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**DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai*  
715 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**JARED K. REDULLA**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2798, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE

Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 308  
Testifiers: Jared Redulla

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

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports Senate Bill 2798, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1, which makes permanent the Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program originally established under Act 235, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025, renames it the Agricultural Enforcement Program, and expands it statewide.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 353C-16 and amends Act 235, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025, to transition the Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program from a temporary pilot initiative into a permanent, statewide program. By removing the pilot designation and expanding the program's reach across all counties, this measure ensures that agricultural enforcement efforts are no longer limited in scope or duration, but rather institutionalized as a critical component of Hawaii's law enforcement infrastructure.

The DLE supports this bill for several reasons. First, the DLE has long recognized the pressing need to address agricultural crimes across the State of Hawaii. Agricultural

theft, vandalism, and related crimes cause significant harm to Hawaii's farming communities, threaten food security, and undermine the livelihoods of those who work to sustain local agriculture. The pilot program established under Act 235 represented an important first step in dedicating law enforcement resources specifically to these issues. Making the program permanent reflects the Legislature's and the DLE's shared commitment to protecting Hawaii's agricultural sector on a lasting basis.

Second, expanding the program statewide ensures that agricultural communities on all islands benefit equally from dedicated enforcement efforts. Agricultural crimes do not confine themselves to a single county or region, and a statewide program allows for uniform enforcement standards, coordinated investigations, and consistent support to farmers and agricultural stakeholders across Hawaii. This statewide expansion aligns with the DLE's broader mission of centralizing and standardizing state law enforcement functions to maximize public safety and operational efficiency.

Third, the permanence of this program provides the DLE with the stability necessary to hire, train, and retain qualified enforcement officers dedicated to agricultural crime. A permanent program allows for long-term workforce planning, the development of specialized expertise, and the cultivation of sustained relationships with the agricultural community, county agencies, and the Department of Agriculture. These relationships are essential to effectively identifying and prosecuting agricultural crimes and deterring future offenses.

The DLE is committed to working collaboratively with the Department of Agriculture, county law enforcement agencies, farmers, and community stakeholders to ensure the Agricultural Enforcement Program fulfills its mission of protecting Hawaii's agricultural resources and the people who depend on them.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN**  
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## OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2798, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT  
RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference  
State Capitol Conference Room 308  
415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi and Members of the Committee on Finance: The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony **in support** of Senate Bill 2798, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1.

SB 2798, SD 1, HD 1 was drafted with the intent to make permanent the Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program established pursuant to Act 235, SLH 2025, renames the program as the Agricultural Enforcement Program, and expands the program statewide.

Hawai'i Island plays a critical role in the State's agricultural production. SB 2798, SD 1, HD 1 has the potential to enhance the safety and sustainability of our farming and agricultural industry by holding offenders accountable, deterring future agriculture crime, and encouraging farmers and ranchers to focus more on producing high-quality products using sustainable practices rather than worrying about the security of their agricultural operations. This bill also aims to address ongoing concerns related issues that have long plagued our Hawai'i Island agriculture community including illegal hunting on private lands, animal trespass resulting in property damage, and other agriculture crimes.

If signed into law, this legislation would enable the agriculture community to:

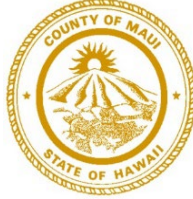
1. Safeguard our agricultural industry, which is the breadbasket of the State of Hawai'i.
2. Enable our farmers, growers, and ranchers to remain competitive on the global market with Hawai'i-grown products.
3. Hold offenders accountable for actions that undermine food security and hinder economic development for the state.

