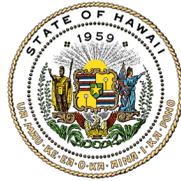


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026
2:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1953, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1953, House Draft 1. This bill establishes the Conservation and Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Pilot Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department). Appropriates funds and requires a report to the Legislature. The Department supports this bill.

Federal conservation programs are at times not a good fit for Hawaii's smaller producers due to tropical weather conditions, island soil conditions, mixed land use tenure agreements, local growing techniques and cultural stewardship models. Having a Hawaii focused statewide coordinated system that provides conservation training, cost-share or implementation assistance and infrastructure development will allow for environmental stewardship, improved soil and water health, and carbon emissions reduction.

The Department would recommend that a longer timeline be provided for program development due to the statewide comprehensive nature of the program and respectfully requests that a position be provided to properly oversee implementation of the proposed program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor



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

March 2, 2026
HEARING BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TUESDAY, March 3, 2026
2:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

TESTIMONY ON HB 1953 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.

The County of Hawai'i provides written testimony in **SUPPORT of HB1953 HD1** to establish a two-year Conservation and Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Pilot Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, require a report to the Legislature, and appropriate funds.

Environmental stewardship of soil and water health supports agricultural systems' resilience and ensures resources are available for future generations. The proposed Conservation and Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Pilot Program in HB1953 HD1 equips producers with knowledge and resources to address challenges of soil degradation, plant pest and disease, water constraints, and rising costs that impact producers' economic viability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT of HB1953 HD1**.

Respectfully,
Benson Medina
Director, Research and Development



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

March 3, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1953, 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 HB 1953, HD1, which establishes a Conservation and Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Pilot Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers operate in diverse tropical environments that require locally adapted conservation practices. A voluntary, incentive-based program that supports soil health, water conservation, erosion control, composting, and other stewardship practices can strengthen long-term agricultural productivity while protecting natural resources.

By providing training opportunities, cost-share support, and infrastructure funding, this pilot program offers practical tools to help producers implement conservation practices that improve resilience and sustainability. Investments in soil health and water management directly contribute to the long-term viability of Hawai'i agriculture.

HFB appreciates that this measure establishes a pilot program with reporting requirements, allowing the Legislature to evaluate outcomes and refine the program before broader expansion.

Mahalo for your consideration and for supporting Hawai'i's agricultural community.



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

February 27, 2026

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

Re: Testimony in Support of HB1953, Relating to Agriculture

Please accept this letter in strong support of HB1953/SB3296, Relating to Agriculture which establishes a pilot program to provide across Hawai'i. **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.**

HB1953 establishes a pilot program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) to provide training, technical assistance, cost-share support for conservation practices, and on-farm infrastructure funding such as compost systems and irrigation improvements. By filling gaps in existing programs, this bill supports small, diversified farms and 'āina-based stewardship practices often underserved by federal initiatives.

Why It Matters

- **Tailored support:** Provides targeted assistance to farms and 'āina-based stewardship groups often underserved by federal programs, modeled on ongoing and successful cost-share initiatives.
- **Supports farmers facing growing pressures:** Helps producers address climate change, soil degradation, water constraints, and rising costs that threaten working lands providing critical public benefits.
- **Efficient, proven model:** Builds on a high-functioning DAB partnership program, Da Bux, leveraging a qualified nonprofit partner's networks for accountable implementation while complementing existing state efforts.
- **Tangible outcomes** including faster adoption of conservation practices, improved soil health and water retention, stronger farm-level planning, and measurable climate resilience gains.

We recognize that our institutions face challenges, and farmers cannot continue waiting for long-term institutional reforms before they receive assistance. This bill is a practical, evidence-based approach to supporting Hawai'i's working lands today.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Shaw".

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



401 Uluniu St. #311 Kailua, HI 96734 | info@hawaiigoodfoodalliance.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1953 HD1 – Relating to Agriculture
House Committee on Finance
Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 2:00 PM

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

My name is Kat Saneewong, and I serve as the Farmers Market Program Navigator with the **Hawai'i Good Food Alliance**. I am writing in strong support of **HB1953 HD1**.

