

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

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**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
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, February 19, 2026
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2110 SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Senate Bill 2110, Senate Draft 1 proposes to establish a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, require an annual report to the Legislature and, appropriate 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. Fifty-two applications were submitted in the last funding cycle,

requesting \$4.2 million, 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 Ways and Means
Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

By

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

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

SB 2110 SD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2110 SD1 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.

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 11:44:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colehour Bondera	Testifying for Kanalani Ohana Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members:

Regarding this piece of legislation, my request is that you fully support and pass it right away.

For agriculture in Hawaii to not have any support for healthy soils is like any building not having a foundation. Soil is where healthy agriculture starts and must be maintained.

As a life-long farmer, my goal is to help consumers know where their food comes from and to be able to rely on our farm as a supplier.

As a long time diversified small-scale organic farmer, it is the health and life in the soil which make for nutritious food and healthy production.

Please support the foundation of soils support which Hawaii needs, since there is nowhere to turn to presently for such support as a small-scale farmer producing for local consumption. Thank you for supporting this important piece of legislation.

Yours,

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

colemel2@gmail.com



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State President

Christian Zuckerman
Vice-President

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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 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



Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB2110 SD1

Thursday, February 19th, 2026 10:30 a.m. Conference Room 211

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

HAPA supports SB2110 SD1 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 soil 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 SD1 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 SD1 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 SD1 is therefore not just important for our local food production agricultural sector but is good for our local environment.

Please support SB2110 SD1 and healthy soils 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

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM committee:

Kauai Climate Action Coalition, a group of over 150 Kauai residents, strongly supports SB2110 SD1 because this bill improves statewide conservation efficiency. The bill will reduce the state's net carbon emissions because it will increase the ability of soils to sequester carbon. Therefore, the bill is good for farmers, especially small farmers, and for our climate health. That means it is good for us all.

The bill establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC).

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. The bill will help Hawaii make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy . Please pass SB2110 SD1 out of your committee.

Mahalo!

Helen Cox, Chair

Kauai Climate Action Coalition

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Chair Dela Cruz
Thursday, 19 February, 10:30 AM
Room 211
SB 2110 SD1 – Healthy Soils Program

TESTIMONY

Sheryl McCarthy, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Dela Cruz and WAM Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports SB 2110 SD1, which establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC) and requires an annual report to the legislature.

Healthy soils provide environmental and economic benefits to Hawaii. They enhance nutrient cycling, retain water, support plant communities, filter and buffer pollutants, improve water infiltration, control erosion, and improve crop yields. Healthy soils also serve as a natural carbon sink that sequesters atmospheric carbon dioxide. Healthy soils depend on a robust soil food web and are the foundation of healthy Hawaiian ecosystems.

We need to decrease practices of overusing pesticides and herbicides and killing soil microbes and insects and instead support and cultivate the biodiversity of microbes and insects that are beneficial to soil health. Healthy soils are critical in Hawaii for growing our food, supporting all the plants and animals in our ecosystem, and mitigating climate change.

Supporting initiatives and educational programs related to soil health empowers Hawaiian communities to act and have a positive impact on soil health, and by extension our Hawaii ecosystem, and to play a valuable role in climate change mitigation.

The League of Women Voters US (LWVUS) believes that as citizens of the world, we must protect our planet from the physical, economic, and public health effects of climate change while also providing pathways to economic prosperity. In 2023, LWVUS endorsed the Children's Fundamental Rights and Climate Recovery Resolution, which recognizes the disproportionate impact of the climate crisis on the health, economic opportunities, and fundamental rights of children.

The proposed Healthy Soils Program bill, SB 2110 SD1, is consistent with the LWVUS' longstanding support of the environment and future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for the work you are doing to protect Hawaii's environment.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 19, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2110, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:30 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 SB 2110, SD1, 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.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

SB2110 SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB110 SD1** 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

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting SB2110 SD1, Relating to Agriculture
Committee on Ways and Means
February 19, 2026 at 10:30 am
Conference Room 211 and via Videoconference**

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra supports SB2110 SD1, 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 SD1.

