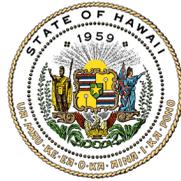


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

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
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026
3:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 2334
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Gabbard and Lee, Vice Chairs Richards and Inouye and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2334 that establishes as of January 1, 2027 an Agricultural Land Conversion Fee payable by the buyer or lessee in a transaction for any agricultural land that will be converted from agricultural production for certain purposes. The bill also establishes the Agricultural Land Conversion Fee Fund to, among other things, support the Healthy Soils Program. It also requires all State lands used in the commercial production of agricultural commodities, including any lands under lease agreements with the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, to use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices. Adoption of administrative rules to implement this new chapter is required. The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) offers comments and concerns regarding the potential of the bill to be the vehicle to reclassify agricultural district lands and county for non-agricultural uses.

This bill creates a new chapter and function that is to be administered by the Department. Beginning January 1, 2027, the payment of an Agricultural Land Conversion Fee will be required from buyers or lessees in a transaction for any agricultural land that will be converted from agricultural production to solar energy facility, wind farm, industrial park, non-farm dwellings, and any other use that prevents ag use. The fee is on a per-acre basis ranging from \$3,600 per acre for ten or less acres converted to \$2,800 per acre for 30 or more acres converted. Establishes the Agricultural Land Conversion Fee Fund to, among other things, support the operations and programs of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (this program is established in Chapter 180 and administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources),

cover administrative costs incurred by the Department in administering this Chapter, and any other purpose provided for in this Chapter. However, allocation and expenditure of a to-be-determined fixed amount of moneys in the fund goes first to the Healthy Soils Program (department unstated) and another to-be-determined fixed amount of moneys for costs incurred by the Department in collecting the Agricultural Land Conversion Fees.

As the Department does not have a Healthy Soils Program, we recommend that provision be deleted from the bill:

Page 5, line 20 to page 6, line 2

"§ -4 **Allocation and expenditure of moneys in the fund.** (a) The department shall annually ensure that, subject to the moneys in the fund and before expending moneys for any other purpose:

~~[(1) At least \$ _____ shall be used by the department for the healthy soils program, annually adjusted by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index-U of the preceding year; and]~~

~~[(2)]~~ (1) \$ _____ shall be retained by the department for administrative and other costs associated with collection of the agricultural land conversion fees and related activities.

(b) After the moneys in the fund have been allocated pursuant to subsection (a), any remaining moneys may be expended by the department for other purposes allowed by this chapter."

Section 5 (page 6, line 10 through page 7, line 12) requires the Department to "advance the adoption of conservation practices." The Department's land leases already include a standard requirement that the lessee "carry out a program of conservation developed by the lessee in cooperation with the appropriate Soil and Water Conservation District, with which district the lessee shall apply for and attain cooperative status." The types of conservation practices listed on pages 6-7 of the bill are very similar to the practices recommended by the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, who works in partnership with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the State. The Department respectfully suggests that additional State legislation and rulemaking in this area are therefore unnecessary.

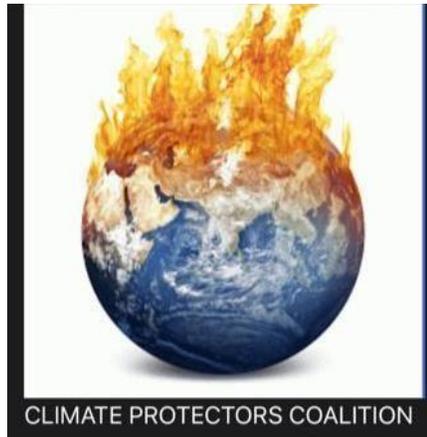
The Department is very concerned that the bill does not explain how the proposed conversion fee structure was determined (page 3, line 19 to page 4, line 6). The conversion fees appear to have no relationship to the existing or potential

productivity of the affected agricultural land. We note that the proceeds from this proposed fee structure are meant primarily to fund the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Chapter 180 and administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)), and a to-be-enacted Healthy Soils Program, both of which are not administered by the Department.

