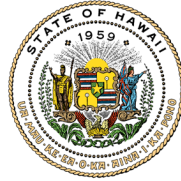


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

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

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026
3:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2110
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2110 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 a \$1.5 million appropriation request. The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) supports the intent of this measure to the extent it quantitatively supports local food production and the economic viability of participating agricultural operations.

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

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
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARK

**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 Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Wednesday, January 28, 2026
3:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2110
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Senate Bill 2110 Establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. The program requires an annual report to the Legislature and is appropriated 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. 52 applications were submitted in the last funding cycle, 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 seven day 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment 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
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

By

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

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

SB 2110 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2110 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.

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Maui

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Wai'anae, O'ahu

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Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminka
Kaua'i

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

The Hawai'i 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.**

SB2110 is crucial for strengthening Hawaii's agricultural landscape by establishing a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program.

This initiative underscores the need for equity and accessibility, ensuring that smaller-scale and socially disadvantaged farmers receive adequate support. By prioritizing these groups, the bill aligns with our union's commitment to fostering a diverse and resilient agricultural community.

The integration of native knowledge into agricultural practices marks a significant advancement in promoting culturally sensitive and ecologically sustainable farming methods. Encouraging projects that incorporate traditional Native Hawaiian ecological knowledge taps into a wealth of time-tested wisdom that can bolster conservation efforts. Practices such as cover cropping and crop rotation not only enhance soil health but also contribute to water conservation and reduced dependency on external inputs. By incentivizing these practices, SB2110 paves the way for a farming environment that is both ecologically sound and economically viable, benefiting the entire agricultural community in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union



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

January 28, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2110
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
3:00 PM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 2110, 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.



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

SB2110
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 3:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB110** 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.

This concept is similar to the Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities, a USDA grant that was cancelled in 2025 - the second year of a 5 year contract. While we were not able to finish the program to fully realize the potential of this funding, what we learned is 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

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 11:43:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin "Shiloh" Martin	Testifying for Libertarian Party of Hawaii	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and committee members. I am Austin Martin, Chair of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii, testifying in opposition to SB 2110 (Conservation/Grants).

SB 2110 creates new funding mechanisms for conservation projects, compelling taxpayers to subsidize private land use decisions selected by government agencies.

Genuine environmental stewardship arises from secure property rights and voluntary easements, not coerced redistribution. I recommend defeating the measure and terminating existing conservation subsidy programs. I further recommend identifying the scam of "biosecurity" for what it is: a corrupt gift for money and control.

Mahalo for opposing environmental socialism.

Austin Martin

Libertarian Party



To: The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 3pm

In strong support of SB2110

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the AEN committee,

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** that establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the 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 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. If we are serious about addressing the climate crisis, we need to move forward on efforts such as those described in SB2110, 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



**THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2026**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, January 28, 2026
3:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street**

RE: SB2110 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 2110** Establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

Education of soil health, conservation, and resilient farming practices is important to our growers and producers. Knowing new soil health practices can help to manage costs, improve productivity, and sustain long-term farm operations.

It is also important with our changing climate that we study and share how we can help with climate change mitigation. Our world is changing and we can't be left behind.

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

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,


Eric S. Tanouye
President
Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 4:01:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

ONCE AGAIN! Strong support for Healthy Soils bill which gets strong universal support year after year and then is allowed to die in the legislature. Pass the Bill already and make it policy!

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting SB2110, Relating to Agriculture
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
January 28, 2026 at 3:00pm
Conference Room 224 and via Videoconference**

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

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

Healthy soil is one of Hawai'i's 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 Hawai'i's natural resources.

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.

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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Sabrina Day
Zero Waste Kaua'i
zwkauai@gmail.com
01/27/2026

Testimony in Support of SB2110
Committee on Agriculture and the Environment
Position: Support

Aloha Chairperson Mike Gabbard and members of the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment,

My name is Sabrina, and I am on the executive committee of Zero Waste Kaua'i, a nonprofit organization that educates, advocates for zero-waste practices, and produces zero-waste events across the island of Kaua'i. I am submitting written testimony on behalf of Zero Waste Kaua'i in strong support of SB2110.