HB1953 HD1 establishes a two-year Conservation and Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Pilot Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to provide technical assistance and cost-share funding for conservation practices and on-farm infrastructure improvements statewide.

This measure creates a practical pathway for the State to partner directly with farmers and ranchers to strengthen working lands that provide broad public benefits. Specifically, the bill:

- Provides flexible, place-based support for small and diversified farms that often do not fully benefit from existing federal programs.
- Helps producers respond to increasing pressures, including climate variability, water limitations, soil degradation, and rising operational costs.
- Builds on existing state partnerships by leveraging proven implementation models and trusted nonprofit networks to ensure accountability and measurable outcomes.
- Generates tangible public benefits such as improved soil health, increased water retention, enhanced climate resilience, and long-term agricultural viability.

Farmers and ranchers steward significant portions of Hawai'i's land base, and supporting their adoption of conservation practices is an investment not only in agriculture, but also in watershed protection, climate mitigation, and community resilience statewide. HB1953 HD1 offers a timely, evidence-informed approach to strengthening Hawai'i's working lands, and I respectfully urge the Committee to support this measure.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Kat Saneewong
Farmers Market Program Navigator
Hawai'i Good Food Alliance





House Committee on Finance

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB1953 HD1

Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026 2:00 p.m. Conference Room 308

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

HAPA supports HB1953 HD1 which establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

This measure proposes to provide farmers and land stewards with capacity to invest in the infrastructure to adopt practices that contribute to soil and water 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 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. HB1953 HD1 provides critical support for farmers and land stewards 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 HB1953 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 and water as vital resources for a productive food system. HB1953 HD1 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Please support HB1953 HD1 and conservation practices 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



House Committee on Finance

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB1953 HD1

Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026 2:00 p.m. Conference Room 308

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

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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 that are subject to market volatility.

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

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Please support HB1953 HD1 and conservation practices 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

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Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i



Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Finance 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 supports HB1953.**

HB1953 establishes the Conservation and Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Pilot Program to subsidize good land management practices in Hawaii. This program will be instrumental in promoting methods that enhance soil health, improve water management, and support biodiversity, all of which are key to the long-term viability of our agricultural industry. By allocating resources and funding to this program, the state acknowledges the importance of integrating environmental stewardship into agricultural operations, which will benefit not only the farmers but also the broader community through improved environmental health and food security.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union



AHIKI ACRES

Ahiki Acres, LLC
41910 Mahiku Pl
Waimanalo, HI 96795

March 2, 2026

Re: HB1953, Relating To Agriculture

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

My name is Haley McKinnon, and I am writing on behalf of Ahiki Acres, LLC **in strong support of House Bill 1953**. This bill would establish a pilot program to strengthen conservation and stewardship practices on Hawai'i's working lands.

Ahiki Acres is a 6-acre diversified vegetable farm located in Waimānalo, Hawai'i. Since 2019, we have been providing fresh, high-quality produce to the island of O'ahu. Through education, mentorship, and years of hands-on work, we have built a viable farm business that now generates approximately \$250,000 in annual revenue while contributing to local food security.

Despite this progress, we face increasing challenges, including climate change, soil degradation, water constraints, and rising production costs. Programs like this are therefore critical. By passing this bill, Hawai'i can support resilient farms, healthy ecosystems, and a more sustainable local food system.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Haley Kaukea Eiko McKinnon
Co-Owner
Ahiki Acres, LLC
Email: haley@ahikaicres.com
Tel: 8083418556



Date of Hearing: 3 March, 2026

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

Subject: **HB1953 HD1**, Relating to Agriculture

Aloha,

Hawai'i Food+ Policy is writing in **support of HB1953 HD1**, which seeks to establish a Conservation and Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Pilot Program. This measure is a step toward securing our state's long-term food security, climate resilience, and environmental health, by providing the necessary resources to farmers and land stewards to adopt regenerative and climate-smart practices.

