. Requires an annual
report to the Legislature and appropriates funds.

For several years, University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
Resilience (CTAHR) faculty and Cooperative Extension personnel have conducted
research and applied the findings to assist farmers, ranchers and cultural practitioners
with climate smart agricultural practices, conservation practices and culturally
appropriate practices to improve local food production and protect our environment.
CTAHR looks forward to collaborating with the Climate Change Mitigation and
Adaptation Commission to provide technical assistance and education that supports the
adoption of science-based conservation practices and support local food production and
economic viability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the measure.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2110 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka ‘Oihana ‘Imi Kālā
(House Committee on Finance)
Ke Kapikala o Hawai‘i
(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

‘Apelila 7, 2026

2:00PM

Lumi 308

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB2110 SD1 HD1**, which establishes a Soil Health Incentive Program to support the adoption of science-based conservation practices that improve soil health, water retention, and climate resilience.

Healthy soil is the foundation of all agricultural production. The use of pesticides and the proliferation of invasive species have depleted Hawai‘i’s soil health and exacerbated issues of watershed resilience and erosion, the consequences of which were seen with the devastating impacts of the recent Kona Low storms. Crop rotation and diversification, as well as water conservation, and other restorative land practices improve soil health.

OHA appreciates that this measure specifically honors Native Hawaiian traditional agricultural technologies as important soil management practices that should be incentivized. Native Hawaiian traditional farming methods are successful agricultural technologies that are ecologically sustainable, culturally significant, and critical to Hawai‘i’s long-term food security and self-sufficiency goals. Traditional Native Hawaiian farming techniques, such as lo‘i kalo and loko i‘a, are integrated into natural ecological systems, and have a minimal impact on our environment while allowing our agricultural resources to remain viable for generations. These agricultural methods are particularly suitable for our climate, and history demonstrates their ability to produce about 1.02 million metric tons of food per year, which is enough to sustain a population

commensurate with that of our islands today.¹ Notably, in 2015 the legislature codified² support for these methods, updating the Hawai‘i State Planning goals for agriculture to include support for traditional Hawaiian farming systems.

OHA also supports equitable access to incentives for small farms and socially disadvantaged farmers. By ensuring all farmers benefit from incentives, this program fosters a more resilient agricultural community, while also acting in furtherance of the objectives and policies for our agricultural economy in the Hawai‘i State Planning Act.³

For the reasons stated above, OHA respectfully urges this committee to **PASS SB2110 SD1 HD1.**

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.

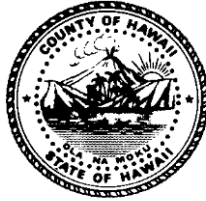
¹ See Natalie Kurashima, Lucas Fortini & Tamara Ticktin, *The potential of indigenous agricultural food production under climate change in Hawai‘i* (2019); *Nature Sustainability*, vol. 2, no. 3, Feb. 23 2019, 191-199.

² As part of OHA’s 2015 Legislative Package, Act 31 (2015) was passed, amending the Hawai‘i State Planning Act see HRS §226-7 (b)(17).

³ See HRS §226-7 (b)(18).

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor

William V. Brilhante, Jr.
Managing Director



Benson Medina
Director

Dennis Lin
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

25 Aupuni Street, Room 1301 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4252
(808) 961-8366 • Fax (808) 935-1205
E-mail: chresdev@co.hawaii.hi.us

April 6, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TUESDAY, April 7, 2026
2:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

TESTIMONY ON SB 2110 SD1 HD1: Relating to Agriculture

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

I am Benson Medina, Director of the Department of Research and Development, County of Hawai'i. One of the agricultural objectives of this department is to support research, development, control, and education that improves agricultural production, quality, resilience, and producer viability or reduces the impact of pests or disease on agricultural crops, livestock, forests, or the community.

The County of Hawai'i provides written testimony in **SUPPORT of SB2110 SD1 HD1**, to establish a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, require an annual report to the Legislature, and appropriate funds.

Environmental stewardship of soil and water health supports agricultural systems' resilience to invasive species, pests and plant disease, which are top ranking issues affecting farm viability on Hawai'i Island (HDOA, 2024). By supporting equitable access to conservation incentives, the program proposed in SB2110 also addresses a recent Federal rule change (USDA Final Rule 2025-12877) which eliminated added payment factors for race- and gender-based applicants in over 20 USDA programs, including conservation and soil health incentive programs. This loss affects a significant percentage of Hawai'i producers who would have met the definition for socially disadvantaged status.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT of SB2110 SD1 HD1**.

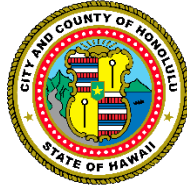
Respectfully,
Benson Medina
Director, Research and Development
County of Hawai'i

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

KE KE'ENA LOLI ANIAU MĀLAMA 'ĀINA A ME KE OLA LOA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 11th FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-2277 • EMAIL: resilientoahu@honolulu.gov • WEBSITE: resilientoahu.org

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



KEALOHA FOX, Ph. D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
PO'O HO'OKŌ & KAHU OLA LOA

VACANT
DEPUTY DIRECTOR &
DEPUTY CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
HOPE PO'O & HOPE KAHU OLA LOA

TESTIMONY OF KEALOHA FOX, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND
RESILIENCY AND CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 2:00 PM
Conference RM 308 and Via Videoconference

TO: Rep. Chris Todd, Chair, Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Finance

RE: SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2110, SD1, HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

The City and County of Honolulu's ("City") Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency ("Resilience Office") **supports** Senate Bill 2110, SD1, HD1, which establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

Agriculture is both a contributor to and a recipient of the impacts of climate change, and healthy soils are foundational to climate resilience and a secure local food system. Conservation practices that improve soil health can enhance water retention, reduce erosion, increase carbon sequestration, and strengthen long-term agricultural productivity. These outcomes directly advance statewide food security and climate goals.

The Resilience Office's Food Security and Sustainability Program works to expand local food production, strengthen supply chain resilience, and support equitable access to healthy, locally grown food. Advancing conservation agriculture practices, including Indigenous knowledge practices, is critical to sustaining local farmers and increasing the viability of local food production.

By providing financial and technical assistance and prioritizing small and socially disadvantaged farmers, this measure helps address key barriers to adopting agroecological production practices. This measure, made more urgent given recent catastrophic damage to farms from Kona Low weather events, will complement and strengthen City efforts to build a more resilient, equitable, and self-sufficient food system while advancing broader climate adaptation and mitigation objectives.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **support** of SB2110, SD1, HD1.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

April 7, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2110, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Todd, 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 SB 2110, SD1, HD1, which establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program to assist farmers with the adoption of conservation practices that support long-term agricultural viability.

HFB supports efforts that promote soil health, conservation, and resilient farming practices. Many farmers already invest in soil health practices to manage costs, improve productivity, and sustain long-term farm operations. These approaches can provide benefits to agricultural productivity, resource stewardship, and farm sustainability when programs are designed with practical, on-the-ground implementation in mind.

As this measure moves forward, HFB encourages close coordination with existing agricultural agencies and partners to ensure that the program is accessible, easy to navigate, and responsive to the operational realities faced by farmers and ranchers. Clear communication, streamlined application processes, and effective technical assistance will be critical to ensuring that farmers can participate without unnecessary administrative burden.

HFB also encourages continued engagement with the agricultural community as program details are developed to ensure that incentives align with a wide range of farming operations, scales, and production systems across the State. A flexible, farmer-focused implementation approach will be essential to the program's success.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Christian Zuckerman
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Kelii Gannet
Kohala, Hawaii

East Hawaii

Puna, Hawaii

Ka'u, Hawaii

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawaii

Gina Lind
Hana, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lana'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Rachel LaDrig
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kauai

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU strongly supports SB2110.**

Decades of plantation-era monocropping have left much of Hawaii's agricultural land with depleted soils that require ongoing remediation. A soil health survey across the islands found that previously intensive agricultural lands had the worst soil health of any land use studied, significantly worse than forests, pastures, and even conventional cropland (Crow et al., 2023). The same study found that well-managed pastures were indistinguishable from protected forests, demonstrating that active farming and ranching with the right conservation practices can restore degraded soils to the health of native ecosystems. Today's farmers inherit this degraded land while depending on imported fertilizers and soil amendments that are costly and vulnerable to supply chain disruption. The recent Kona Low storms demonstrated how vulnerable this land is to extreme weather, with farms on every island suffering erosion, flooding, and crop loss. Healthy soils with strong organic matter and ground cover absorb more water, resist erosion, and recover faster from extreme events.