The Department is also very concerned that the amount of the proposed conversion fee could be construed as a value for agricultural land across the State. This may adversely affect the State's land use laws, policies, and programs and the counties land use permit functions that are meant to protect against unplanned agricultural land loss.

Respectfully, and separate from this measure, the Department acknowledges the merit of an appropriation for a Healthy Soils Program and a Soil and Water Conservation District in the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



To: The Honorable Chairs Senators Mike Gabbard and Chris Lee, the Honorable Vice Chairs Herbert M. “Tim” Richards III, and Lorraine Inouye, and Members of the Agriculture and Environment and Water, Land, Culture and the Arts Committees.

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **Hearing SB2334 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.**

Hearing: Wednesday February 11, 2026, 3:00 p.m., room 224

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Chris Lee, Vice Chairs Richards and Inouye, and Members of the Agriculture and Environment and Water, Land, Culture and the Arts Committees!

The mission of the Climate Protectors Hawai'i is to educate and engage the local community in climate change action.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i and the Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition COMMENT on SB2334!

This bill would conserve Hawaii's farmland and healthy soils. Beginning 1/1/2027, it requires the payment of an Agricultural Land Conversion Fee by the buyer or lessee in a transaction for any agricultural land that will be converted from agricultural production for certain purposes. The bill establishes the Agricultural Land Conversion Fee Fund to, among other things, support the Health Soils Program. The bill requires all state lands used in the commercial production of agricultural commodities, including any lands under lease agreements with the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, to use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i and the Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition SUPPORT the bill's intent to conserve farmland and healthy soils. However, the bill should be amended on page 3 lines 4 and 5 to strike the solar energy facility and windfarm. Hawaii needs both to conserve farmland and healthy soil AND develop renewable power.

Please **pass this bill WITH AMENDMENT** to help preserve Hawai'i's farmland and healthy soils while **developing renewable energy!**

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Christian Zuckerman
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Kelii Gannet
Kohala, Hawaii

East Hawaii

Puna, Hawaii

Ka'u, Hawaii

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawaii

Gina Lind
Hana, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lana'i

India Clark
North Shore, Oahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, Oahu

Rachel LaDrig
Waimanalo, Oahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, Oahu

Natalie Urminska
Kauai

Aloha Chairs Gabbard & Lee, Vice Chairs Richards & Inouye, and Committee Members,

The Hawaii 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 SB2334.**

SB2334 institutes a critical land conversion fee that deters the loss of prime agricultural acreage to non-ag development, securing the land base required to meet Hawaii's local food goals. By utilizing conversion fees, SB2334 adopts a tool used successfully in states like Wisconsin (to prevent fragmentation), Maryland (to fund preservation), California (to ensure no net loss of land), and Vermont (to curb speculation), ensuring that development costs contribute directly to Hawaii's agricultural resilience and food security.

By directing these funds into a dedicated Agricultural Land Conversion Fee Fund, Hawaii can finally provide consistent, long-term support for healthy soils initiatives. To ensure the bill's effectiveness and alignment with existing state climate goals, we strongly recommend the following technical amendments:

Requested Technical Amendments:

SECTION 2. (a) There is appropriated out of the agricultural land conversion fee fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to be deposited into the ~~[healthy soils program]~~ conservation agriculture and soil health incentive program.

SECTION 3. Section The ~~[department of agriculture]~~ climate change mitigation and adaptation commission shall administer the distribution of incentives and grants from the agricultural land conversion fee fund to ensure alignment with state carbon sequestration and climate resilience goals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawaii Farmers Union



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

February 11, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2334
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
3:00 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Lee, Vice-Chairs Richards and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

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 provides comments on SB 2334, which proposes an Agricultural Land Conversion Fee and new conservation requirements intended to discourage the loss of agricultural lands.

HFB shares the goal of keeping agricultural lands in active production and strongly supports soil health, conservation, and responsible land stewardship. Farmers and ranchers have long partnered with SWCDs, NRCS, and state agencies to voluntarily adopt conservation practices that improve soil, water quality, and long-term productivity. Protecting agricultural land is a shared priority.