We appreciate that this bill encompasses not only commercial farmers and ranchers but also cooperatives, community-based projects, and 'āina restoration organizations. This ensures that our efforts are culturally grounded and reflective of Hawai'i's agroecosystems. The professional development opportunities through the program are strong assets for farmers. By providing stipends and workshops, this bill ensures that farmers have the knowledge and capacity to implement sustainable practices.

This program seeks to provide funding for infrastructure that is often the primary barrier to adopting regenerative practices. Within the amendments, the bill's proposed appropriation of \$3,000,000 was removed and we want to mention this as this committee deliberates a potentially appropriate amount of funding for the pilot program. This appropriation may set the basis for future amounts allocated under session laws as the program has also been amended to be removed from statutory funding. Throughout the duration of the program however, this pilot may prove to be a valuable investment in the health of our soil and water, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and the overall resilience of our local food system and we seek to ensure an adequate amount of funding is designated for these initial efforts as future appropriations may be adjusted based on efficacy from this pilot.

We urge the committee to explicitly comment on an appropriate appropriation amount for HB1953 HD1 and we support the intention of this bill to empower our local producers and protect our working landscapes for future generations.

Mahalo,

Brandon Kinard & the Food+ Policy Team

#fixourfoodsystem

[1] *Local food production and consumption*. Aloha Challenge. (n.d.).
<https://alohachallenge.hawaii.gov/pages/local-food-production-and-consumption>

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.



February 27, 2026

Re: Testimony In Support of HB1953 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 HB 1953 establishing a pilot program to provide coordinated training, technical assistance, cost-share opportunities, and on-farm infrastructure support across Hawai'i. 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!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui', is written above the typed name.

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

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 5:16:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Shapiro	Hawai'i Ulu Producers Cooperative	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please accept this testimony in strong support of HB1953/SB3296, Relating to Agriculture. This bill establishes a pilot program to provide coordinated training, technical assistance, cost-share opportunities, and on-farm infrastructure support across Hawai'i. 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.

HB1953 establishes a pilot program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) to provide:

- Training and technical assistance
- Cost-share support for conservation practices
- On-farm infrastructure funding, such as compost systems and irrigation improvements

By filling gaps in existing programs, this bill supports small, diversified farms and 'āina-based stewardship practices often underserved by federal initiatives.

Why It Matters

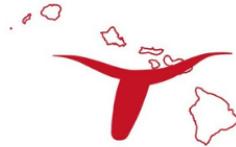
- Tailored support: Provides targeted assistance to farms and 'āina-based stewardship groups often underserved by federal programs, modeled on successful cost-share initiatives.
- Supports farmers facing growing pressures: Helps producers address climate change, soil degradation, water constraints, and rising costs that threaten working lands providing critical public benefits.
- Efficient, proven model: Builds on a high-functioning DAB partnership program, Da Bux, leveraging a qualified nonprofit partner's networks for accountable implementation while complementing existing state efforts.
- Tangible outcomes: Faster adoption of conservation practices, improved soil health and water retention, stronger farm-level planning, and measurable climate resilience gains.

This bill is a practical, evidence-based approach to supporting Hawai'i's working lands today. We cannot wait for long-term institutional reforms before assisting the farmers who feed our communities.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration,

Dana Shapiro

Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative Co-founder and CEO



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

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

HB1953 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB1953 HD1** which establishes the Conservation and Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Pilot Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Well-managed cattle can contribute to increased soil health, in turn improving water retention and carbon sequestration. This program provides 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. While we appreciate the federal funding program that provide these services, we have found that they are tailored to continental practices and costs. A state-run program would be beneficial to Hawaii's producers. We have many who have shovel ready projects, but could utilize funding and technical support to get the job done.

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



HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:23:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

An effective strategy to work with farmers and land stewards to improve practices in land conservation and regenerative farming. Practices that will benefit the 'aina and thus all of us.

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 1953



CLIMATE FUTURE FORUM

To: Representative Todd, Chair
Representative Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance (FIN).