SB2110 HD1 establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program that directly addresses these challenges by supporting the adoption of practices that rebuild soil fertility and climate resilience using local resources. The program's explicit priority for beginning farmers, Native Hawaiian farmers, and socially disadvantaged farmers ensures that financial assistance, technical support, and education flow to the producers least likely to access federal conservation programs. The inclusion of traditional Native Hawaiian ecological knowledge and biocultural restoration as eligible practices recognizes that Hawaii's most effective conservation methods are not new but have sustained these islands for generations. The program's placement under the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission consolidates conservation planning capacity in a way that should improve access for small-scale operations that have historically been underserved by fragmented state and federal programs.

According to the 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture, Hawaii has over 6,500 farms across every scale of operation, and soil health practices benefit all of them. HFU has been advocating for a state healthy soils program for the past five years. Twenty-eight states have already enacted soil health legislation, with programs ranging from Minnesota's \$2.8 million per year to California's \$105 million invested to date. The AEN committee recommended \$1,500,000 for program establishment. We urge the Committee to pass this measure with sufficient funding.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union



April 6, 2026

Re: Testimony In Support of SB 2110 Relating to Agriculture

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

The Kohala Center (TKC) is in **strong support** of SB 2110 establishing the conservation agriculture and soil health incentive program. By doing so, the State has an opportunity to step directly into the field alongside agricultural producers, sharing the cost of conservation investments that benefit the entire community.

We are a current grantee of the Hawai'i Carbon Smart Land Management Assistance pilot program established by Act 185. From our experience we recognize how this program is critical to filling the gaps in existing programs by supporting small, diversified farms and 'āina-based stewardship practices. Funding this program will enable us to provide targeted assistance based on our experience to other farms and 'āina-based stewardship groups often underserved by federal initiatives.

As a result of receiving funding from the pilot program, The Kohala Center can contribute to the growing, local need to cultivate more native forests and strengthen climate resiliency. We humbly ask for your full support to continue sustaining and growing Hawai'i's native forests and 'āina stewards!

Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui
President & Chief Executive Officer, The Kohala Center



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

TESTIMONY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2110 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

**Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi
House Committee on Finance (FIN)**

Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

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

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports SB2110 SD1 HD1, which establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, provides technical assistance to producers, requires annual reporting, and appropriates funds to implement the program.

SB2110 SD1 HD1 advances climate resilience, regenerative agriculture, and long-term food security. Healthy soils are a foundational climate-mitigation tool, and this measure provides the structure, incentives, and technical support needed to scale conservation agriculture statewide.

Why This Bill Is Necessary

Hawai'i's agricultural sector faces increasing pressures from climate change, including drought, extreme rainfall, soil degradation, and invasive species. Conservation agriculture and soil-health practices—such as cover cropping, reduced tillage, mulching, compost application, and agroforestry—are proven strategies that: (1) increase soil carbon sequestration; (2) improve water retention and drought resilience; (3) reduce erosion and runoff; (4) enhance soil fertility and long-term productivity; (5) reduce reliance on synthetic inputs; and (6) strengthen local food systems. SB2110 SD1 HD1 provides the State with a coordinated, science-based framework to support producers in adopting these practices.

A Strong, Integrated Approach

The bill's structure is sound and forward-looking. SB2110 SD1 HD1: (1) establishes a statewide incentive program to support producers who adopt conservation agriculture and soil-health practices; (2) places the program within the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, ensuring alignment with statewide climate goals; (3) requires technical assistance, recognizing that producers need support, training, and guidance to implement new practices effectively; (4) mandates annual reporting to ensure transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement; and (5) includes an appropriation to ensure the program is adequately resourced. This integrated approach ensures that soil-health improvements are measurable, scalable, and aligned with Hawai'i's climate-mitigation commitments.

Alignment With Climate and Environmental-Justice Principles

Healthy soils are a critical climate-mitigation tool. Conservation agriculture reduces greenhouse gas emissions, increases carbon sequestration, and improves ecosystem resilience. These benefits directly support Hawai'i's statutory climate goals and the State's commitments under the Aloha+ Challenge and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The bill also advances environmental-justice principles by supporting small and medium-sized producers, improving soil and water quality, and strengthening local food systems that benefit communities statewide.

Conclusion

SB2110 SD1 HD1 is a well-designed, climate-aligned measure that strengthens Hawai'i's agricultural resilience, supports producers, and advances soil-health practices essential for long-term sustainability. The Environmental Caucus respectfully urges the Committee to pass SB2110 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Alan Burdick, Co-Chair, burdick808@gmail.com

Mike Ewall, Co-Chair, mike@energyjustice.net

Melodie Aduja, Co-Chair *Emerita*, Legislativepriorities@gmail.com

Environmental Caucus Democratic Party of Hawai'i



April 6, 2026

To: Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and the House Committee on Finance

Subject: **SB2110 HD1**, Relating to Agriculture

Aloha,

We at Hawai'i Food+ Policy are writing in support of **SB2110 HD1**, which proposes to establish the Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program under the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. Requiring an annual report to the Legislature.

Implementing climate-smart agricultural practices helps to ensure the preservation of the ecological health of our soil and working lands. Soil health is important in sustaining plant and animal productivity¹. **SB2110 HD1** seeks to provide incentives, technical assistance, and educational support that will adopt science-based conservation practices that will improve soil health, water retention, climate resilience, and support local food production and economic viability. The initiatives of this program aim to bridge the gaps of existing programs aimed at supporting small, diversified farms.

Farmers who may be interested in adopting conservation agriculture and soil health practices face real barriers to do so. Hawai'i farmers operate on tight margins, and the risk of getting a new practice wrong, financially and agronomically, is often too high to absorb without risk. The program provides the financial foundation for farmers to trial these practices, lowering the risk enough to take that first step. It supports equitable access for small and socially disadvantaged farmers, long-term maintenance and knowledge transfer of farming practices that promote agricultural conservation and soil health, as well as projects that incorporate Native Hawaiian ecological knowledge and cultural restoration. This program will help to ensure the retention of the viability of working lands, support our local farmers which will help to retain our agricultural workforce, and increase local productivity.

Access to good soil data is equally critical. Understanding whether a practice worked, why it worked, and how to improve it requires data that most farmers cannot afford to generate on their own. When financial support is paired with access to solid data, farmers are in a fundamentally different position: able to make informed decisions, refine their approach over time, and continue building on their results. We encourage the committee to prioritize funding for the data analysis components of the program, as a strong dataset coming out of these trials will support

¹ "Soil Health," *Oahu Resource Conservation and Development Council*, January 4, 2023, <https://oahurcd.org/soil-health/>.

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2026, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



**HAWAI'I
FOOD+
POLICY**

Honolulu, HI 96813
food@purplemaia.org

future applications, deepen understanding of our local soils and systems on their 'āina, and extend the program's impact well beyond individual projects.

As for the reasons mentioned, we **strongly urge** the Committee to support this bill. Your support for this bill serves to secure sustainable agricultural practices that greatly impact the state's climate resilience, cultural restoration, and food security. We thank you for the opportunity to testify on **SB2110 HD1**.

Mahalo,
Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

SB-2110-HD-1

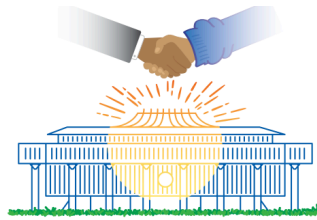
Submitted on: 4/5/2026 6:44:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We now know the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. This Bill has long been supported by the community. It's time to build a better agriculture system in Hawaii that benefits the farmers, residents and the environment. **STRONG SUPPORT** for SB2110.