However, HFB is concerned that the approach proposed in SB 2334 relies on penalties and mandates rather than addressing the underlying factors that lead to agricultural land being taken out of production. The Agricultural Land Conversion Fee is triggered only after agriculture is no longer viable or a land use change has already been decided, and it does not improve the economic conditions, infrastructure, water access, labor availability, or market viability needed to keep land in farming in the first place.

The bill also applies the same fee structure regardless of whether land is actively farmed, marginal, or no longer suitable for agricultural use. This one-size-fits-all approach risks discouraging land transitions, farm succession, and investment, while doing little to

preserve productive agriculture. Applying the fee to buyers or lessees further compounds these concerns in a state where agricultural margins are already narrow.

In addition, SB 2334 would require all state agricultural lands used for commercial production to adopt conservation practices based on an undefined “established metric,” without providing funding, technical assistance, or clarity on compliance expectations. Unfunded mandates and regulatory uncertainty create additional risk for state lessees who rely on lease stability to operate viable agricultural businesses.

HFB has consistently supported incentive-based and voluntary conservation programs that provide technical and financial assistance to help farmers adopt practices that are appropriate for their land, crops, and resources. Policies that focus on keeping agriculture economically viable and supporting producers in conservation efforts are more likely to achieve long-term land protection than fee-based or punitive approaches applied at the point of conversion.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau respectfully encourages continued discussion on strategies that protect agricultural lands by strengthening farm viability, supporting conservation through partnership, and maintaining flexibility for producers, rather than imposing new fees and mandates that may have unintended consequences.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:53:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, we are in VERY Strong Support of SB2334. We recognize that currently agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

This legislation aims to collect a fee on agricultural lands intended to be converted to a solar energy facility, a wind farm, an industrial park, a commercial area, a single-family or multiple-family dwelling that is not a farm dwelling, or any other uses that prevents land classified as agricultural from being used specifically as agricultural land.

The agricultural land conversion fee will be collected under the agricultural land conversion fee fund established under the state treasury by this legislation with explicit purposes in directly supporting soil and water conservation districts in addition to supporting the healthy soils programs.

This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation. This is a win win for all !

Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai'i's commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo



Date of hearing: 11 February, 2026

To: Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Herbert M. Richards, III, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Y. Moriwaki, and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Subject: **SB2334**, Relating to Agriculture

Aloha,

We are writing in **support** of **SB2334** with comments for clarification. This measure establishes an agricultural land conversion fee for agricultural land converted to non-agricultural use, creates the Agricultural Land Conversion Fee Fund, directs revenues to soil and water conservation districts and agricultural soil health programs, and requires measurable conservation practices on agricultural lands leased by the State.

Hawai'i imports the majority of its food while agricultural land continues to be lost to development pressures. Once agricultural land is converted to non-agricultural use, it is rarely returned to farming. SB2334 recognizes that agricultural land holds value tied to food security, environmental stewardship, and long-term community resilience. By responding to conversions through a fee, the bill helps ensure that the agricultural lands which remain are not treated as dispensable and receive support when other lands are converted.

By investing conversion fee revenues into soil and water conservation districts and programs such as the Healthy Soils Program, it can directly support farmers by improving soil health and supporting long-term productivity of the remaining agricultural lands.

However, we respectfully suggest providing clear and defined guidelines on how conversion fee revenues are distributed. It is important to ensure regular provision and reporting on how the collected fees are being consistently used to advance agricultural land protection rather than being diminished over time.

With stronger transparency and accountability provisions, this bill can more effectively protect agricultural lands for current and future generations. For these reasons, we support **SB2334**.

Mahalo,
Brandon Kinard & the Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

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.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committees,

Kauai Climate Action Coalition, a group of over 150 Kauai residents, strongly supports SB2334. Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

This legislation aims to collect a fee on agricultural lands intended to be converted to a solar energy facility, a wind farm, an industrial park, a commercial area, a single-family or multiple-family dwelling that is not a farm dwelling, or any other uses that prevents land classified as agricultural from being used specifically as agricultural land.

The agricultural land conversion fee will be collected under the agricultural land conversion fee fund established under the state treasury by this legislation with explicit purposes in directly supporting soil and water conservation districts in addition to supporting the healthy soils programs.