Hearing: 03/02/2026, 2:00pm

From: Climate Future Forum

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT for HB1953 HD1**

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

The Hawai'i Climate Future Forum is a youth-led organization that helps young people engage directly in climate policy. We research legislation, track bills, submit testimony, and organize community spaces where students can learn how to participate in the legislative process. I am Vivienne Hill, a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Climate Future Forum's Regenerative Food Systems working group in **strong support of HB 1953 HD1**.

HB 1953 creates a two-year Conservation and Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Pilot Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. It would provide training stipends, cost-share assistance, and funding for conservation infrastructure so farmers and community-based groups can implement practices that improve soil health and management infrastructure.

Hawai'i's agriculture is mostly made up of small, diversified farms, not mainland operations. A lot of farmers struggle to access conservation programs that were built around large-scale farming systems that look very different from ours. This pilot program is grounded in the reality of our islands and the kinds of communities growing food here.

From a budget standpoint, investing in conservation reduces long-term costs. Stronger soil systems improve water retention and reduce runoff, which reduces strain on public infrastructure and can

help lower disaster-related expenses over time. Supporting stewardship also helps small farms, which strengthens economic stability in rural communities.

This bill reflects Hawai‘i’s responsibility to protect our ‘āina and strengthen local agriculture. We respectfully urge the Committee to pass and fund HB 1953 so that farmers have the support needed to build climate resiliency and strong food systems across the state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Vivienne Hill
Student | Youth Policy Leader, Regenerative Food Systems
Hawai‘i Climate Future Forum

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 1:37:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 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 members of Committee,

My Name is Susan Roberts Emery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i offers, I write in support of HB1953 HD1, on behalf of our members. This measure establishes a two-year Conservation and Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Pilot Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. The pilot program will help those entrusted with caring for our 'āina resources develop plans, participate in training, receive funds, and improve the infrastructure we have to improve conservation practices and safeguard those environmental, social, and cultural spaces we value as a community.

Green Party of Hawai'i urges that you Pass HB1953 HD1.

Mahalo,

Susan Roberts Emery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo

Gabriel Sachter-Smith
PO Box 1213
Waialua, HI 96791
gabe@hawaiibananasource.com
720-382-9307



Date: February 27, 2026

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

Re: Testimony in Support of HB1953, Relating to Agriculture

Please accept this testimony in strong support of HB1953/SB3296, Relating to Agriculture. This bill establishes a pilot program to provide coordinated training, technical assistance, cost-share opportunities, and on-farm infrastructure support across Hawai'i. 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.

Federal assistance for farmers has become increasingly complicated and unreliable. Meanwhile, as stewards of the land, we have the responsibility to preserve and improve the shared natural resources in our community, but economic constraints make doing what we all know is right a real challenge. Often we must choose between what we know is best for the land and what we can afford.

Any farmer will tell you that making a livelihood farming is one of the most challenging careers out there, but we do it because we love it and believe in serving our community. The barriers to success feel greater all the time, but initiatives such as this bill give me hope that maybe there is a chance to continue on and keep growing food for Hawai'i.

As a young farmer myself, knowing that the State is partner in my success and is there to support me, especially where the federal government has failed, will make it possible for me to stay motivated and stay in business to keep food growing on our land.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration,

Gabriel Sachter-Smith

Owner, Hawaii Banana Source
gabe@hawaiibananasource.com
720-382-9307

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 12:46:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamra Hayden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ensuring the health and safety of Hawai‘i’s environments is crucial to restorative ‘āina work and maintenance of spaces from mauka to makai. As invasive species are introduced, extractive cultivation practices are implemented, and challenges in protecting our public environmental spaces arise, we need to look towards solutions.

Farmers and land stewards could benefit from a regular program which provides the financial backing and technical assistance to better address the litany of challenges they encounter in day-to-day work. Workshops and stipends are an effective mechanism to offer support in exchange for these individuals agreeing to attend and complete training and workshops.

