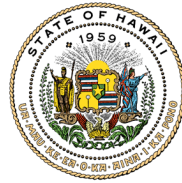


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

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
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026
10:31 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2246, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL GRANT ADMINISTRATION**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2246, HD1, SD1 that establishes the Agricultural Grant Program and Agricultural Grant Revolving Fund for the purposes of grant application, execution, reporting, and auditing to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. Appropriates funds out of the Agricultural Grant Revolving Fund. The Department is in strong support of this 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.

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 to strengthen the Department's capacity to pursue additional grants and further support grant development, execution, compliance and auditing of existing and future grants.

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



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April 7, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2246, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:31 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, 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, SD1, 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, SD1 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, SD1 supports the long-term growth, resilience, and sustainability of Hawai'i's agricultural industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Christian Zuckerman
Vice-President

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Kelii Gannet
Kohala, Hawai'i

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Mason Scharer
Haleakalā, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahālāwai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Moloka'i

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Rachel LaDrig
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means 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 HB2246.**

Hawaii's Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity currently lacks dedicated infrastructure to pursue, administer, and audit federal grant funding. HB2246 SD1 addresses this by establishing an Agricultural Grant Program and Revolving Fund that allows the department to retain federal indirect overhead reimbursements and use them to build and maintain grant management capacity. This is foundational work. Federal programs in conservation, soil health, food safety, and agricultural development are available to the state, but competing for them requires the staffing, compliance systems, and audit capacity that this bill funds.

The revolving fund structure is the right approach because it creates a self-sustaining mechanism that does not depend on annual general fund appropriations. As the department successfully secures and administers federal grants, indirect cost reimbursements flow back into the fund to support future grant activity. The bill's annual reporting requirement ensures ongoing accountability for how revolving fund dollars are spent. We encourage the department to prioritize federal funding opportunities that directly benefit small and mid-scale producers, including programs in conservation agriculture, local food procurement, and beginning farmer development.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union

HB-2246-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 7:41:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/7/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT!!! MAHALO!