This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation.

Having served on the Kauai Planning Commission, I am well aware of the conversion of agricultural lands for non-agricultural uses. This bill will enable appropriate conversions to support regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship. Please support SB2334. Mahalo!

Helen A Cox, Kalaheo

Chair, Kauai Climate Action Coalition

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:09:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai women's caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support for SB2334 to help strengthen and finance Hawaii's commitment to regenerative agriculture and healthy soils, which means a healthier environment, a more stable climate and a better future for all



Senates Committees on Agriculture and Environment

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB2334

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at: 3:00pm; Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees,

HAPA supports SB2334. Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. Under the city and county, an application fee may be assessed (such as \$700 plus \$300 per acre¹) however, for the conversion of land itself, there are no fees. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

This legislation aims to collect a fee on agricultural lands intended to be converted to a solar energy facility, a wind farm, an industrial park, a commercial area, a single-family or multiple-family dwelling that is not a farm dwelling, or any other uses that prevents land classified as agricultural from being used specifically as agricultural land.

The agricultural land conversion fee will be collected under the agricultural land conversion fee fund established under the state treasury by this legislation with explicit purposes in directly supporting soil and water conservation districts in addition to supporting the healthy soils programs.

This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation. Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai'i's commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

[1] City and County of Honolulu, Department of Planning and Permitting. (n.d.). State land use district boundary amendment. Honolulu.gov.
<https://www.honolulu.gov/dpp/planning/applying-for-changes/state-land-user-boundary-amendment/>

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:09:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pam Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees,

Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

This legislation aims to collect a fee on agricultural lands intended to be converted to a solar energy facility, a wind farm, an industrial park, a commercial area, a single-family or multiple-family dwelling that is not a farm dwelling, or any other uses that prevents land classified as agricultural from being used specifically as agricultural land.

The agricultural land conversion fee will be collected under the agricultural land conversion fee fund established under the state treasury by this legislation with explicit purposes in directly supporting soil and water conservation districts in addition to supporting the healthy soils programs.

This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation.

Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai‘i’s commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Pamela Murphy, Kilauea Kauai

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:17:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

When AG LAND is converted to anyother type of use, a fee should be imposed helping to support other remaining agricultural land.

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:25:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees,

Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

This legislation aims to collect a fee on agricultural lands intended to be converted to a solar energy facility, a wind farm, an industrial park, a commercial area, a single-family or multiple-family dwelling that is not a farm dwelling, or any other uses that prevents land classified as agricultural from being used specifically as agricultural land.

The agricultural land conversion fee will be collected under the agricultural land conversion fee fund established under the state treasury by this legislation with explicit purposes in directly supporting soil and water conservation districts in addition to supporting the healthy soils programs.

This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation.

Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai‘i’s commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Shay Chan Hodges

Haiku, Maui

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 1:02:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 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 testifying in strong support of SB2334, which establishes two interconnected and essential policies to protect Hawai‘i’s finite agricultural future: an Agricultural Land Conversion Fee and a mandate for conservation practices on state-leased agricultural lands. This bill recognizes that our ‘āina is not an inexhaustible resource and that we must actively invest in its health and permanence.

First, SB2334 introduces a long-overdue principle: when productive agricultural land is permanently converted for non-farming uses—whether for sprawling solar farms, industrial parks, or residential subdivisions—the transaction must contribute to the preservation of what remains. The proposed per-acre conversion fee creates a vital funding mechanism. The revenue will be directed to the Healthy Soils Program and our Soil and Water Conservation Districts, ensuring that the loss of one piece of farmland is offset by investments that enhance the productivity, water retention, and carbon sequestration of lands still in cultivation. This is not a punitive measure, but a necessary act of stewardship and intergenerational justice, ensuring we do not bankrupt our agricultural inheritance.

Second, this bill requires that all state lands used for commercial agriculture, including those under DOAB leases, utilize an established metric to advance proven conservation practices. This is a critical step toward aligning state policy with the principles of mālama ‘āina. It moves us beyond mere land preservation to active land *improvement*, promoting holistic cultivation that builds soil health, conserves water, and increases resilience to climate change. By setting this standard on state lands, we lead by example and support farmers in becoming true stewards of the land.