Cost-sharing programs are also an effective strategy as farmers and land stewards work to implement conservation practices proven to improve the environment with such practices including cover cropping, soil amendments, erosion control, nutrient management, composting, and other beneficial practices.

The pilot program will help those entrusted with caring for our ‘āina resources develop plans, participate in training, receive funds, and improve the infrastructure we have to improve conservation practices and safeguard those environmental, social, and cultural spaces we value as a community.

Please support HB 1953 HD1.

Tamra Hayden, Waianae

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 12:51:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

What Does This Bill Do?

Establishes a two-year Conservation and Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Pilot Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Why Is This Important? Sample Testimony:

Ensuring the health and safety of Hawai‘i’s environments is crucial to restorative ‘āina work and maintenance of spaces from mauka to makai. As invasive species are introduced, extractive cultivation practices are implemented, and challenges in protecting our public environmental spaces arise, we need to look towards solutions.

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Please support HB 1953 HD1.

Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau'i

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 2:03:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

Ensuring the health and safety of Hawai‘i’s environments is crucial to restorative ‘āina work and maintenance of spaces from mauka to makai. As invasive species are introduced, extractive cultivation practices are implemented, and challenges in protecting our public environmental spaces arise, we need to look towards solutions.

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The pilot program will help those entrusted with caring for our ‘āina resources develop plans, participate in training, receive funds, and improve the infrastructure we have to improve conservation practices and safeguard those environmental, social, and cultural spaces we value as a community.

Please support HB 1953 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 2:07:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John C Wert III	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Ensuring the health and safety of Hawai‘i’s environments is crucial to restorative ‘āina work and maintenance of spaces from mauka to makai. As invasive species are introduced, extractive cultivation practices are implemented, and challenges in protecting our public environmental spaces arise, we need to look towards solutions.

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This pilot program will help those entrusted with caring for our ‘āina resources develop plans, participate in training, receive funds, and improve the infrastructure we have to improve conservation practices and safeguard those environmental, social, and cultural spaces we value as a community.

Mahalo for your consideration,

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 2:27:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Ensuring the health and safety of Hawai‘i’s environments is crucial to restorative ‘āina work and maintenance of spaces from mauka to makai. As invasive species are introduced, extractive cultivation practices are implemented, and challenges in protecting our public environmental spaces arise, we need to look towards solutions.

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The pilot program will help those entrusted with caring for our ‘āina resources develop plans, participate in training, receive funds, and improve the infrastructure we have to improve conservation practices and safeguard those environmental, social, and cultural spaces we value as a community.

Please support HB 1953 HD1.

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 3:14:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Ensuring the health and safety of Hawai‘i’s environments is crucial to restorative ‘āina work and maintenance of spaces from mauka to makai. As invasive species are introduced, extractive cultivation practices are implemented, and challenges in protecting our public environmental spaces arise, we need to look towards solutions.

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The pilot program will help those entrusted with caring for our ‘āina resources develop plans, participate in training, receive funds, and improve the infrastructure we have to improve conservation practices and safeguard those environmental, social, and cultural spaces we value as a community.

Please support HB 1953 HD1.

Troy Schacht, Kapaa

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 4:16:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Ensuring the health and safety of Hawai‘i’s environments is crucial to restorative ‘āina work and maintenance of spaces from mauka to makai. As invasive species are introduced, extractive cultivation practices are implemented, and challenges in protecting our public environmental spaces arise, we need to look towards solutions.

Farmers and land stewards could benefit from a regular program that provides the financial backing and technical assistance to better address the litany of challenges they encounter in day-to-day work. Workshops and stipends are an effective mechanism of support in exchange for these individuals agreeing to attend and complete training and workshops.

Cost-sharing programs are also an effective strategy as farmers and land stewards work to implement conservation practices proven to improve the environment, with such practices including cover cropping, soil amendments, erosion control, nutrient management, composting, and other beneficial practices.

The pilot program will help those entrusted with caring for our ‘āina resources develop plans, participate in training, receive funds, and improve the infrastructure to improve conservation practices and safeguard those environmental, social, and cultural spaces we value as a community.