CLIMATE FUTURE FORUM



Serena, Chelsey
King Kekaulike High School

Arianna
Mililani High School

Keanu
Kamehameha Schools Maui

Alvis, Alliyanah, Jaden
Maui High School

Mia
Kalani High School

Seuta'atia, Henrik, Irene, Andrew, Sijin, Desiree
'Iolani School

Kaylie
Honoka'a High School

Leilani, Janey
Mid-Pacific Institute

An
Hawai'i Pacific University

Vivienne, Leila, Brayden, Madison
UH Mānoa

Christopher, Maile, Meridian, Jessica, Maya, Erika, Chelsea
Punahou School

Joleena
Maryknoll School

Gabriel
Lāna'i High School

To: Rep. Todd, Chair
Rep. Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

Hearing: 04/07/2026, 2:00pm

From: Climate Future Forum, Hawai'i Youth Food Council

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT for SB2110 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members of the Committee,

We are youth leaders from the Hawai'i Climate Future Forum and the Hawai'i Youth Food Council (HYFC), programs that empower high school and college students to engage in food systems advocacy and education. On behalf of the Climate Future Forum's Regenerative Food Systems Working Group and HYFC, we respectfully submit this joint youth testimony in **strong support of SB2110 SD1 HD1**.

SB2110 SD1 HD1 establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program under the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. It provides financial assistance and technical support to farmers adopting practices like cover cropping, composting, lo'i kalo restoration, and agroforestry, with priority given to small farms, beginning farmers, and Native Hawaiian and socially disadvantaged farmers.

As young people in Hawai'i, having grown up in a time of increasing extreme weather events, we understand that the health of our 'āina and the security of our food system are connected. However, the farmers who take care of our land often lack access to the resources that would help them do it sustainably. This bill addresses that directly by removing

administrative barriers, making applications available in farmers' primary languages, and bringing conservation support under an agency with the expertise to deliver it.

The practices this program funds build the kind of food system we want to inherit - one less dependent on imports and resilient enough to feed our communities long-term. For these reasons, the Climate Future Forum Regenerative Food Systems Working Group Youth Policy Leaders and the Hawai'i Youth Food Council are in **strong support of SB2110 SD1 HD1** and respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

The Hawai'i Youth Food Council

& The Youth Leaders of the Climate Future Forum Regenerative Food Systems Working Group

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 3:59:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannette Gurung	WOCAN	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please **support SB2110 SD1 HD1**. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits, by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs. Healthy soils are the foundation of a healthy food system.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Jeannette Gurung

Kailua Kona



To: The House Committee on Finance (FIN)
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 2pm

In strong support of SB2110 SD1 HD1

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and FIN Committee members;

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **strongly supports SB2110 SD1 HD1** that establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. This bill would incentivize farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils, land management practices that sequester carbon, as well as educating farmers and providing technical assistance to achieve these goals.

Improving Hawai'i's soil health is crucial for combating climate change and achieving food self-sufficiency. Supporting the adoption of science-based conservation practices that improve soil health, water retention, and climate resilience; increase carbon sequestration; and reduce our reliance on external inputs, including synthetic fertilizers and fossil fuels, are a win-win for the climate and local food production. If we are serious about addressing the climate crisis, we need to move forward on efforts such as those described in SB2110 SD1 HD1, and we need to do them in earnest.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



To: The House Committee on Finance (FIN)
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 2pm

In strong support of SB2110 SD1 HD1

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and FIN Committee members;

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **strongly supports SB2110 SD1 HD1** that establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. This bill would incentivize farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils, land management practices that sequester carbon, as well as educating farmers and providing technical assistance to achieve these goals.

Improving Hawai'i's soil health is crucial for combating climate change and achieving food self-sufficiency. Supporting the adoption of science-based conservation practices that improve soil health, water retention, and climate resilience; increase carbon sequestration; and reduce our reliance on external inputs, including synthetic fertilizers and fossil fuels, are a win-win for the climate and local food production. If we are serious about addressing the climate crisis, we need to move forward on efforts such as those described in SB2110 SD1 HD1, and we need to do them in earnest.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:11:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Honorable Members of Committee ,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, and on behalf of all our members, we are honored to offer our VERY Strong Support of SB2110 SD1 HD1. Healthy soils translate to Healthy bodies ! Where and how we grow our food matters ! The poison that Big Ag uses to grow mono crops is NOT Healthy soil and not a good model for Hawai'i. This bill will help to educate the farmers and lead Hawai'i toward a sustainable future.

Improving Hawaii's soil health is crucial for combating climate change and achieving food self-sufficiency. Supporting the adoption of science-based conservation practices that improve soil health, water retention, and climate resilience; increase carbon sequestration; and reduce our reliance on external inputs, including synthetic fertilizers and fossil fuels, are a win-win for the climate and local food production.

Green Party of Hawai'i urges you to PASS SB2110 SD1 HD1, with a big smile on your face to help our people thrive!

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauiilo

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 3:43:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Dean	Clean the Pacific	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support this legislation and I don't think I really need to explain much here. Healthy organic soil is critical for growing food and we need food.



Carbon Cashback

April 4, 2026

Re: FIN hearing of SB2110 SD1 HD1 on April 7, 2026, at 2:00 pm

Position: Support

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i advocates for legislation that reduces carbon emissions and strengthens Hawai'i's energy independence while protecting vulnerable kama'āiana families.

SB2110 SD1 HD1 achieves these goals as it establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC), which will lead to a healthier and more sustainable agricultural sector and improve the health of our economy and our environment by improving the ability of our soils to sequester carbon.

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 HD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. To help Hawai'i make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy, Carbon Cashback Hawai'i urges you to pass SB2110 SD1 HD1 out of your committee.

We urge you to pass this bill out of your committee.

Mahalo nui loa.

**TESTIMONY ON SENTATE BILL 2110, SD1, HD1 RELATING TO
HEALTHY SOILS**

Position: **Support**

To Representative Chris Todd, Chair; Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Simonpietri Enterprises LLC (SEL) **SUPPORTS** the intention to establish conservation agriculture and soil health incentive program.

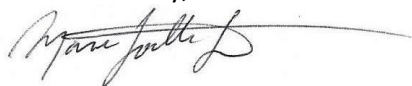
SEL is an O'ahu-based small business developing innovative ways to recycle some of Hawai'i's most challenging wastes into renewable fuels and other beneficial recycled-material products for use in Hawai'i. For the last 6 years, we have been designing the Aloha Carbon integrated plant in Campbell Industrial Park to divert over 2000 tons per day of construction & demolition (C&D) debris from landfilling to be converted into renewable fuel, and building materials starting with a small manufacturing plant – the Aloha Sustainable Materials Recycling and Fertilizer Facility (Aloha SMRFF) – the pilot plant for Aloha Carbon.

The Aloha SMRFF will divert over 200 tons per day of C&D waste from landfilling and remanufacture that waste to displace over 10,000 tons per year of imported fossil fuels used for power generation. Additionally, we will convert invasive, pest-infested and wildfire-prone biomass into biochar and mix it with other 100% locally generated wastes, to create organic and potash fertilizers at a lower carbon intensity than fossil based imported fertilizers. Biochar is a carbon-rich soil amendment created from biomass through our fluidized bed gasification process. Its porous structure helps to increase water retention and hold nutrients and beneficial microorganisms to support soil health. Our process also provides 100% guaranteed destruction of invasive species, stopping further proliferation, and thereby assisting local agriculture and landscape restoration efforts across Hawai'i.

It is imperative that we continue to take action to meet state climate goals and strengthen agricultural resilience across our state. SEL's technical expertise and innovation are focused in the areas of waste management, energy and nutrient recovery, and the circular economy. Our mission as a company whose is to do something better with waste than simply throwing it away. As an advocate for environmental stewardship, we would like to see this measure advance.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure, and urge your support for **SB2110 SD1, HD1**.

