

SB-2350-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:29:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We oppose this bill. The Agribusiness Development Corp. has a long and tainted past, and we suggest a forensic audit be performed before any taxpayer monies are appropriated. Mahalo.

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Submitted on: 2/26/2026 11:25:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Fernandez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Phil Fernandez, a fisherman and fisheries management professional. I have a better understanding of aquaculture than livestock, thus my comment comes from the seafood perspective. From 2019 to 2025, I was the chairman of the State Office of Planning's (DBEDT) Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Committee.

Aquaculture is a growing and rapidly evolving segment of seafood production. A large component of its success will be economic development efforts, which is within DBEDT. The federal Small Business Innovation Research program, which is an economic development mechanism, is appropriate funding for new and evolutionary businesses such as aquaculture.

There are other reasons why this bill is appropriate for aquaculture. I hope the committee can find appropriate amendments to allow this bill to go forward.

Mahalo.

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Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:07:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inoa Martinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.