Please support HB 1953 HD1.

Jen Lum, ‘Ewa Beach

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 4:42:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Ensuring the health and safety of Hawai‘i’s environments is crucial to restorative ‘āina work and maintenance of spaces from mauka to makai. As invasive species are introduced, extractive cultivation practices are implemented, and challenges in protecting our public environmental spaces arise, we need to look towards solutions.

Farmers and land stewards could benefit from a regular program which provides the financial backing and technical assistance to better address the litany of challenges they encounter in day-to-day work. Workshops and stipends are an effective mechanism to offer support in exchange for these individuals agreeing to attend and complete training and workshops.

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The pilot program will help those entrusted with caring for our ‘āina resources develop plans, participate in training, receive funds, and improve the infrastructure we have to improve conservation practices and safeguard those environmental, social, and cultural spaces we value as a community.

Please support HB 1953 HD1. Mahalo.

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 8:05:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I urge you to support HB 1953 HD1.

Ensuring the health and safety of Hawai‘i’s environments is crucial to restorative ‘āina work and maintenance of spaces from mauka to makai. As invasive species are introduced, extractive cultivation practices are implemented, and challenges in protecting our public environmental spaces arise, we need to look towards solutions.

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The pilot program will help those entrusted with caring for our ‘āina resources develop plans, participate in training, receive funds, and improve the infrastructure we have to improve conservation practices and safeguard those environmental, social, and cultural spaces we value as a community.

Thank you

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 12:37:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Ensuring the health and safety of Hawai‘i’s environments is crucial to restorative ‘āina work and maintenance of spaces from mauka to makai. As invasive species are introduced, extractive cultivation practices are implemented, and challenges in protecting our public environmental spaces arise, we need to look towards solutions.

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The pilot program will help those entrusted with caring for our ‘āina resources develop plans, participate in training, receive funds, and improve the infrastructure we have to improve conservation practices and safeguard those environmental, social, and cultural spaces we value as a community.

Please support HB 1953 HD1.

kimdonghyeon

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:44:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Ensuring the health and safety of Hawai‘i’s environments is crucial to restorative ‘āina work and maintenance of spaces from mauka to makai. As invasive species are introduced, extractive cultivation practices are implemented, and challenges in protecting our public environmental spaces arise, we need to look towards solutions.

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The pilot program will help those entrusted with caring for our ‘āina resources develop plans, participate in training, receive funds, and improve the infrastructure we have to improve conservation practices and safeguard those environmental, social, and cultural spaces we value as a community.

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:49:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strongly support

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:54:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 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 writing in **strong support** of HB1953, which establishes a two-year Conservation and Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Pilot Program. This bill offers a thoughtful, practical approach to supporting the farmers and land stewards who are on the front lines of protecting Hawai‘i’s environmental, social, and cultural spaces from mauka to makai.

Ensuring the health and safety of our environments is the foundation of all restorative ‘āina work. Yet, those entrusted with this kuleana—our farmers and land stewards—face a litany of daily challenges. From the constant threat of invasive species to the legacy of extractive cultivation practices, they are working against significant odds to protect our public environmental spaces. They need more than just good intentions; they need resources, knowledge, and financial support.

HB1953 provides exactly that through a proven, multi-faceted approach. First, the bill creates a mechanism for offering workshops and stipends. This is an effective strategy to empower farmers and stewards with the latest technical assistance and best practices, while providing meaningful financial backing in exchange for their commitment to deepening their knowledge. Second, it establishes cost-sharing programs to help implement conservation practices that are proven to improve our environment. This could include critical techniques like cover cropping to enrich the soil, soil amendments to restore fertility, erosion control to protect our watersheds, nutrient management to prevent runoff, and composting to close the loop on waste.

These are not abstract concepts; they are tangible actions that make our agricultural lands more resilient and our environment healthier. A farmer who learns about and implements erosion control through this program is not only protecting their own fields but also safeguarding our nearshore waters from sediment runoff. A land steward who receives a cost-share to manage invasive species is preserving a native forest that holds cultural and ecological significance for all of us.

