

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE FINANCE
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026
2:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

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

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

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

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

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

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



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

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

HB2246
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL GRANT ADMINISTRATION.

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

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

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

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





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March 3, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2246, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL GRANT ADMINISTRATION

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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

March 2, 2026

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

Re: Testimony in Support of HB2246 HD1– Relating To Agricultural Grant Administration

On behalf of Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i, we support HB2246 HD1 which creates an agricultural grant program and revolving fund for the purposes of grant application, execution, reporting, and auditing to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Through our work, Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i helps producers **access capital, financing, and grants** across Hawai'i which gives us clear insight into the capital needs of producers and the agricultural sector. We see firsthand how federal agricultural grants are a vital funding source for Hawai'i's producers as well as state agricultural programs

HB 2246 HD1 offers a practical and fiscally responsible approach by allowing the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to retain and reinvest allowable federal indirect cost reimbursements to support grant development, administration, compliance, and auditing. Enabling the department to retain these reimbursements will enhance its capacity to secure additional grants, manage awards effectively, and ensure oversight.

This program could increase the return on investment in these programs and bring more funding into the state.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Shaw", is positioned above the typed name.

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

HB-2246-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 7:04:58 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!