Together, these two provisions form a powerful, circular strategy. The conversion fee mitigates loss and generates dedicated funds, while the conservation mandate ensures those funds are used to make our remaining working lands more robust, sustainable, and viable for future generations of farmers. This is how we build true food security: not just by protecting acreage on a map, but by investing in the biological vitality of the soil itself.

SB2334 provides the practical tools and sustainable funding to move Hawai‘i’s agricultural system from one of extraction and depletion to one of regeneration and abundance. I urge you to pass this forward-thinking legislation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 1:14:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees,

Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

This legislation aims to collect a fee on agricultural lands intended to be converted to a solar energy facility, a wind farm, an industrial park, a commercial area, a single-family or multiple-family dwelling that is not a farm dwelling, or any other uses that prevents land classified as agricultural from being used specifically as agricultural land.

The agricultural land conversion fee will be collected under the agricultural land conversion fee fund established under the state treasury by this legislation with explicit purposes in directly supporting soil and water conservation districts in addition to supporting the healthy soils programs.

This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation.

Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai‘i’s commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 1:06:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Perle Besserman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees,

Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

This legislation aims to collect a fee on agricultural lands intended to be converted to a solar energy facility, a wind farm, an industrial park, a commercial area, a single-family or multiple-family dwelling that is not a farm dwelling, or any other uses that prevents land classified as agricultural from being used specifically as agricultural land.

The agricultural land conversion fee will be collected under the agricultural land conversion fee fund established under the state treasury by this legislation with explicit purposes in directly supporting soil and water conservation districts in addition to supporting the healthy soils programs.

This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation.

Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai‘i’s commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Perle Besserman, Oahu

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 2:01:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees,

I would appreciate your SUPPORT of SB 2334. Living on an island, we know that our resources are limited and anything that we can do to ensure that we are doing our best to have productive lands in the future is important.

Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

This legislation aims to collect a fee on agricultural lands intended to be converted to a solar energy facility, a wind farm, an industrial park, a commercial area, a single-family or multiple-family dwelling that is not a farm dwelling, or any other uses that prevents land classified as agricultural from being used specifically as agricultural land.

The agricultural land conversion fee will be collected under the agricultural land conversion fee fund established under the state treasury by this legislation with explicit purposes in directly supporting soil and water conservation districts in addition to supporting the healthy soils programs.

It is also important that this legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation.

Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai‘i’s commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 2:19:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees,

Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

This legislation aims to collect a fee on agricultural lands intended to be converted to a solar energy facility, a wind farm, an industrial park, a commercial area, a single-family or multiple-family dwelling that is not a farm dwelling, or any other uses that prevents land classified as agricultural from being used specifically as agricultural land.

The agricultural land conversion fee will be collected under the agricultural land conversion fee fund established under the state treasury by this legislation with explicit purposes in directly supporting soil and water conservation districts in addition to supporting the healthy soils programs.

This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation.

Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai‘i’s commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Keala Fung, Honolulu HI

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 3:18:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees,

Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

This legislation aims to collect a fee on agricultural lands intended to be converted to a solar energy facility, a wind farm, an industrial park, a commercial area, a single-family or multiple-family dwelling that is not a farm dwelling, or any other uses that prevents land classified as agricultural from being used specifically as agricultural land.

The agricultural land conversion fee will be collected under the agricultural land conversion fee fund established under the state treasury by this legislation with explicit purposes in directly supporting soil and water conservation districts in addition to supporting the healthy soils programs.

This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation.

Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai‘i’s commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Mahalo for your consideration!

kimdonghyeon

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:33:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strongly support.

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:32:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees,

Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

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This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation.

Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai‘i’s commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Thank you

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:51:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Healthy soils!

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:18:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Balangitao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi chair and committee members I'm writing to you in Support if this bill. We need to build up our Agriculture to be self sufficient.

Thank you , Jasmine Balangitao, Kaimuki

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:53:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleiheana-a-Pohaku Stormcrow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees,

Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai‘i’s commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

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This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Kaleiheana Stormcrow, Mountain View

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:26:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

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This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation.

Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai'i's commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:28:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Rodar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees,

Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

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This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation.

Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai‘i’s commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jodi Rodar

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:08:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
wayne zebzda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

yes please

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:05:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Simply put - healthy soils support healthy people and is a proven method of combating climate change.

please support this bill.

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:05:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breon Michel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees,

Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

This legislation aims to collect a fee on agricultural lands intended to be converted to a solar energy facility, a wind farm, an industrial park, a commercial area, a single-family or multiple-family dwelling that is not a farm dwelling, or any other uses that prevents land classified as agricultural from being used specifically as agricultural land.

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This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation.

Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai‘i’s commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Breon Michel, Kula, HI

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:12:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees,

Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

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This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation.

Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai‘i’s commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:47:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Lee, Vice Chairs Richard's and Inouye, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Jackie Keefe, and I am writing in **strong support of SB2334.**

We currently have less than 60 years of livable soil remain remaining on our planet. This bill will strengthen Hawai'i's commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

This bill creates a funding mechanism to support a healthy soils program and other incentives for agricultural conservation programs by requiring the payment of an agricultural land conversion fee by the buyer or lessee in a transaction for any agricultural land that will be converted from agricultural production for certain purposes. It also requires all state lands used in the commercial production of agricultural commodities, including any lands under lease agreements with the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:14:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Soo Sun Choe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a fair proposal. For lack of monitoring and regulation, good agricultural land too easily gets converted to other uses. And regenerative agriculture practices needs to be supported for the other benefits it can be provide, in improving the soil sponge, holdng water and improving carbon holding capacity in the soil, preventing soil erosion and siltation of the coral reefs.

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:05:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

support

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:57:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hayley Peter-Contesse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees,

Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

This legislation aims to collect a fee on agricultural lands intended to be converted to a solar energy facility, a wind farm, an industrial park, a commercial area, a single-family or multiple-family dwelling that is not a farm dwelling, or any other uses that prevents land classified as agricultural from being used specifically as agricultural land.

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This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation.

Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai‘i’s commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship. I speak as a PhD soil scientist with strong ties to our farming communities across the islands.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Hayley Peter-Contesse, Makaha

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:48:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB 2334 to create a funding mechanism to support a healthy soils program and other agricultural conservation program incentives. What we FUND is what we value and the health of our people and ‘āina starts with healthy soil.

Mahalo,

Stacey Alapai, Maui

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:12:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB2334 SUPPORT HEALTHY SOIL: Support for healthy soil is the only hope we have for continued sustainability if we are to fee the residents of our State. This is particularly crucial considering the lack of support from the Federal Government.

I appreciate your consideration of our needs!

Dr. Patricia Fallbeck

1341 Kapiolani Blvd. #18 B

Honolulu, HI, 96814

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:27:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees,

I write in support of SB2334. Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

This legislation aims to collect a fee on agricultural lands intended to be converted to a solar energy facility, a wind farm, an industrial park, a commercial area, a single-family or multiple-family dwelling that is not a farm dwelling, or any other uses that prevents land classified as agricultural from being used specifically as agricultural land.

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This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation.

Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai‘i’s commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony today!

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:44:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Please support this bill to strengthen Hawaii's commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Nelson

Kaneohe

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:13:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annalise Hart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees,

Currently, agricultural land is converted to non-farming uses without any offsetting fee. SB2334 introduces a per-acre Agricultural Land Conversion Fee to ensure that when productive lands leave agricultural use, resources are reinvested to help conserve and restore what remains.

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This legislation shall also use an established metric to advance the adoption of conservation practices to improve the agricultural land we are stewarding through conservation practices to improve holistic cultivation.

Please support SB2334 to strengthen Hawai‘i’s commitment to regenerative agriculture and soil stewardship.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Annalise Hart

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:50:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Kehau Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2334

Relating to Establishing a Funding Mechanism for a Healthy Soils Program and Agricultural Incentives

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

I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB 2334, which establishes a dedicated funding mechanism for Hawaii’s Healthy Soils Program and expands incentives for agricultural practices that restore soil health, increase food security, and strengthen the resilience of our islands.