Sincerely,



Marie-Joelle Simonpietri
President

[About Simonpietri Enterprises LLC](#)

Simonpietri Enterprises is a Kailua, Hawaii-based woman- and veteran-owned small business with ten employees, focused on technical innovation and first-of-kind project development of emerging clean

and renewable technologies. Since founding in 2006, we have helped dozens of small and large industrial companies in Hawaii, the continental U.S., Australia, and Canada improve the environmental and economic sustainability of their operations through technical and business advice in renewable energy conversion, waste reduction and re-use, and greenhouse gas lifecycle impact reduction. Simonpietri Enterprises' founder and employees have participated in the strategy, planning, design, financing, development, construction, and energy efficiency/greenhouse gas reduction/sustainability renovation for over \$400 million in new renewable and first-of-kind sustainable fuel projects over the past 15 years. Since launching the Aloha Carbon waste-to-fuel technical development process in August 2020, Simonpietri Enterprises is now developing renewable fuel production facilities in its own right, starting with the Aloha Sustainable Materials Recycling and Fertilizer Facility (SMRFF) in Kapolei, Hawaii to divert wastes generated in Honolulu from landfilling and transform it to renewable fuel, organic fertilizer, and recycled-material building products.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

SB2110 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

April 7, 2026, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB110 SD1 HD1** which establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. Requires an annual report to the Legislature.

Soil health is a key measure of overall health of an ecosystem. Well-managed cattle can contribute to increased soil health, in turn improving water retention and carbon sequestration. This program seeks to provide incentives, technical assistance, and education for these practices, which will make it more feasible for a wider range of producers to adopt practices that benefit the land.

We know that there is a demonstrated need for this funding to assist producers in purchasing equipment, obtaining technical assistance, and funding practices that help food production and land stewardship.

In our experience, both established ranches as well as new and small ranches could benefit from this support. A program like this is strategically proactive, providing the tools needed for our agricultural producers to continue their work for the community and future generations, improving with better practices.

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





House Committee on Finance

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB2110 SD1 HD1

Tuesday, April 7th, 2026 2:00 p.m. Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports SB2110 SD1 HD1 which establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

This measure proposes to provide farmers with capacity to invest in the infrastructure to adopt practices that contribute to soil health and conservation. The practices supported in this bill prevent soil erosion by wind and water which can further enhance air and water quality and have cascading positive impacts in our environment.

Profit margins in farming are thin, incentives in this proposed program can reduce barriers to adopting a more productive system of agriculture that decreases dependence on expensive, fossil based inputs and pesticides that are subject to market volatility.

Healthy soil is the foundation of a healthy and resilient food system. In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, and soil biodiversity. Healthy soils support more pest and climate change resistant crops and more nutrient dense food. Heavy industrial practices dating back to the plantation era have depleted our local soil health for over a century, by sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides which not only kill pests but kill all the beneficial microbes and life¹ that support healthy crops. SB2110 SD1 HD1 provides critical support for farmers seeking to implement practices that enhance the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health² and the environment. Transitioning from conventional, pesticide intensive practices to a regenerative system can be challenging because it requires considerable effort to rehabilitate depleted soil and often requires a different kind of infrastructure.

Soil biodiversity provides fertile ground for advancing global sustainability because it integrates so many challenges including climate resilience, water quality, pollution remediation³, food and fiber production, and habitat for organisms above ground and underwater.⁴

¹ <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/pesticides-are-killing-the-worlds-soils/>

² <https://www.emnz.com/article/how-pesticides-affect-soil-microbes>

³ <https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/12/hawaii-farmers-look-back-to-the-future-to-deal-with-climate-change/>

⁴ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-sciences/soil-biodiversity>



Healthy soil is by far the most biologically diverse part of Earth. The soil food web includes beetles, springtails, mites, worms, spiders, nematodes, fungi, bacteria, and other organisms. These organisms improve the entry and storage of water, resistance to erosion, plant nutrition, and breakdown of organic matter. These vital ecosystem services are often forgotten and destroyed through intensive industrialized agriculture⁵.

HAPA believes that SB2110 SD1 HD1 can help to address a range of important issues we face related to degraded and damaged soils, restore and improve soil biodiversity, while also improving the overall quality of our environment by preventing harmful run-off into marine environments, and conserving soil as a resource for a productive food system. SB2110 SD1 HD1 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1 and healthy soils for Hawai'i.

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

⁵ https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_050947.pdf

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting SB2110 SD1 HD1, Relating to Agriculture
Committee on Finance
April 7, 2026 at 2:00 pm
Conference Room 308 and via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra supports SB2110 SD1 HD1, which establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC).

Healthy soil is one of the most important foundations for climate mitigation, watershed health, and agricultural resilience. As climate change accelerates soil degradation and stresses our watersheds, the need for stronger systems that support soil health and food security continues to grow. Supporting conservation agriculture strengthens ecosystem functions across the landscape and helps protect natural resources across Hawai'i.

Agricultural conservation programs are currently fragmented, under-resourced and difficult to access, especially for small (<50 acres), beginning, Native Hawaiian, and socially disadvantaged farmers who steward some of the most vulnerable lands. This bill addresses these gaps by providing financial incentives and technical assistance to support the adoption of proven conservation practices, while prioritizing equitable access across farming communities.

By consolidating program administration under the CCMAC, an agency with strong land stewardship, planning, and climate expertise, this measure removes administrative barriers and improves statewide conservation efficiency.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2110 SD1 HD1.

Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 84,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and 18 managed areas and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.

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SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:34:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is to promote a Soil Health Incentive Program to support the adoption of science-based conservation practices that improve soil health, water retention, and climate resilience. In addition, better soil and better farming processes will result in more nutritious food which also promotes self sufficiency for Hawaii. Please support SB2110.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 11:14:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Burt Furuta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Finance Committee

I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB2110, which establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program under the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

Hawaii's agricultural sector faces mounting pressures from climate change, soil degradation, and threats to food security. SB2110 directly addresses these challenges by providing financial incentives, technical assistance, and education to farmers who adopt science-based conservation practices that improve soil health, water retention, carbon sequestration, and climate resilience — while reducing dependence on synthetic fertilizers, imported inputs, and fossil fuels.

This bill prioritizes equity. It ensures access for small farms, beginning farmers, Native Hawaiian farmers, and socially disadvantaged farmers. The bill also honors traditional Native Hawaiian ecological knowledge, including loi kalo restoration and ecocultural practices, recognizing their vital role in sustainable land stewardship.

By consolidating program administration under the Climate Change Commission — which already has land management and conservation planning expertise — SB2110 eliminates bureaucratic barriers and improves coordination statewide. This bill creates a workable program that encourages farmer participation. Pre-application technical assistance will be available at no cost, and applications will be furnished in an applicant's primary language.

The bill also builds in accountability through annual legislative reports and comprehensive program evaluations every three years.

SB2110 makes a vital investment toward a thriving and sustainable agricultural future. I urge the committee to pass this measure.

Thank you.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 10:50:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I am testifying in **strong support** of SB2110, which establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. This bill recognizes a fundamental truth that has been overlooked for far too long: healthy soil is the foundation of a healthy food system, a resilient agricultural economy, and an effective climate strategy.

What Soil Health Means for Hawai‘i

For over a century, industrial agricultural practices have treated soil as little more than an inert medium for holding plants upright while synthetic inputs do the work. We now know this approach is not only outdated but destructive. Heavy pesticide and herbicide use does not simply kill targeted pests; it sterilizes the land itself, depleting microbial life, reducing biodiversity, and leaving soil barren, dependent on costly inputs, and vulnerable to erosion and climate stress.

Modern soil science has revolutionized our understanding. Healthy soil is alive—teeming with bacteria, fungi, nematodes, and microorganisms that form complex ecosystems beneath our feet. This biodiversity is not incidental; it is essential. Soils rich in organic matter and microbial life:

- **Support healthier crops** with greater nutritional density;
- **Increase resilience** to pests, disease, and climate impacts like drought and flooding;
- **Reduce dependence** on expensive synthetic fertilizers and pesticides; and
- **Capture and store carbon**, pulling it from the atmosphere and locking it in the ground where it belongs.

A Climate Solution Beneath Our Feet

The carbon sequestration potential of healthy soils is staggering. Globally, soils contain more carbon than the atmosphere and all plant life combined. Practices that build soil organic matter—cover cropping, reduced tillage, compost application, rotational grazing—do not just improve farm productivity; they actively mitigate climate change by drawing down atmospheric carbon.

SB2110 places this work where it belongs: within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. It formally recognizes that agricultural policy is climate policy, and that supporting

farmers in transitioning to regenerative practices is one of the most cost-effective investments we can make in our collective future.