The pilot program recognizes that those caring for our ‘āina resources are essential partners in this work. By helping them develop plans, participate in training, and receive the funds needed to improve their infrastructure and practices, HB1953 invests in the very people who safeguard the spaces we value most as a community.

For the health of our environment, the resilience of our agricultural system, and the preservation of our cultural heritage, I urge you to pass HB1953.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 7:02:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT!!!

MAHALO!

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 8:09:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB1953 establishes a two-year Conservation and Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Pilot Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. Hawaii farmers need to catch up and use new findings in conservation. The pilot program will help them learn and use them. Please support HB1953.

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:49:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1953 HD1, which establishes a two-year Conservation and Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Pilot Program within the **Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity**.

Ensuring the health and safety of Hawai‘i’s environments is essential to restorative ‘āina work and the long-term care of our lands from mauka to makai. As invasive species spread, extractive cultivation practices continue, and pressures on our public and agricultural lands increase, we must invest in solutions that support responsible stewardship.

Farmers and land stewards face a wide range of daily challenges in managing land sustainably. A dedicated program that provides both financial support and technical assistance would enable them to more effectively address these challenges. Workshops paired with stipends are a proven way to support participation while ensuring that land stewards gain the knowledge and skills needed to implement best practices.

Cost-sharing programs are also an effective tool for encouraging the adoption of conservation practices that improve environmental health. These practices include cover cropping, soil amendments, erosion control, nutrient management, composting, and other strategies that protect soil, water, and ecosystems while supporting productive agriculture.

This pilot program will help those entrusted with caring for our ‘āina develop conservation plans, participate in training, access funding, and invest in infrastructure that strengthens stewardship efforts. By doing so, it safeguards the environmental, social, and cultural spaces that our communities value and depend upon.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support HB 1953 HD1.

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

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:51:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Keala Fung and I support HB 1953 HD1.

Ensuring the health and safety of Hawai‘i’s environments is crucial to restorative ‘āina work and maintenance of spaces from mauka to makai. As invasive species are introduced, extractive cultivation practices are implemented, and challenges in protecting our public environmental spaces arise, we need to look towards solutions.

Farmers and land stewards could benefit from a regular program which provides the financial backing and technical assistance to better address the litany of challenges they encounter in day-to-day work. Workshops and stipends are an effective mechanism to offer support in exchange for these individuals agreeing to attend and complete training and workshops.

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Please support HB 1953 HD1.

Keala Fung, Honolulu HI

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 11:19:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1953 because I believe it is important for us as an island home to invest in biosecurity. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 11:43:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 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 am **in strong support of HB1953 HD1**, which establishes a two-year Conservation and Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Pilot Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Ensuring the health and safety of Hawai‘i’s environments is crucial to restorative ‘āina work and maintenance of spaces from mauka to makai. As invasive species are introduced, extractive cultivation practices are implemented, and challenges in protecting our public environmental spaces arise, we need to look towards solutions.

Farmers and land stewards could benefit from a regular program which provides the financial backing and technical assistance to better address the litany of challenges they encounter in day-to-day work. Workshops and stipends are an effective mechanism to offer support in exchange for these individuals agreeing to attend and complete training and workshops.

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The pilot program will help those entrusted with caring for our ‘āina resources develop plans, participate in training, receive funds, and improve the infrastructure we have to improve conservation practices and safeguard those environmental, social, and cultural spaces we value as a community.

Please support HB 1953 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

Sam Aruch
580 Awalau Rd
Haiku HI 96708
samaruch@gmail.com

808-895-4542

Date: 2 March 2026

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

Re: Testimony in Support of HB1953, Relating to Agriculture

Please accept this testimony in strong support of HB1953/SB3296, Relating to Agriculture. This bill establishes a pilot program to provide coordinated training, technical assistance, cost-share opportunities, and on-farm infrastructure support across Hawai'i. 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.