This bill is not merely an agricultural initiative—it is a scientifically grounded climate, economic, and public-health strategy with proven returns on investment.

1. Healthy soils are the foundation of a resilient agricultural system

Decades of agronomic research show that soil health directly determines crop productivity, water retention, and long-term farm viability. Healthy soils:

- Increase water-holding capacity by up to 20%, reducing irrigation needs
- Reduce erosion by up to 60%
- Improve nutrient cycling, reducing fertilizer dependence
- Increase yields by 10–20% over time

For Hawaii—where imported fertilizer is costly, water scarcity is increasing, and extreme weather is intensifying—these benefits are not optional. They are essential.

2. Soil degradation is already costing Hawaii economically

The USDA estimates that soil erosion and degradation cost U.S. farmers \$44 billion annually in lost productivity. Hawaii's unique volcanic soils are particularly vulnerable to erosion, nutrient depletion, and carbon loss.

Without intervention, degraded soils lead to:

- Lower yields
- Higher input costs
- Increased runoff into streams and reefs
- Greater vulnerability to drought and storms

SB 2334 provides the tools and funding to reverse these trends before they become irreversible.

3. Healthy soils are a proven climate solution

Healthy soils store carbon—one of the most cost-effective climate mitigation strategies available. Research from the USDA and IPCC shows:

- Regenerative practices can sequester 0.5 to 1.5 metric tons of carbon per acre per year
- Soil carbon sequestration is among the lowest-cost climate mitigation pathways
- Practices such as cover cropping, compost application, and reduced tillage significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Hawaii has statutory climate goals. A Healthy Soils Program is one of the few agricultural strategies that simultaneously reduces emissions, increases sequestration, and improves farm profitability.

4. Farmers overwhelmingly adopt soil-health practices when incentives exist

States with funded soil-health programs—California, Oregon, Washington, New Mexico, and Colorado—have documented:

- High farmer participation
- Measurable improvements in soil organic matter
- Reduced fertilizer and water use
- Increased profitability within 3–5 years

California's Healthy Soils Program alone has supported over 1,000 projects, sequestered millions of metric tons of CO₂e, and demonstrated that small grants can catalyze long-term practice changes.

Hawaii's farmers deserve access to the same opportunities.

5. This bill strengthens Hawaii’s food security

Hawaii imports 85–90% of its food. Soil degradation and climate stress threaten the productivity of the farms we rely on. Healthy soils:

- Increase yields
- Reduce crop losses during drought
- Improve resilience to flooding and storms
- Support diversified agriculture

A state that cannot maintain its soil cannot maintain its food supply. SB 2334 is a direct investment in Hawaii’s food security and self-sufficiency.

6. The return on investment is clear and substantial

Economic analyses from the USDA, NRCS, and multiple land-grant universities show that every dollar invested in soil-health practices yields \$2 to \$8 in long-term benefits through:

- Higher yields
- Lower input costs
- Reduced erosion and water damage
- Increased carbon sequestration
- Improved ecosystem services

This is one of the highest-ROI agricultural investments available to the state.

7. Hawaii’s farmers, ranchers, and communities are asking for this support

Local producers consistently cite the need for:

- Technical assistance
- Cost-share programs
- Incentives for regenerative practices
- Long-term funding stability

SB 2334 provides exactly that. It creates a predictable, transparent funding mechanism that allows farmers to plan multi-year soil-health improvements—something impossible under sporadic or unfunded mandates.

Conclusion

SB 2334 is grounded in science, aligned with national best practices, and essential for Hawaii's climate resilience, food security, and agricultural future. Healthy soils are not a luxury—they are the foundation of a functioning agricultural system and a sustainable island economy.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB 2334. This bill is a strategic, evidence-based investment in Hawaii's land, its farmers, and its future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha 'Āina,
J. Kēhau Lucas

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:07:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:59:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB2334. I believe this fee if allocated as proposed will be put to good use. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2334

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:59:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of a healthy soil program and other insentives for agricultural conservation programs to be implemented.

Mahalo for your time,

Lana Albright