What the Program Does

This bill creates a framework to:

- Provide **education and technical assistance** to farmers implementing farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.
- Issue **awards and financial incentives** to accelerate adoption of these practices.
- Report annually to the Legislature on progress, outcomes, and recommendations.

It is not a mandate; it is a partnership. It meets farmers where they are and supports them in making transitions that benefit their operations, their communities, and the planet.

Moving Beyond Outdated Paradigms

For generations, the dominant agricultural model has treated soil as something to be conquered rather than cultivated. Pesticides, herbicides, and synthetic fertilizers promised short-term gains while degrading the long-term productive capacity of our land. We are still living with the consequences: depleted soils, contaminated watersheds, and farms locked into cycles of increasing input costs just to maintain yields.

SB2110 signals a shift. It says Hawai‘i is ready to support farmers in moving toward practices that work with nature rather than against it. Practices that build soil health, support biodiversity, and capture carbon. Practices that make farms more resilient, more profitable, and more sustainable for the next generation of Hawai‘i farmers.

An Investment in Our Future

This bill is modest in scope but profound in implication. It invests in education, technical assistance, and incentives—the very tools that enable farmers to experiment, learn, and transition at their own pace. It builds on what we have learned from successful soil health programs in other states and adapts it to Hawai‘i's unique agricultural systems and challenges.

The benefits will compound over time: healthier soils mean healthier crops, which mean healthier communities. Reduced input costs mean more profitable farms. Carbon sequestration means progress toward our climate goals. And a generation of farmers trained in regenerative practices means this knowledge is passed on, not lost.

SB2110 is a smart, forward-looking investment in Hawai‘i's agricultural future and climate resilience. I urge you to pass this bill and put Hawai‘i at the forefront of the soil health movement.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:09:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support.

Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits, including climate change mitigation by capturing carbon, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient, and less dependent on costly inputs. Healthy soils are essential for a healthy and regenerative food system.

Mahalo,
Kencho Gurung, Hilo

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 3:04:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Graham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd and members of the FIN,

I support SB2110 SD1 HD1 because it provides resources needed to support our farmers and keep our soils healthy, helping food production, biodiversity protection, and carbon sequestration.

I urge you to pass this bill out of your committee.

Thomas Graham, Honolulu

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 3:20:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this legislation.

David Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 3:30:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hayley Peter-Contesse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please **support SB2110 SD1 HD1**. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits, by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs. Healthy soils are the foundation of a healthy food system. I am a soil biogeochemist and it is particularly important to me that we grow and maintain healthy soils across the islands to support our farmers, local food systems, and climate goals.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 3:41:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra M Javar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully SUPPORT SB2110. PLEASE support it too. Thank you.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 3:43:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Metzler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill because it incentivizes farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils. Improving Hawaii's soil health is critical for combating climate change and achieving food self-sufficiency. There are many benefits to the proposed science-based conservation practices that will improve soil health including water retention, climate resilience, increasing carbon sequestration, and reducing our reliance on external inputs, including synthetic fertilizers and fossil fuels.

This bill will improve land management practices that sequester carbon, educate farmers, and provide technical assistance to achieve these goals.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:02:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee member,

I. SUPPORT strongly SB 2110 SD1 HD1 because healthy soils are a foundation to our sustainability and health of our islands.

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:11:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd and members of the FIN committee:

I support SB2110 SD1 HD1 because this bill improves the health of our agricultural sector and our environment.

This bill establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC).

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 HD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. To help Hawai'i make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy, I urge you to pass SB2110 SD1 HD1 out of your committee.

Mahalo!

Virginia

Honolulu

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:31:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits, by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs. Healthy soils are the foundation of a healthy food system.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

kimdonghyeon

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:32:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Emery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Healthy soil is the foundation of a healthy Hawai'i.

Well-maintained soil possesses the capacity to absorb greater quantities of precipitation, endure extended periods of drought, and facilitate the production of nutritious food.

From healthy soil, our trees, shrubs, plants, tributaries, water, coral, and sea life all benefit.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:38:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
emily gambino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2101 SD1 HD1. Diverting organic waste reduces the amount of ‘ōpala, trash, that would enter our landfills. This creates an opportunity for the State to pivot to creating a potential environment/agricultural input in our communities. Achieving desirable benchmarks or goals may be challenging but increasing the number of alternative processing sites is a promising start to change. Mandating diversion within 20 miles of the source creates opportunities for more operators who are closer to their producers. This reduces the spread of organic material and creates valuable farming amendments near our producers who will be able to use them. This supports agricultural infrastructure for producers while minimizing the potential spread of invasives, diseases, and other pests.

As we advocate for an alternative to landfills in our communities, advocating for the creation of a county and constituents approved recycling, bioconversion, and organic waste diversion centers provides an alternative path. To sincerely divert waste from landfills, I support requiring counties to identify and assess methods to achieve certain organic waste stream reduction goals within the State. Please support SB2101 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Emily Gambino
Makawao, HI

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:49:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Wakeham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd and members of the FIN committee:

I support SB2110 SD1 HD1 because this bill improves the health of our agricultural sector and our environment.

This bill establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC).

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 HD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. To help Hawai‘i make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy, I urge you to pass SB2110 SD1 HD1 out of your committee.

Mahalo!

Jason Wakeham, Haiku

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:52:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Daleiden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd and members of the FIN committee:

I support SB2110 SD1 HD1 because this bill improves the health of our agricultural sector and our environment.

This bill establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC).

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 HD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. To help Hawai'i make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy, I urge you to pass SB2110 SD1 HD1 out of your committee.

Mahalo!

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:57:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

-- I strongly support this measure that would incentivize farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils, land management practices that sequester carbon, as well as educating farmers and providing technical assistance to achieve these goals.

-- Improving Hawaii's soil health is crucial for combating climate change and achieving food self-sufficiency. Supporting the adoption of science-based conservation practices that improve soil health, water retention, and climate resilience; increase carbon sequestration; and reduce our reliance on external inputs, including synthetic fertilizers and fossil fuels, are a win-win for the climate and local food production.

Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau'i

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 5:17:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this measure that would incentivize farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils, land management practices that sequester carbon, as well as educating farmers and providing technical assistance to achieve these goals.

-- Improving Hawaii's soil health is crucial for combating climate change and achieving food self-sufficiency. Supporting the adoption of science-based conservation practices that improve soil health, water retention, and climate resilience; increase carbon sequestration; and reduce our reliance on external inputs, including synthetic fertilizers and fossil fuels, are a win-win for the climate and local food production.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 5:33:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary True	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2100 SD1 HS1, a measure that would incentivize farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils, land management practices that sequester carbon, as well as educating farmers and providing technical assistance to achieve these goals.

Improving Hawaii's soil health is crucial for combating climate change and achieving food self-sufficiency. Supporting the adoption of science-based conservation practices that improve soil health, water retention, and climate resilience; increase carbon sequestration; and reduce our reliance on external inputs, including synthetic fertilizers and fossil fuels, are a win-win for the climate and local food production.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 5:34:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald Klappert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2110. Having a farm here in Hawaii, I believe having healthy soil is the most important part of farming.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 5:35:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Simonds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd and members of the FIN committee:

I support SB2110 SD1 HD1 because this bill improves the health of our agricultural sector and our environment.

This bill establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC).

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 HD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. To help Hawai‘i make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy, I urge you to pass SB2110 SD1 HD1 out of your committee.

Mahalo!

Jonathan, Hilo

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 5:58:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
irene kloepfer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. Please support this bill to bring back healthy soil. We can't grow healthy food in unhysoil. It's time to put the needs of the people,

Aloha Chair Todd and members of the FIN committee:

Support for SB2110_SD1-HD1:

Key benefits of SB2110 SD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. To help Hawaii make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy.

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Keith Neal
Waimea

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 6:39:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this measure, which will protect healthy soil.

Judith White, Kapaa

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 9:29:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure that would incentivize farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils, land management practices that sequester carbon, as well as educating farmers and providing technical assistance to achieve these goals.