SB2110 would provide essential funding to Hawai'i's farmers to implement regenerative agricultural practices. Key practices supported by this bill include the purchase, construction, and operation of technologies to produce compost and biochar. Practices that are vital for Kaua'i's future.

Kaua'i is facing a real landfill crisis. Our only landfill could reach capacity by 2030, and from my work in agriculture and waste diversion, I see every day how urgently we need better solutions. A 2016 study found that 28% of what we landfill is compostable, yet our composting infrastructure on Kaua'i remains extremely limited.

This year we toured an aerated static pile composting system, and saw how mechanized composting dramatically reduces labor and speeds up compost time at scale. SB2110 would allow farmers to invest in this kind of technology and expand into biochar production, delivering benefits far beyond waste diversion, supporting soil health, water retention, food resilience, and carbon sequestration. Improved composting infrastructure, including mechanized aeration and turning, also supports best practices for mitigating Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB), protecting both our farms and our island.

This program also aligns strongly with both county and state priorities. At the county level, it supports County of Kaua'i's Zero Waste Resolution, the Kaua'i Agriculture Economic Strategic Plan, and the Comprehensive Economic Development Plan, which together call for sustainable land use, regenerative practices, expanding local food production, and strengthening small farm capacity. At the state level, SB2110 advances the Aloha+ Challenge's goals for waste reduction and food security, the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan's call for sustainable practices, and the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission's support for regenerative agriculture and soil health improvements.

Zero Waste Kaua'i urges the Committee to support SB2110. By empowering farmers to implement regenerative practices, this bill addresses waste, climate, and food security while strengthening the resilience of our 'āina and communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sabrina Day
Zero Waste Kaua'i

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sabrina Day", is written over the printed name.

‘ĀINA MOMONA

P.O. Box 367 | Ho‘olehua, HI 96729

www.kaainamomona.org

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Director, Ku Kahakalani, Ph.D.

January 27, 2026

Subject: Support for SB 2110 and HB 1621

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Julie U‘ilani Au and I am the Director of Research, Outreach, and Education at ‘Āina Momona. ‘Āina Momona is a Native Hawaiian non-profit dedicated to achieving environmental health and social justice for the Native Hawaiian community.

I am submitting testimony on behalf of ‘Āina Momona regarding SB 2110 and HB 1621, which would establish a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. This bill is informed by the lessons of the Carbon Smart Land Management Assistance Pilot, and feedback and priorities from small local farmers across the islands. This is an opportunity to make this Carbon Smart pilot a regularly funded and expanded program for small farmers across all the islands.

‘Āina Momona’s efforts to restore the Ka‘amola ahupua‘a on Moloka‘i is deeply connected to soil health and erosion mitigation and prevention. The establishment of a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program would be beneficial to statewide efforts to improve soil quality in our islands.

Soil health is key to our survival in Hawai‘i. Without a healthy land base, our ability to increase traditional and local food production plummets. Furthermore, communities on Moloka‘i have seen first hand what unmitigated soil erosion does to our roads, our farms, and our ocean and reefs. Efforts to establish incentive programs have the potential to transform our landscape, increase food production, and restore ‘āina.

‘Āina Momona is in support of SB 2110 and HB 1621.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Julie U‘ilani Au

Director of Research, Outreach, and Education, ‘Āina Momona



Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment

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

Wednesday, January 28th, 2026 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 224

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

HAPA supports SB2110 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 solid 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 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 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 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Please support SB2110 and healthy soils for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', with a stylized, cursive script.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

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

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 6:22:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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



PO Box 4, Kunia, Hawaii, 96759 || 808-622-9026 || www.agstewardshiphawaii.org

January, 26 2026

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

Re: Testimony on SB2110 Relating to Agriculture, Establishing the Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program

On behalf of Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i, we offer testimony in support of SB2110, which establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program.

Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i is a nonprofit organization that has worked for many years to support Hawai'i's agricultural producers through soil health education, stewardship-based business assistance, cost-share programs, and by helping administer soil and water conservation district activities. Through this work, we have long been engaged in efforts to improve conservation outcomes, farmer participation, and the effective delivery of technical assistance across diverse farming operations in the State.

In our experience, many farmers are interested in adopting conservation agriculture and soil health practices, but **face challenges related to cost and the capacity required to maintain these practices over time**. Many producers are already investing their own resources in land stewardship, soil health, and best management practices, and programs like this can help support those ongoing efforts while encouraging broader participation.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amanda Shaw, PhD
Statewide Food Systems Coordinator
Email: amanda@agstewardshiphawaii.org
Tel: 808 429 5310

*Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i is a DBA of:
O'ahu Resource Conservation and Development Council, a 501c3 Nonprofit Corporation*

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 7:34:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Bence	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this bill the farming practices it aims to promote are proven to have a benefit to the surrounding community and environment as well as the farm. The state and federal funding can help to fund a large investment in the land and future generations.

Mahalo

Rob

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 10:33:53 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick Kennedy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dr. Frederick Kennedy, Chiropractor

Naalehu, Hawaii 96772

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 10:34:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

Please support SB2110. 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Andrew Isoda, Lahaina

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 10:57:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I respectfully urge you to support SB 2110, which would establish a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and require an annual report to the Legislature.

Healthy soils are the foundation of a strong local food system. When soil is healthy, farms can grow healthier crops, improve productivity, and reduce reliance on expensive inputs. Soil health also supports climate resilience—helping fields retain water during drought, recover after heavy rains, and withstand pest and disease pressures. In addition, healthy soils can store carbon, contributing to climate change mitigation.

To achieve these benefits statewide, farmers need accessible education, technical assistance, and practical incentives to adopt proven soil-building practices. Hawai‘i has also learned much in recent decades about the role of microbial life, soil biodiversity, and carbon sequestration. Given the long-term impacts of intensive and extractive practices that have degraded soil health over generations, SB 2110 is an important step toward supporting regenerative approaches that protect and rebuild living soils rather than depleting them.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Ezgi Green

Waialua

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 11:03:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

Please support SB2110. 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.

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Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 12:22:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kodie Solis-Kalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kodie Solis-Kalani and I am a Mahiai in Hamakua, Hawaii. I support SB 2110 for healthy soils. My whole life I have been told how amazing Hawaii is, with climate zones and soils that make things so abundant here. Being in Hamakua, we know the affect of practices that diminish soil, but being a mahiai, I have learned lots about how to revive soils to grow healthy foods again. We need more education and assistance to our food producers so that we can continue to build the health of our soils and continue to build food security.

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 12:23:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

Please support SB2110. 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.

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Mahalo for your consideration!

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 12:35:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealakai Hammond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support SB2110. 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.

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Mahalo!

Kealakai Hammond, Honolulu

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 1:28:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please SUPPORT SB2110!!!

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 1:29:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Safia Gravel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support SB2110. 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.

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Mahalo for your consideration!

Safia, Hilo HI

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 1:29:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Menchetti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support SB2110. 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.

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Mahalo for your consideration,

Michael Menchetti, Kapaau, HI

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 2:39:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dita Škalic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support SB2110. 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.

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Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 2:44:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support SB2110. 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, require us to 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Diana Bethel, Honolulu

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 3:18:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seb Choe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support SB2110. 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.

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Mahalo for your consideration!

Seb Choe

Kona, Hawai'i Island

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 3:55:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2110.

Healthy soils are essential to a strong and resilient food system. They support productive crops, strengthen Hawai‘i’s agricultural sector, improve resilience to pests and climate impacts and reduce reliance on costly chemical inputs. Healthy soils also capture carbon and play an important role in mitigating climate change.

SB2110 would establish a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program to provide farmers with education, technical assistance, and financial incentives to adopt practices that improve soil health. These supports are critical to helping farmers transition to sustainable management practices that protect both their livelihoods and our environment.