HB1953 establishes a pilot program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) to provide:

- Training and technical assistance
- Cost-share support for conservation practices
- On-farm infrastructure funding, such as compost systems and irrigation improvements

By filling gaps in existing programs, this bill supports small, diversified farms and 'āina-based stewardship practices often underserved by federal initiatives.

Why It Matters

- **Tailored support:** Provides targeted assistance to farms and 'āina-based stewardship groups often underserved by federal programs, modeled on successful cost-share initiatives.
- **Supports farmers facing growing pressures:** Helps producers address climate change, soil degradation, water constraints, and rising costs that threaten working lands providing critical public benefits.
- **Efficient, proven model:** Builds on a high-functioning DAB partnership program, Da Bux, leveraging a qualified nonprofit partner's networks for accountable implementation while complementing existing state efforts.
- **Tangible outcomes:** Faster adoption of conservation practices, improved soil health and water retention, stronger farm-level planning, and measurable climate resilience gains.

This bill is a practical, evidence-based approach to supporting Hawai'i's working lands today. We cannot wait for long-term institutional reforms before assisting the farmers who feed our communities.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration,

Sam Aruch

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 4:17:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion Ano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance, Re: Testimony in Support of HB1953, Relating to Agriculture
Please accept this testimony in strong support of HB1953/SB3296, Relating to Agriculture. This bill establishes a pilot program to provide coordinated training, technical assistance, cost-share opportunities, and on-farm infrastructure support across Hawai‘i. 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.

Why This Bill Matters

Tailored, locally grounded support

This program provides targeted assistance to farmers and ‘āina-based stewardship groups who frequently fall outside the reach of federal programs. Modeled on successful cost-share initiatives, it ensures resources are accessible, responsive, and place-based.

Support for farmers facing mounting pressures

Local producers are navigating climate change impacts, soil degradation, water constraints, and rising operational costs. These pressures threaten Hawai‘i’s working lands and the critical public benefits they provide—from food security to watershed protection.

An efficient, proven model

The program builds on the success of DAB’s Da Bux partnership model, leveraging trusted nonprofit networks for accountable and effective implementation while complementing existing state efforts.

Clear and measurable outcomes

This pilot program can accelerate the adoption of conservation practices, strengthen farm-level planning, improve soil health and water retention, and generate measurable climate resilience gains statewide.

HB1953 represents a practical, evidence-based investment in Hawai‘i’s agricultural future. While long-term reforms are important, our farmers need support now. This bill delivers timely assistance that strengthens food systems, protects natural resources, and sustains working lands for future generations.

Mahalo for your leadership and thoughtful consideration.

Marion Ano

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 4:52:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To all members of the Committee,

Ensuring the health and safety of Hawai‘i’s environments is crucial to restorative ‘āina work and maintenance of spaces from mauka to makai. As invasive species are introduced, extractive cultivation practices are implemented, and challenges in protecting our public environmental spaces arise, we need to look towards solutions.

Farmers and land stewards could benefit from a regular program which provides the financial backing and technical assistance to better address the litany of challenges they encounter in day-to-day work. Workshops and stipends are an effective mechanism to offer support in exchange for these individuals agreeing to attend and complete training and workshops.

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The pilot program will help those entrusted with caring for our ‘āina resources develop plans, participate in training, receive funds, and improve the infrastructure we have to improve conservation practices and safeguard those environmental, social, and cultural spaces we value as a community.

Please support HB 1953 HD1.

Sincerely,

Marion McHenry

Princeville, Kauai

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 6:17:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members.

Ensuring the health and safety of Hawai‘i’s environments is crucial to restorative ‘āina work and maintenance of spaces from mauka to makai. As invasive species are introduced, extractive cultivation practices are implemented, and challenges in protecting our public environmental spaces arise, we need to look towards solutions.

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Please support HB 1953 HD1.

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 10:47:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB1953!

HB-1953-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 9:06:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seuta'atia Cochran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

Mahalo,

Seuta'atia Cochran
Ewa Beach, 'Iolani Schools