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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SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 8:09:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation.

David Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 9:11:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members!

Please **support SB2110 SD1**. 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 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 9:49:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB2110 SD1. 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 11:14:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB2110 SD1. 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!

kimdonghyeon

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 6:35:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Galloway	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill.

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 6:41:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Surabhi Agrawal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2110 SD1. 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!

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 10:01:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and honorable members of committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, and on behalf of of our members, we offer our Strong Support for SB2110 SD1. As a farm worker myself I understand the health of the soil reflects directly to the health of the food being grown in that soil , and that in turn reflects the health of the people eating that food. We are all connected, we are not separate from nature. What we do to our soil we do to ourselves.

Please support SB2110 SD1. 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.

We are all connected,the Green Party of Hawai'i asks for your support of SB2110 SD1.

Mahalo!

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauiilo

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 10:02:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kendall Krumm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2110 SD1. 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!

Kendall Krumm, Kailua

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 10:21:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

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 testifying in strong support of SB2110, which establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. This bill recognizes a fundamental truth that has been overlooked for far too long: **healthy soil is the foundation of a healthy food system, a resilient agricultural economy, and an effective climate strategy.**

What Soil Health Means for Hawai‘i

For over a century, industrial agricultural practices have treated soil as little more than an inert medium for holding plants upright while synthetic inputs do the work. We now know this approach is not only outdated but destructive. Heavy pesticide and herbicide use does not simply kill targeted pests; it sterilizes the land itself, depleting microbial life, reducing biodiversity, and leaving soil barren, dependent on costly inputs, and vulnerable to erosion and climate stress.

Modern soil science has revolutionized our understanding. Healthy soil is alive—teeming with bacteria, fungi, nematodes, and microorganisms that form complex ecosystems beneath our feet. This biodiversity is not incidental; it is essential. Soils rich in organic matter and microbial life:

- **Support healthier crops** with greater nutritional density.
- **Increase resilience** to pests, disease, and climate impacts like drought and flooding.
- **Reduce dependence** on expensive synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.
- **Capture and store carbon**, pulling it from the atmosphere and locking it in the ground where it belongs.

A Climate Solution Beneath Our Feet

The carbon sequestration potential of healthy soils is staggering. Globally, soils contain more carbon than the atmosphere and all plant life combined. Practices that build soil organic matter—cover cropping, reduced tillage, compost application, rotational grazing—do not just improve farm productivity; they actively mitigate climate change by drawing down atmospheric carbon.

SB2110 places this work where it belongs: within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. It formally recognizes that agricultural policy is climate policy, and that supporting

farmers in transitioning to regenerative practices is one of the most cost-effective investments we can make in our collective future.

What the Program Does

This bill creates a framework to:

- Provide **education and technical assistance** to farmers implementing farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils.
- Issue **awards and financial incentives** to accelerate adoption of these practices.
- Report annually to the Legislature on progress, outcomes, and recommendations.

It is not a mandate; it is a partnership. It meets farmers where they are and supports them in making transitions that benefit their operations, their communities, and the planet.

Moving Beyond Outdated Paradigms

For generations, the dominant agricultural model has treated soil as something to be conquered rather than cultivated. Pesticides, herbicides, and synthetic fertilizers promised short-term gains while degrading the long-term productive capacity of our land. We are still living with the consequences: depleted soils, contaminated watersheds, and farms locked into cycles of increasing input costs just to maintain yields.

SB2110 signals a shift. It says Hawai‘i is ready to support farmers in moving toward practices that work with nature rather than against it. Practices that build soil health, support biodiversity, and capture carbon. Practices that make farms more resilient, more profitable, and more sustainable for the next generation of Hawai‘i farmers.