Improving Hawaii's soil health is crucial for combating climate change and achieving food self-sufficiency. Supporting the adoption of science-based conservation practices that improve soil health, water retention, and climate resilience; increase carbon sequestration; and reduce our reliance on external inputs, including synthetic fertilizers and fossil fuels, are a win-win for the climate and local food production.

Mahalo,

Jen Lum, 'Ewa Beach

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 11:33:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
K. McGlone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for healthier soil and agriculture.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 7:27:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The importance of soil microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change can not be denied.

The impacts of heavy industrial practices have depleted our local soil health for over a century. We must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes. Instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health.

Healthy soils are the foundation of healthy food systems.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 8:21:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I urge you to **support SB2110 SD1 HD1**. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits, by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs. Healthy soils are the foundation of a healthy food system.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1.

Thank you

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 8:44:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee members:

I support SB2110 SD1 HD1.

This bill establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

This program will allow Hawaii to enable better water regulation, enhance ag productivity, support biodiversity, and allow for more sustainable soil management. It will enhance our food and water security efforts while protecting our environment.

I urge you to pass SB2110 SD1 HD1.

Thank you,

[Noel Morin](#)

Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate
Hilo, Hawai'i

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 9:07:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Kawamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2110 SD1 HD1 because this bill improves the health of our agricultural sector and our environment.

This bill establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC).

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 HD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. To help Hawai'i make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy, I urge you to pass SB2110 SD1 HD1 out of your committee.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 10:09:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits, by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs. Healthy soils are the foundation of a healthy food system.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 10:28:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB2110 and the creation of the Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program. Hawaii's path to food self-sufficiency must be paved with healthy soil and equitable access for our local producers. I particularly appreciate this bill's focus on small and socially disadvantaged farmers, as well as its recognition of traditional Native Hawaiian farming methods.

We have seen the impact that decades of industrial practices have had on our lands. SB2110 provides the roadmap and the resources—through education and technical assistance—to help our farmers pivot toward practices that restore the 'āina. This is a win-win for our climate resilience and our local economy.

Mahalo,

Fitz

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 3:30:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Chon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure that would incentivize farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils, land management practices that sequester carbon, as well as educating farmers and providing technical assistance to achieve these goals.

Improving Hawaii's soil health is crucial for combating climate change and achieving food self-sufficiency. Supporting the adoption of science-based conservation practices that improve soil health, water retention, and climate resilience; increase carbon sequestration; and reduce our reliance on external inputs, including synthetic fertilizers and fossil fuels, are a win-win for the climate and local food production.

Sincerely,
Angela Chon

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 4:10:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits, by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs. Healthy soils are the foundation of a healthy food system.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Malia Chun, Kekaha



Chair Todd
Vice Chair Takenouchi
House Finance Committee

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
2 PM

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2110 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Aloha Members of the House Finance Committee,

The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission was first created through Act 106 in 2018, “to advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the State.” The Youth Commission’s Environment legislative committee is in **strong support** of **SB2110 SD1 HD1**.

Dependent on foreign exports, Hawai‘i lacks sustainable agricultural systems; our access to locally grown food exacerbates our state’s long-standing issue of self-sufficiency. This bill is a necessary step to encourage supportive, localized farming systems on our islands. Moreover, it is essential to promote agriculture in Hawai‘i that can support its inhabitants and growing youth. The conservation agriculture and soil health incentive program will aid the Hawai‘i State Department of Education’s goal to have 30% of school meals sourced locally by 2030.¹ Within the past few years, schools across the state have increased their reliance on local farms. In the 2022-23 school year, over 165,000 students were routinely fed by farm-to-school programs.² Hence, incentivizing local farmers to use sustainable and climate-friendly techniques is integral for our learning youth and our future economy.

The Youth Commission recognizes the necessity of SB2110 in combating agricultural degradation in Hawai‘i, which has a significant impact not only on the State’s economy, but also on the entire livelihoods of our communities. As youth, we feel the necessity of promoting a financially stable agricultural system for the health of our islands and their future generations. Therefore, the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission strongly urges the committee to **PASS SB2110 SD1 HD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission
hawaiiistateyc@gmail.com

¹ Hawai‘i State Department of Education. (2025). *Hawai‘i Farm to School Plan*.

² USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2023 Census of School Food Authority (SFA) in Hawai‘i.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 4:44:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

My name is Jackie Keefe, and I respectfully request that you **pass SB2110 SD1 HD1**. We have less than 60 years of livable soil left on this planet, and industrial agriculture has done irreversible damage to our soils. As such, small, regenerative farms are the way forward, but they need our help!

Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits, by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs. Healthy soils are the foundation of a healthy food system.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. **Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1.**

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 7:26:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kara Hoving	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Finance,

I'm writing to urge you to please support **SB2110 SD1 HD1**. This bill will invest in a sustainable future for Hawai'i's farmers and our 'āina by creating a healthy soils program to support regenerative farming practices.

As a writer, researcher, and community volunteer, I have worked in various capacities at the intersection of agriculture, soil health, and climate change for nearly a decade. I know that healthy soils form the foundation of a healthy food system, including the health of the land and the people that it feeds. The preponderance of scientific evidence over the last few decades has found that, unlike outdated conventional farming methods that deplete soil health, regenerative farming practices provide myriad environmental and economic benefits. These benefits include increased agricultural productivity, biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation, improved resilience to extreme weather, and decreased dependence on costly chemical inputs.

In an age of rising food prices and record-high costs of living, having a thriving local food system is more important than ever before. Last month's kona lows have devastated many farms here on Oahu. It is imperative that Hawai'i's farms can access support to build back better and to implement practices that will increase their resilience to future storms, so that they can continue to feed our communities even in the face of increasing climate disruptions.

SB2110 would create a program that would provide farmers with education and technical and financial assistance to implement farming practices that optimize soil health and improve overall resilience. This program represents an investment in the future of Hawai'i's agricultural industry and all who benefit from it, as well as an investment in the land and future generations.

Please support the future of Hawai'i's farmers and **support SB2110**. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Mahalo,

Kara Hoving, Aiea, HI

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 8:27:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 9:45:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annalise Hart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits, by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs. Healthy soils are the foundation of a healthy food system.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Aloha,

Annalise

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 10:14:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sedrika anuhealii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii State Legislature,

Please support SB2110 SD1HD1. As a lifelong islander, I am concerned about the trend of community moving away from planting their own small gardens because of failure that stems from mismanagement of soil health. I believe if there were more avenues and ease of education, more community would become curious about soil health. Having the education to understand soil health helps to understand more about impacts we can make to improve soil with everyday actions. More awareness can lead to trends and that can lead to normalcy which could evolve into cultural expectation. Imagine it being normal to ask your neighbor, "So how's your fungi doing?"

Let's make it our generation that re-starts the understanding of the soil's microbiome. Please support SB2110 SD1HD.

Mahalo,

Sedrika Anuhealii, Makakilo

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:34:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

I am submitting testimony in support of SB2110 SD1 HD1. Please support this bill. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits, by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs. Healthy soils are the foundation of a healthy food system.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:01:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colehour Bondera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloiha Chair & Committee Members:

This message is in strong support of passing SB2110.

As a farmer, our livelihood depends on soil.

As a long-time organic farmer and advocat, it is foundational knowledge that the health of the soil directly coorelates to the health of the plants grown.

As we loose sooil to the ocean naturally, it can and should be healthy and not contamionated soil.

As we grow healthy crops to feed Hawaii, it must be from healthy soils.

Please support this effort to ensure that Hawaii is looking out for and protecting our needed foundation by finally recognizing the importance of soil in the whole system.

Appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

colemel2@gmail.com

Honaunau, HI 96726

House Committee on Finance (FIN)
Hawai'i State Capitol
Tuesday, April 7, 2026
Conference Room 308, 2:00pm

Position: Support SB 2110 SD1 HD1

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Karen (Chang) Barr and I'm a small business consultant with Ho'onui LLC, and as a community member, I care deeply about the future of Hawai'i's local food system.

I support SB 2110 because Hawai'i needs better access to affordable, local food, and because smaller and socially disadvantaged farmers need more support. This bill helps build a stronger, more diverse farming community.

It's also important to include Native Hawaiian knowledge in how we farm. These are time-tested practices that help care for the land and keep our environment healthy. I know several Native Hawaiian farmers and support efforts that use this knowledge to grow food in a way that works for Hawai'i.