Research over recent decades has shown the importance of soil biodiversity and microbial life in maintaining healthy soils and capturing carbon. After more than a century of industrial practices that have depleted soil health, we must move away from methods that rely on heavy pesticide and herbicide use and instead support farming practices that encourage beneficial insects, microbes, and soil biodiversity.

Healthy soils are the foundation of a healthy food system and I respectfully urge you to support SB2110.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Molly Mamaril

Kaimukī, O‘ahu

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 4:48:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support SB2110. 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.

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Mahalo for your consideration!

Danielle, Waimea

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 7:23:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

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Mahalo for your consideration!

Leo Nahe, Liliha

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 7:28:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

Do you know that just 50years ago the earth's healthy soil sequestered 70% of its atmospheric CO2? Unless we create healthy soil again, suttering all the power plants, planes & gas powered vehicles will not reverse global warning due to CO2.

So please support SB2110. 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.

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Mahalo for your consideration!

Randy Mirka & Pueo Wolfshagen / Kekaha

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 6:32:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

Please support SB2110. 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.

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Thank you

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 7:56:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keli'i Ioane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support SB2110. 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.

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Mahalo,

Keli'i Ioane. Hilo, HI, 96720

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 8:05:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

Please support SB 2110 which, to my understanding, would help farmers and support healthy soils as a foundation for a healthy food system.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 7:47:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2110. 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.

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 10:25:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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Mahalo for your consideration!

Kathy Shimata, Honolulu. 96822

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 6:53:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Bernstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing on 1/28/2026 @ 3:00 PM

SUPPORTING TESTIMONY FOR SB2110

January 27, 2026

Aloha e Chair Gabbard, Vice-chair Richards, and Members of the AEN Committee:

As someone who is concerned about the health of our agricultural sector and our environment, **I strongly support SB2110**, which “Establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.”

The key benefits of healthy soils 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 HB1051 HD1 out of your committee.**

Mahalo nui,

Paul Bernstein

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 7:19:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louisa Wooton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Our ohana has been farming on Kaua'i since 1979. Through the years we have faced many challenges with the high of production here in Hawai'i. We have strived to be good stewards of the land by regenerative practices such as composting, crop rotation, and organic inputs.

We believe that everyone needs to invest in this style of agriculture to protect our island home.

Please support SB2110. 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.

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Mahalo piha,

The Wooton Ohana, Kaua'i Kunana Dairy

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 7:52:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

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Mahalo for your consideration!

Jen Lum, 'Ewa Beach

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 8:24:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

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Mahalo for your consideration!

Lory Ono, Kaneohe

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 9:02:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Shaver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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Mahalo for your consideration!

Christy Shaver
Lahaina

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 8:47:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Schacht	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Healthy soil is key

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 9:24:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am strongly in support of this bill. Local food security is extremely important in our state.
Mahalo.

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 10:00:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joslyn Wolfe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This Testimony supports the establishment of conservation agriculture and soil health incentive programs which requires an annual report to be presented to the legislature. This is also a by-product of students' researching Hawai'i, other states and their own experiences as they face Climate Change challenges. They all have agreed that something like extreme weather patterns that affects the world around them will and can affect the world around all of us. They managed to acquire information where similar initiatives as outlined in SB 2110 have been made in other states to address Climate Change which they felt created more of an urgency to collectively add their voices to the Testimony of Senate Bill 2110 when the opportunity presented.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Peace and blessings,

Joslyn Wolfe/Creative Writing Carver Students

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 10:09:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Kealiinohomoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2110, which establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the CCMAC.

Healthy soils are the foundation of a resilient food system. This bill invests in aina and provide farmers with education, technical assistance, and financial incentives. Incentivizing good farm practices that improve soil health, climate resilience, and long-term productivity.