An Investment in Our Future

This bill is modest in scope but profound in implication. It invests in education, technical assistance, and incentives—the very tools that enable farmers to experiment, learn, and transition at their own pace. It builds on what we have learned from successful soil health programs in other states and adapts it to Hawai‘i's unique agricultural systems and challenges.

The benefits will compound over time: healthier soils mean healthier crops, which mean healthier communities. Reduced input costs mean more profitable farms. Carbon sequestration means progress toward our climate goals. And a generation of farmers trained in regenerative practices means this knowledge is passed on, not lost.

SB2110 is a smart, forward-looking investment in Hawai‘i's agricultural future and climate resilience. I urge you to pass this bill and put Hawai‘i at the forefront of the soil health movement.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 10:53:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 11:32:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cristina Holt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Cristina Holt. I live on Hawai'i Island, and I strongly support SB 2110, SD1.

If we are serious about food security, climate resilience, and reducing dependence on imported inputs, then soil health must be funded like infrastructure.

Healthy soil is not a boutique concept. It is the foundation of agricultural productivity, water retention, flood mitigation, and carbon sequestration. It reduces erosion. It reduces nutrient runoff. It reduces reliance on synthetic fertilizers and imported feed. It builds long term resilience into our food system.

This bill does something important. It shifts conservation agriculture and soil health incentives into the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, an entity that already works at the intersection of land management and climate strategy. That alignment matters.

It also centers equity. The prioritization of small farms, beginning farmers, Native Hawaiian farmers, and socially disadvantaged farmers is not incidental. It is essential. These producers often face the highest barriers to accessing technical assistance and conservation funding, yet they are the backbone of localized food production.

The inclusion of pre-application technical assistance at no cost is critical. Many small farmers are shut out of programs simply because the application process is too complex or resource-intensive. Removing that barrier is smart policy.

This bill also recognizes that conservation is not about input substitution. It is about systems change. Cover cropping, agroforestry, rotational grazing, compost infrastructure, traditional lo'i kalo restoration. These are long term investments that strengthen land and community at the same time.

If we want agriculture that survives climate instability, we must invest in practices that build soil organic matter, increase water holding capacity, and reduce dependence on globally sourced inputs.

SB 2110 is strategic. It is measurable. It requires reporting. It requires evaluation. It requires equity metrics.

What it requires now is funding.

Please fully fund and advance SB 2110, SD1.

Mahalo for your leadership.

Cristina Holt
Hawai'i Island

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 12:41:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Healthy soil=healthy food.

Judith White, Kapaa

Home gardener and food eater

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 1:02:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Sage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With the current regime disposing of all EPA concerns and public health risks it is imperative that the State of Hawaii take measures to protect our Aina. Corporations only want profit. GOP cares nothing about the citizens only supporting their felon in charge. You, as representatives of the people of Hawaii, must protect our land, health and be stewards of the planet.

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 2:18:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please **support SB2110 SD1**. 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 SD1.

Thank you

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 3:04:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joell Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Joell Edwards I am writing in strong support of SB2110 SD1.

As a small grocery owner in Wainiha on Kaua‘i, I see firsthand how important local agriculture is to our food system and rural economy. Investing in soil health is investing in Hawai‘i’s future.

Healthy soils are the foundation of a healthy food system. When our soil is strong, our farms are more productive, our crops are healthier, and our farmers are less dependent on expensive chemical inputs. Healthy soils also help absorb carbon, retain water during heavy rains, and make crops more resilient during drought and extreme weather.

For too long, many agricultural practices have focused on short-term production without protecting the long-term health of the land. We now understand that soil is alive, full of beneficial organisms that support plant growth and overall ecosystem health. When we damage that living system, we weaken our farms and our food security.

SB2110 SD1 takes an important step forward by providing farmers with education, technical assistance, and financial incentives to adopt practices that build and protect soil health. Supporting farmers in this transition is essential. Healthy soil benefits not only individual farms but our entire community.

I respectfully urge your support for SB2110 SD1.

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 5:14:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Tincher	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.

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.