SB2110 supports these practices, helping farmers take care of the land while also making a living.

I respectfully urge you to pass SB 2110.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen L. Barr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K' and 'B'.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:03:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 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 SB2110 SD1 HD1 which establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and requires an annual report to the Legislature.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:24:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Committee Members,

My name is Molly Mamaril from Kaimukī, O‘ahu and I support this measure SB2110 SD1, HD1 establishing a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program. Healthy soils are essential for resilient agriculture, improved water retention, and long-term food security in Hawai‘i.

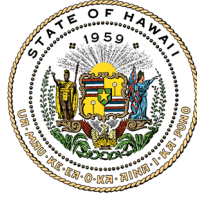
This program will help farmers protect natural resources, reduce costs, and adapt to climate change. The annual reporting requirement ensures accountability, and dedicated funding will help farmers adopt these important practices.

I encourage passage of this measure. Mahalo for your consideration.

Molly Mamaril

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
LEAH LARAMEE
Climate Change Coordinator on behalf of
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission
Co-Chair Ryan K. P. Kanaka'ole**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Tuesday, April 7, 2026
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2110, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Senate Bill 2110, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 proposes to establish a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, require an annual report to the Legislature and, appropriate funding. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 departments, committees, and counties with the purpose of promoting ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Soil health is closely tied to ecosystem health and climate change resilience. Climate-smart land management practices that focus on building soil health, combined with stable land tenure, can provide ecological and economic resilience for agricultural communities throughout the islands and increase food system resilience.

Since 2022, the Commission has supported similar efforts through the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Climate Smart Land Manager Assistance Pilot Program which provided incentives to land managers to implement climate smart practices on their lands. The Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program will continue this work to support local farmers, ranchers, and foresters while protecting the longevity of productive soils through building resilience in our agricultural and natural lands. The Climate Smart Land Manager Assistance Pilot Program was well received. Fifty-two applications were submitted in the last funding cycle,

requesting \$4.2 million, demonstrating that land managers are hungry for additional support in these areas.

Resilient local food systems are imperative as increasingly frequent severe storms will interrupt importation of food. With only a one to two-week supply of food on island, it is vital that we support local food production by encouraging regenerative practices. This program supports regenerative soil practices, enhanced aquifer recharge, reduced soil erosion, and the protection of productive lands.

This program will also assist the State in meeting its commitment to achieving net-negative carbon emissions by 2045 by actively investing in reducing emissions and greenhouse gas generation. Regenerative agriculture, forests, wetlands, and our nearshore waters and reefs serve as the State's only carbon sinks, removing carbon from the atmosphere. Increasing carbon sequestration and improving healthy soils will assist the State in meeting food security and carbon emission goals.

The Commission respectfully requests that this measure be amended as follows:

Page 6, line 10:

(f) The commission may enter into contracts for the procurement of goods and services to advance climate change mitigation and adaptation.

(g) The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 for the purpose of this section.

(h) For the purpose of this section:

This amendment will grant the Climate change mitigation and adaptation contracting authority to streamline implementation of the program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:58:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
randy wolfshagen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support **SB2110 SD1 HD1**.

We need regenerative ag to combat climate change via CO2 sequestration in soils as well as supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector - this can fix so many things wrong with our food chain here in Hawaii.

Mahalo - Randy, Mirka & Pueo Wolfshagen / Kekaha

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:13:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lory Ono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits, by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs. Healthy soils are the foundation of a healthy food system.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Lory Ono, Kaneohe

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 2:00 pm
Via Videoconference and Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2110, SD1, HD1 - RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Rep. Miyake for my Maui district, Rep. Yamashita of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am an attorney and long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I write to you today in **strong support of SB 2110, SD1, HD1, Relating to Agriculture**, which establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, requires an annual report to the Legislature, and appropriates funds.

I remember back in 2014, my daughters were in elementary and middle school on Maui and they had a school garden. The students participated in a research project with Cornell University whereby they trialed different soil rehabilitation techniques, collected samples, and documented their results. I remember with pride my daughters speaking about the results of this project to a standing-room-only meeting of the Hawaii Farmers Union United chapter at the Haiku Community Center. This experience really shaped my children's educational future and our choices as a family. I attended workshops offered by local farmers on soil remediation in the early days of the first Hawaii Farmers Union United chapter on Maui, how use of pesticides, herbicides, and commercial farming techniques have harmed our soil, and how sustainable farming techniques can make a positive difference to soil, water, and public health.

My youngest daughter went on to study environmental science at Vassar College. Her senior thesis focused on the subject of sustainability and food security in Hawaii. Her elementary school garden teacher had gone on to be executive director of Grow Some Good. After graduation, my daughter returned to Maui, and we make our weekly shopping trip to the Upcountry Farmers Market. We fully embrace the circular economy of depending on our farmers rather than imports for food. Venison stew made of locally-sourced axis deer by Maui Nui Venison is one of our favorites. My tenant is a teacher at Baldwin High School. He received grants to develop a hydroponic system for his classroom to produce tilapia and fresh produce. Supporting farmers and healing the land from past farming techniques and transitioning to a sustainable agriculture is modern Maui culture. I have seen the benefits to health, well-being, community, and our economy from such efforts.

As a result of my lived experience with healthy soils programs, I **strongly support SB 2110, SD1, HD1** and request that you do as well.

Mahalo nui for supporting Hawai'i families and farmers,

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.
Wailuku, Maui

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:34:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair Todd and members of the FIN Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I support SB2110 SD1 HD1 because this bill strengthens both Hawai‘i’s agricultural sector and our environment.

This measure establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC). By consolidating existing agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, it reduces administrative barriers that often make it difficult for farmers to access financial incentives and technical assistance. This streamlined approach will improve participation and strengthen conservation efforts statewide.

Healthy soil is foundational to a resilient food system and a stable climate. SB2110 SD1 HD1 supports practices that improve water retention and regulation, increase crop yields, enhance carbon sequestration, promote nutrient cycling, support biodiversity, filter pollutants, and prevent erosion. These benefits not only protect our natural resources but also help farmers remain productive and economically viable in the face of climate change.

Investing in soil health is an investment in Hawai‘i’s long-term sustainability, food security, and economic resilience. By supporting farmers in adopting conservation practices, this bill helps ensure that our agricultural systems can thrive while also protecting the environment for future generations.

To help Hawai‘i make better use of its resources, protect our environment, and strengthen our economy, I urge you to pass SB2110 SD1 HD1 out of your committee.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,
Nanea Lo, 96826
Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Member
Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member
Clean Elections Hawai‘i Member
Honolulu Tenants Union Member
350 Hawai‘i Member
Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i Member
Hawai‘i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:44:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Tajon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

As a local farmer, I can tell you first hand that we face the hardest challenges of all the farms under the USDA. Part of that is because the measures and recommendations that govern our SOP's come from an entity that is made mostly of farms located on Continental foundations. Being outweighed and spoken over by large corporate-run operations, our local leaders have little power to pull the necessary resources in our direction. What the CSLMAPP project has begun, in combination with the integral people and partnerships of our MALA 'Ōiwi group, we could garner effects that last generations and bolster our foundations of food security on this island exponentially, if followed through with.

See, the initial survey of the CSLMAPP project gives us just a glimpse into the long term carbon sequestration impacts that our polyforestry (Native Hawaiian Agroforestry) systems are having. To get a real idea of what totality of impacts these designs are having, they must be followed up with more soil carbon sequestration surveys as 1 year will tell us almost nothing when looking at these systems in terms of providing over generations.

Followed up with 3-year, 5-year and 10-year surveys would be a good start to being able to correlate data over time and help calculate projections. It takes at least 3 points to project a direction, so in order for our project to begin to be understood as far as soil impacts due to increased soil carbon, we would need at least 4 more years worth of funding to get any accurate account of the benefits or possible unforeseen detriments of these systems on our food security metrics. In this case though, the longer we collect data, the better we can predict future impacts and production. But would 25 years of funding be realistic? That's a question for you to answer. How long would you like the people of Hawaii to be food secure? Because if there's anything we've learned from the USDA in the last 50 years, it's that food provided at reasonable prices to the consumer are subsidized. We aim to do better and grow food for the people of this place and in a way that is absent of the supply chain fragility prominent in our food systems today. We've see what impacts like COVID can do to our food supply chain and now with the political instability of the US Federal government raising the cost of much utilized diesel, which in turn raises the cost of everything here in Hawai'i, friends, we must find better ways of producing food, fast.