SB 2110 supports farmers while working to strengthen local food security and environmental stewardship. I respectfully urge the Committee to support this measure.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mahalo piha,

Jesse Mikasobe-Kealiinohomoku

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 11:18:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

Please support SB2110. 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Kencho Gurung, Hilo

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 11:47:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L. Osterer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

SB2110 provides farmers with education and technical assistance to implement management practices that foster healthy soils. It uses awards and financial incentives to implement better farm management practices. Please support SB2110.

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

Microbial life, soil biodiversity and capturing carbon, will mitigate climate change. Sterilizing lands with pesticides and herbicides are killing the soil microbes and life. More natural methods support the biodiversity of insects and microbes so beneficial to soil health. Please support SB2110.

Mahalo for your consideration!

L. Osterer, registered voter, Koloa, Hi. 96756

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 11:39:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ati Jeffers-Fabro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB 2110 which will create a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. This will allow incentives to our small farmers to mitigate our carbon footprint and practice "Aloha Āina".

Mālama Āina,

Ati Jeffers-Fabro

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 12:10:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni DeFranco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2110, which establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. This bill reflects the kinds of investments Hawai‘i needs to restore regenerative land stewardship practices rooted in the ahupua‘a system and to strengthen food sovereignty and climate resilience across the islands.

For generations, Native Hawaiian land management integrated healthy soils, water systems, and food production in ways that sustained entire communities. Soil health remains foundational to sustainable agriculture, water retention, and carbon sequestration today. According to the USDA, every one percent increase in soil organic matter can allow soil to hold up to 20,000 additional gallons of water per acre, a critical benefit as Hawai‘i faces increasing drought risk and climate impacts.

By incentivizing conservation agriculture and regenerative practices, SB2110 can help restore degraded lands, protect water resources, and improve the resilience of local food systems. These outcomes are especially important for communities that have experienced long-standing land dispossession and environmental harm.

I encourage the Legislature to ensure that Native Hawaiian farmers, cultural practitioners, small-scale producers, and community-based and cooperative landholders are centered in the implementation of this program. Technical assistance and funding should be accessible to those working in Hawaiian Homelands, conservation districts, and traditional agricultural systems. The annual reporting should also track participation and outcomes in ways that reflect cultural restoration, traditional crop production, and community benefit.

It is also important that funding supports robust outreach, culturally relevant education, and resources available in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i where appropriate. Integrating Indigenous knowledge alongside modern conservation science will strengthen the program’s impact and long-term success.

SB2110 represents an important step toward climate justice, food sovereignty, and environmental restoration in Hawai‘i. I urge your support and look forward to seeing this program empower community-led regenerative agriculture across the state.

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 11:28:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaulilinoe Kama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support SB2110. 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.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kaulilinoe Kama, Honolulu

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 11:36:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Bolger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2110.

As a small-scale farmer and beekeeper in Hawai‘i, I rely on healthy soil and conservation practices to keep my operation productive and resilient. Incentives that support soil health, water retention, and erosion reduction make a real difference for small producers facing climate stress and rising costs.

SB2110 would help farmers adopt practices that improve long-term land health while strengthening local food production. This is a practical, preventative investment in Hawai‘i’s food security and agricultural resilience.

I urge you to pass SB2110.

Mahalo,
Kelli Bolger

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 11:18:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

Please support SB2110. 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.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Kencho Gurung, Hilo

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 2:51:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
De Andre Makakoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is De Andre Makakoa and I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB2110.

After COVID, the entire pae ‘āina felt how crippling it is to be dependent on the global supply chain. Hawai‘i imports nearly 90% of the food we consume, meaning almost everything our families rely on for daily survival arrives by ship. Studies show that if barges stop coming in, Hawai‘i would run out of essential food supplies in less than a week.

We experienced this vulnerability in real time during COVID, when global systems slowed, ports stalled, and people across Hawai‘i felt fear and uncertainty about access to basic necessities. But for many of us, it didn’t stop there.

As a Lahaina fire survivor, I saw firsthand what happens when roads close, access points shut down, and communities become isolated. In those moments, we do not benefit from the global supply chain, we are exposed by it. When infrastructure fails, our people are left dependent on systems that are thousands of miles away, controlled by forces we do not govern, and disrupted by events we cannot influence. That is terrifying.