Mahalo,

Virginia Tincher

Honolulu

Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii
cclhawaii.org



Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and members of the WAM committee:

Citizens' Climate Lobby - Hawaii strongly supports SB2110 SD1.

CCL-Hawaii advocates for legislation that reduces carbon emissions and strengthens Hawai'i's energy independence while improving the health of our community.

SB2100 SD1 achieves these goals as it establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC), which will lead to a healthier and more sustainable agricultural sector and improve the health of our economy and our environment by improving the ability of our soils to sequester carbon.

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 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, Citizens' Climate Lobby - Hawaii urges you to pass SB2110 SD1 out of your committee.

Sincerely,
Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii
cclhawaii.org
hi.ccl.hawaii@gmail.org

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change solutions. CCL Hawaii's members are part of a 268,500+ global organization. For more information, visit citizensclimatelobby.org.

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 5:53:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2110 SD1. 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 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Malia Chun, Kekaha, Kaua'i

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 6:25:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Soil health leads to nourishing food which leads to healthy ohana and food security. Please support this bill.

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 7:28:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2110 SD1. Healthy soils are the foundation of a healthy food system and healthy planet.

Mahalo,

Victoria Anderson

Palolo

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 11:39:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Jackie Keefe, and I respectfully request that you **pass SB2110 SD1**. We have less than 60 years of livable soil left on this planet, and industrial agriculture has done irreversible damage to our soils. As such, small, regenerative farms are the way forward, but they need our help!

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 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 7:16:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2110 SD1

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 3:06:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB2110 SD1. I believe knowing what we know now about how to enhance soil health through composting, mulching and other organic means, we should do whatever we can to help our farmers to create good healthy soils so that we can grow nutritious food to sustain us here in Hawai'i.

For this reason also I am in favor of statewide municipal composting, so that any food waste can be composted and used to the benefit of our soil rather than going to the landfill, whether it is from a condo in Honolulu or a rural home in Mountain View on Hawai'i Island.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 4:03:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Daleiden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM committee:

I support SB2110 SD1 because this bill improves the health of our agricultural sector and our environment.

This bill establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC).

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. To help Hawaii make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy, I urge you to pass SB2110 SD1 out of your committee.

Mahalo!

Christine Daleiden

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 4:10:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Kawamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2110 SD1 because this bill improves the health of our agricultural sector and our environment.

This bill establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC).

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. To help Hawaii make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy, I urge you to pass SB2110 SD1 out of your committee.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice chair Moriwaki, and members of the WAM committee:

Support for SB2110 SD1:

Key benefits of SB2110 SD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. To help Hawaii make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy.

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Keith Neal
Waimea

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 7:00:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 7:34:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the WAM Committee,

My name is **Nanea Lo**, and I write in strong support of **SB2110 SD1** because this measure strengthens both Hawai‘i’s agricultural sector and our environment.

SB2110 SD1 establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**. By consolidating existing agricultural conservation programs under a single coordinating body, this bill removes unnecessary administrative barriers that farmers—especially small-scale farmers—often face when seeking financial incentives and technical assistance. In doing so, it improves efficiency, coordination, and the overall effectiveness of statewide conservation efforts.

This measure delivers significant, well-documented benefits. Healthy soils improve water regulation and retention, increase crop yields, support biodiversity, enhance nutrient cycling, filter pollutants, and prevent erosion. SB2110 SD1 also strengthens Hawai‘i’s climate response by increasing the ability of soils to sequester carbon, thereby reducing the State’s net greenhouse gas emissions.

Importantly, this bill helps farmers become more resilient and sustainable while making better use of Hawai‘i’s limited land and water resources. Investing in conservation agriculture is an investment in food security, climate resilience, and a stronger local economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **PASS SB2110 SD1** out of your committee.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai‘i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 9:16:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2110 SD1. 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 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 9:30:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mina Elison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e esteemed leaders of Hawai'i,

Please support SB2110 SD1. 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 SD1.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Mina Elison, Ke'ei, Kona, Hawai'i

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 7:35:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Roberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM committee

I support SB2110 SD1 because this bill improves the health of our agricultural sector and our environment.