I appreciate everyone who has been involved with the creation and support of these efforts and for the insightful voices who have brought this request to the table. I hope my testimony speaks to the philosophy behinds these initiatives and finds support in my words.

Na'u nō me ka ha'aha'a,
Keahi Tajon.
PO Box 412
Pepe'ekeo, HI 96783
keahiokekoi@gmail.com

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:12:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha nō,

Please **support SB2110 SD1 HD1**. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits, by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs. Healthy soils are the foundation of a healthy food system.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century, we must move away from the outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides and killing the soil microbes and life, and instead support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Leo Nahe, Nu‘uanu

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 11:05:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

support

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:40:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iiwileo Pacarro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui kākou, Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Iiwileo Pacarro. I am a fourth-generation farmer, third-generation teacher, and second-generation ‘āina educator. I hold a Bachelor of Applied Science with dual concentrations in Sustainable Community Food Systems and Hawaiian and Indigenous Health and Healing. My work bridges science-based agricultural systems, soil stewardship, and culturally grounded approaches to health and land.

I currently work in community-based programming at a local nonprofit on the Ko‘olau side of O‘ahu, focused on food access, intergenerational wellness, and strengthening local system resilience.

I am writing to support the foundation of SB 2110 SD1.

Through both farm-based coursework and applied community food systems work, I have seen firsthand how soil degradation, water instability, invasive species pressure, and dependence on imported inputs directly impact local producers and community health. Climate destabilization is a lived reality for all residents of Hawai‘i. We now see it firsthand shaping boots-on-the-ground decision making during community resiliency response efforts following the consequences of the recent Kona Low storms.

SB 2110 is a step toward building real, systems-level resilience to climate destabilization.

By establishing a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Hawai‘i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, this measure recognizes soil as foundational infrastructure. Soil health influences water retention, erosion control, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, and long-term farm viability. Investing in regenerative practices such as cover cropping, agroforestry, compost systems, rotational grazing, and lo‘i kalo restoration builds resilience directly into the land.

Importantly, this bill supports a shift in system design, not just a substitution of inputs. Reducing reliance on synthetic fertilizers, imported feed, fossil fuels, and globally sourced materials strengthens food security, economic resilience, and environmental health together.

From an Indigenous health perspective, land health and human health move together. Policies that restore soil function and ecological balance also strengthen long-term community wellbeing. The inclusion of Native Hawaiian ecological knowledge and ecocultural restoration reflects land management systems grounded in observation, reciprocity, and generational stewardship.

The prioritization of small farms, beginning farmers, Native Hawaiian farmers, and socially disadvantaged farmers is essential. Climate adaptation must be accessible at the scale where most diversified and culturally grounded agriculture already exists. The provisions for pre-application technical assistance, language access, and farmer-to-farmer mentorship show clear attention to implementation on the ground.

Soil regeneration is a core climate adaptation and food security strategy. Given the accelerating impacts of climate instability in Hawai‘i, a timely and adequately funded implementation is critical. SB 2110 reflects an alignment between scientific understanding and place-based practice and I respectfully urge its passage.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 11:52:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:06:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Thank you.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:24:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Richardson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Daniel Richardson. I am a farmer and co-founder of Makali'i Metrics here in Hawai'i. I am in strong support of the Healthy Soils Hawai'i bill.

On the ground, this kind of program is extremely important. Farmers here operate on tight margins and depend on consistency. Most want to try practices that build soil health and long-term resilience, but the risk of getting it wrong is real and often not affordable.

This program gives farmers a way to trial those practices with support. It lowers the risk enough for people to actually take that first step. For many, that is the difference between wanting to try and actually doing it.

Access to data is just as important. Good soil data is not cheap, and most farmers are not in a position to generate it at the level needed to really understand what is happening in their fields. Without that, it is difficult to know if a practice worked, why it worked, or how to improve it.

When farmers have both support to run trials and access to solid data, they are in a completely different position. They can make informed decisions, refine their approach over time, and continue testing new practices with confidence. That carries forward well beyond a single project.

I would strongly encourage the Legislature to prioritize funding for the data and analysis side of this program. A strong dataset coming out of these trials gives farmers the ability to keep building. It supports future trials, strengthens funding applications, and deepens understanding of their soils and systems on their 'āina.

This is the kind of investment that helps farmers move forward in a real and practical way.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:25:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Waters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Writing in strong support of this important bill. Mahalo.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:32:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support SB2110 SD1 HD1

Dana Keawe

Moku O Keawe

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:36:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Hagan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd and members of the FIN committee:

I support SB2110 SD1 HD1 because this bill improves the health of our agricultural sector and our environment.

This bill establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC).

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 HD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. To help Hawai‘i make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy, I urge you to pass SB2110 SD1 HD1 out of your committee.

Mahalo!

Douglas Hagan in Paia, HI

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:44:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am testifying in support of SB2110.

As we look to be more self-sustaining in an era of increasing climate change and geopolitical upheaval, it goes without question that we look to our agricultural sector to be as thriving as it can be given these circumstances. And one of the most important factors in agricultural health is that of the health of the soil. That is why I believe prioritizing soil health in the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission as a vital sector needs to be pursued. Bottom line: healthy soils are the foundation of a healthy food system.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the importance of microbial life, soil biodiversity and the potential for our soil to capture carbon, aiding in mitigating climate change. The impacts heavy industrial practices have in depleting our local soil health for over a century,

I believe that we must finally decouple ourselves from outdated practices of sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides that serve to kill not only destructive microbes and other life forms, but the beneficial ones as well in addition to causing health hazards to humans and to the ocean when the pesticide runs off into it. Instead, we have with this bill the opportunity to move forward and support the biodiversity of insects and microbes that are beneficial to soil health. Please support SB2110.

Mahalo for taking the time to consider my views.

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:44:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd and members of the FIN committee:

I strongly support SB2110 SD1 HD1 because this bill improves the health of our agricultural sector and our environment.

This bill establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC).

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 HD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. To help Hawai‘i make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy, I urge you to pass SB2110 SD1 HD1 out of your committee.

Mahalo!

Mary Lu Kelley, Koloa

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:57:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members.

- I strongly support this measure that would incentivize farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils, land management practices that sequester carbon, as well as educating farmers and providing technical assistance to achieve these goals.

-- Improving Hawaii's soil health is crucial for combating climate change and achieving food self-sufficiency. Supporting the adoption of science-based conservation practices that improve soil health, water retention, and climate resilience; increase carbon sequestration; and reduce our reliance on external inputs, including synthetic fertilizers and fossil fuels, are a win-win for the climate and local food production.

Mahalo,

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 4:21:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amara Karuna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2110 SD1 HD1. Healthy soils provide many environmental and economic benefits, by supporting healthy crops and a productive ag sector, capturing carbon/climate change mitigation, making plants more pest and climate impact resilient and less dependent on costly inputs. Healthy soils are the foundation of a healthy food system.

We must provide farmers with education and technical assistance to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils and issue awards and other financial incentives to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.

Amara Karuna, Paho, HI

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 5:24:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strongly support

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:34:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Browne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for moving this important bill forward. After the devastating floods our islands have experienced in the last few weeks, we are even more aware of the catastrophic consequences of climate change. This bill will establish and fund a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program which will benefit every citizen in Hawai'i by having healthy and strong soil for agriculture.

Mahalo,

Susan Browne

SB-2110-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:12:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Yoro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Due to increasingly intense weather events and decades of land mismanagement, more of our arable agricultural lands are losing their ability to sequester carbon and retain nutrients that make land viable, directly affecting our ability to grow a more robust local food system. This bill would improve statewide conservation efficiency, help farmers and the agricultural sector be more sustainable, and reduce our State's net carbon emissions as it increases the ability of soils to sequester carbon. Please support this bill and help us sustainably protect what little agricultural land we have left.