We need to move away from fragile systems and start building functional food systems here in Hawai‘i, rooted in ‘āina, soil health, water security, and local production. SB2110 is an investment in long-term stability for our people.

Historically, these islands sustained populations in the millions through regenerative, place-based food systems.

SB2110 creates the kind of support structures we actually need: incentives for regenerative practices, soil health, water retention, agroforestry, traditional systems, and local food production. It shifts us away from dependency and toward resilience.

We have a responsibility to start implementing these systems now so that future generations are not forced to live at the mercy of global instability, pandemics, disasters, wars, shipping disruptions, or economic collapse.

Food security is not a luxury or a commodity. It is a basic necessity and a responsibility of our government to ensure.

For these reasons, I strongly support SB2110 and urge you to pass this measure and invest in real, durable, local food system resilience for Hawai'i.

Appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Mahalo nui a ke aloha nō,
De Andre Makakoa

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 2:52:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emilie Parry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2110.

It is urgent that the Hawaiian legislature support local farms and strengthen food systems in a manner that increases carbon sequestration (mitigates global post-Industrial temperature rise) and whole-systems climate resilience, and can link into effective emergency planning and disaster risk management. This bill drew from the Carbon Smart Land Management pilot that included the essential carbon soil and climate-health / resilience soil testing with 9-point key soil & climate health indicators-- from agroforestry with alleycropping, wind breaks, and Hawaiian traditional practices for food systems management, increased ground cover and other sequestration and soil health strategies.

- The need and interest by farmers for this kind of support is massive and clear;
- Soil health and Carbon sequestration methodologies and measures appropriate for the cultures, ecologies and conditions of Hawai'i are sorely needed, and this proposed program will go far to deepening and expanding the knowledge;
- Our import-based food systems are extremely vulnerable to severe complex emergencies and climate shocks / disruption of supply chains, and this program takes another step towards strengthening and supporting local food systems, which is also another step towards mitigating risk and loss and damage to the islands.

Thank you for your time and serious consideration of this bill. Sincerely, Emilie Parry

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 2:56:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 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 is a vital sector that 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

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 2:56:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Priscilla Stuckey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support SB 2097. Climate change is upon us, and our food producers are already struggling with the costs of adaptation. Extreme weather events such as rain bombs and drought are already impacting farmers and food producers' livelihoods. One extreme weather event such as the historic flooding of Kaua'i in 2018 can wipe out an entire harvest, destroy equipment and infrastructure, and ultimately put food producers out of business. Margins are already thin for farmers in Hawaii. To prioritize local food security we must support programs such as the proposed climate-resilient grant program to bolster our food producers and as a result, our local food security.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Priscilla Stuckey, Kihei

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 2:57:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linnea Heu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I am writing to provide testimony in support of SB2110, Relating to Agriculture. My name is Linnea Heu and I am a research assistant working with MĀLA ‘Ōiwi, a network of ‘Ōiwi (native Hawaiian) agroforestry practitioners across Hawai‘i.

MĀLA ‘Ōiwi (in partnership with MA‘O Organic Farms) is part of the first cohort of Climate Smart Land Management Assistance Pilot Program (CSLMAPP). Many network members are participating directly in the program, therefore funds and support from CSLMAPP have allowed them to implement projects to improve and better understand the health of their soil, crops, and surrounding resources. These are not just farmers, but stewards of ‘āina, who care deeply about the restoration of agroecosystems that contribute to a more wholistic picture of health for land and communities. SB2110 would sustain these opportunities for Hawai‘i’s small farmers to establish and maintain practices that are beneficial to not just their soil, but to the interconnected pieces of our environment and food system here in Hawai‘i.

I am in enthusiastic support of SB2110.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Linnea Heu

SB-2110

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 4:30:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Groves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Legislators who care about our aina,

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.

Bless our lands,

Onipaa!

Unmani Cynthia Groves