This bill establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC).

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. To help Hawaii make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy, I urge you to pass SB2110 SD1 out of your committee.

Mahalo!

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 7:50:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM committee:

I support SB2110 SD1 because this bill improves the health of our agricultural sector and our environment.

This bill establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC).

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. To help Hawaii make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy, I urge you to pass SB2110 SD1 out of your committee.

Mahalo!

Seuta'atia Cochran

Ewa Beach

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:02:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM committee:

I am writing to ask that you support SB2110 SD1. This bill establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC).

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention.

Help Hawaii make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy by supporting this bill.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 12:25:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Graham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM,

I support SB2110 SD1 because it provides resources needed to support our farmers and keep our soils healthy, helping food production, biodiversity protection, and carbon sequestration.

I urge you to pass this bill out of your committee.

Thomas Graham, Honolulu

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 3:41:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Narwold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM committee:

I support SB2110 SD1 because this bill improves the health of our agricultural sector and our environment.

This bill establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC).

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. To help Hawaii make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy, I urge you to pass SB2110 SD1 out of your committee.

Mahalo!

Benjamin Narwold, Kapaa, HI

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 5:29:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bobbie Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill which improves the health of our agricultural sector and our environment.

This bill establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC).

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. To help Hawaii make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy, I urge you to pass SB2110 SD1 out of your committee. Mahalo.

Mr & Mrs. B. Best, Wailuku

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:18:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harriet Witt	Testifying for HFU/Haleakala	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill because none of us can be any healthier than the soil where our food is growing. Mahalo, Harriet Witt

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 1:44:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Clack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing: Thursday, February 19 at 10:30am

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211

RE: Senate Bill No. 2110, Relating to Agriculture

Haʻu Mitákuyepi and Greetings Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **support** of SB2110. As an indigenous person living in Hawai'i, I support the establishment of a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. Connection to land and 'āina is a value that weaves strength through the people that make up the communities supported by healthy soil.

This bill matters because it **supports farmers** in adopting soil health practices that both improve yields and reduce costs. This bill also protects long-term food production by restoring and maintaining healthy soils.

I invite you to **join me in support** of this bill to take care of the soil that feeds us. As Dr. Charles E Kellogg, Soil Scientist and Chief of the USDA's Bureau for Chemistry and Soils said,

“Essentially, all life depends upon the soil... There can be no life without soil and no soil without life; they have evolved together.”

In community,

Valerie J. Clack



Chair Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Moriwaki
Senate Ways and Means Committee

Thursday, February 19, 2026
10:30 AM

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2110 SD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Aloha Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission was first created through Act 106 in 2018, “to advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the State.” The Youth Commission’s Environment legislative committee is in **strong support** of **SB2110 SD1**.

Dependent on foreign exports, Hawai‘i lacks sustainable agricultural systems; our access to locally grown food exacerbates our state’s long-standing issue of self-sufficiency. This bill is a necessary step to encourage supportive, localized farming systems on our islands. Moreover, it is essential to promote agriculture in Hawai‘i that can support its inhabitants and growing youth. The conservation agriculture and soil health incentive program will aid the Hawai‘i State Department of Education’s goal to have 30% of school meals sourced locally by 2030.¹ Within the past few years, schools across the state have increased their reliance on local farms. In the 2022-23 school year, over 165,000 students were routinely fed by farm-to-school programs.² Hence, incentivizing local farmers to use sustainable and climate-friendly techniques is integral for our learning youth and our future economy.

The Youth Commission recognizes the necessity of SB2110 in combating agricultural degradation in Hawai‘i, which has a significant impact not only on the State’s economy, but also on the entire livelihoods of our communities. As youth, we feel the necessity of promoting a financially stable agricultural system for the health of our islands and their future generations. Therefore, the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission strongly urges the committee to **PASS SB2110 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission
hawaiiistateyc@gmail.com

¹ Hawai‘i State Department of Education. (2025). *Hawai‘i Farm to School Plan*.

² USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2023 Census of School Food Authority (SFA) in Hawai‘i.

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 11:10:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra Mcveigh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Sierra Mcveigh support sb2110



February 17th, 2026

To: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Subject: **SB2110 SD1**, Relating to Agriculture

Aloha,

We at Hawai'i Food+ Policy are writing in support of **SB2110 SD1**, which proposes to establish the Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program under the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. Requiring an annual report to the Legislature.

Implementing climate-smart agricultural practices helps to ensure the preservation of the ecological health of our soil and working lands. Soil health is important in sustaining plant and animal productivity¹. **SB2110 SD1** seeks to provide incentives, technical assistance, and educational support that will adopt science-based conservation practices that will improve soil health, water retention, climate resilience, and support local food production and economic viability. The initiatives of this program aims to bridge the gaps of existing programs aimed at supporting small, diversified farms.

Farmers who may be interested in adopting conservation agriculture and soil health practices face challenges related to the cost of implementing these practices. The program aims to reduce these barriers by providing monetary support. It supports equitable access for small and socially disadvantaged farmers, long-term maintenance and knowledge transfer of farming practices that promote agricultural conservation and soil health, as well as projects that incorporate Native Hawaiian ecological knowledge and cultural restoration. This program will help to ensure the retention of the viability of working lands, support our local farmers which will help to retain our agricultural workforce, and increase local productivity.

As for the reasons mentioned, we **strongly urge** the Committee to support this bill. Your support for this bill serves to secure sustainable agricultural practices that greatly impact the state's climate resilience, cultural restoration, and food security. We thank you for the opportunity to testify on **SB2110 SD1**.

Mahalo,
Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

¹ "Soil Health," *Oahu Resource Conservation and Development Council*, January 4, 2023, <https://oahurcd.org/soil-health/>.

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.

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 12:25:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM committee:

I support SB2110 SD1 because this bill improves the health of our agricultural sector and our environment.

This bill establishes a Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program within the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC).

By consolidating various agricultural conservation programs under CCMAC, this policy removes administrative barriers for farmers to obtain financial incentives and technical assistance and improves statewide conservation efforts.

The key benefits of SB2110 SD1 are water regulation, higher crop yield, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, biodiversity support, pollutant filtration, and erosion prevention. To help Hawaii make better use of its resources and better protect the environment as well as strengthen its economy, I urge you to pass SB2110 SD1 out of your committee.

Mahalo! Diane Ware Volcano 96785

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 2:54:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill



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

February 18, 2026

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

Re: Testimony in Support of SB2110 SD1, Relating to Agriculture

On behalf of Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i, we write in support of SB2110, which establishes the **Conservation Agriculture and Soil Health Incentive Program** under the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the viability and sustainability of Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers through technical assistance, resource coordination, business education, and policy support. **We have 25 years of experience supporting conservation agriculture and stewardship on Hawai'i's working lands.**

This program represents a critical step forward for Hawai'i's farmers and environmental resilience. Hawai'i's agricultural sector faces unprecedented challenges, including climate change impacts, soil degradation, and increasing demand for locally produced food. At the same time, small farms and socially disadvantaged farmers often lack the technical assistance, financial resources, and program access necessary to adopt conservation practices.

This bill addresses those barriers by ensuring equitable access to incentives and support for small, first-time, Native Hawaiian, and socially disadvantaged farmers and promoting science-based practices that improve soil health, water retention, carbon sequestration, and reduce erosion and reliance on imported inputs. This bill provides meaningful support for farmers who are advancing Hawai'i's agricultural resilience. We also note that **SB3296** proposes a similar program with a different mechanism of administration, which we also support.

Ultimately, the goal of these programs is to **support Hawai'i's farmers and strengthen local agriculture**, no matter the pathway.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

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

SB-2110-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 6:58:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Swift	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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