The County of Hawai‘i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney is dedicated to pursuing justice with integrity and commitment. SB 2798, SD 1, HD 1 represents a significant step toward addressing the serious food security and economic issues caused by agricultural crimes. For these reasons, the County of Hawai‘i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney supports the passage of Senate Bill 2798, Seante Draft 1, House Draft 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**ANDREW H. MARTIN**  
Prosecuting Attorney

**SHELLY C. MIYASHIRO**  
First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



**DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
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TESTIMONY ON  
S.B. 2798 SD1 HD1  
RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

April 5, 2026

The Honorable Chris Todd  
Chair  
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi  
Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Finance

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

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui respectfully submits the following comments **in support of S.B. 2798 SD1 HD1, Relating to Law Enforcement**. This bill protects local agriculture by making permanent the Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program established by Act 235 SLH 2025 and expands the program statewide.

We support this bill because it will help reduce agriculture crime statewide. For years, if not decades, our farmers and ranchers have been targeted by criminals that destroy vital farm infrastructure such as equipment, storage units, fences and gates; illegally hunt and poach on ranch lands; and steal valuable crops. Although our law enforcement partners have increased the assistance provided to the agriculture community, the relative isolation of most farms and ranches make it difficult to hold criminals responsible for the damage they cause to an already endangered industry. The resources and authority allocated by this bill would be a significant step in helping keep our farms and ranches safe.

For these reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui **supports S.B. 2798 SD1 HD1**. Please feel free to contact our office at (808) 270-7777 if you have any questions or inquiries. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



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

April 7, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2798, SD1, HD1**  
RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
2:00 PM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 2798, SD1, HD1**, which makes permanent the Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program established pursuant to Act 235, SLH 2025, renames it the Agricultural Enforcement Program, and expands the program statewide.

Agricultural crime remains a serious and ongoing challenge for farmers and ranchers across all islands, not just on O'ahu and Hawai'i Island. Theft, trespass, vandalism, poaching, and illegal dumping directly threaten farm and ranch viability, public safety, and agriculture production statewide.

While Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program is limited geographically, agricultural crime is not confined to just two islands. Farmers and ranchers on Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i experience similar challenges and deserve the same level of protection and support as those on O'ahu and Hawai'i Island.

We appreciate that this measure builds on an existing program rather than creating a new one. Making the program permanent and statewide recognizes that agricultural crime is not a temporary issue and requires sustained, dedicated enforcement resources. The Agricultural Enforcement Program allows law enforcement officers to focus on offenses involving agricultural products and commodities and to work collaboratively with federal, state, and county partners.

Farmers and ranchers already face numerous risks beyond their control, including weather, pests, disease, market volatility, and labor shortages. Agricultural crime adds another layer of uncertainty that undermines investment and long-term planning. A dedicated, statewide Agricultural Enforcement Program helps deter crime, improve response times, and sends a clear message that agricultural crimes will be taken seriously.

HFB appreciates the Legislature's continued attention to this issue and urges the Committee to support SB 2798, SD1, HD1, to ensure that all agricultural communities across the State benefit from consistent and effective agricultural law enforcement.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



#### Officers

Kaipo Kekona  
State President

Christian Zuckerman  
Vice-President

Maureen Datta  
Secretary

Reba Lopez  
Treasurer

#### Chapter Presidents

Kelii Gannet  
Kohala, Hawai'i

East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Ka'u, Hawai'i

Maureen Datta  
Kona, Hawai'i

Gina Lind  
Hāna, Maui

Mason Scharer  
Haleakalā, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros  
Mauna Kahālāwai,  
Maui

Kaipo Kekona  
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy  
Moloka'i

Negus Manna  
Lāna'i

India Clark  
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman  
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Rachel LaDrig  
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura  
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska  
Kaua'i

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

The Hawai'i Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU supports SB2798.**

By making the Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program permanent and expanding it statewide, this legislation acknowledges the ongoing need for effective enforcement and protection mechanisms within the agricultural community. It ensures that farmers can continue their essential work without the persistent threat of illegal activities that can disrupt operations, harm livelihoods, and diminish the overall integrity of Hawaii's agricultural sector.

Moreover, expanding the program across the state will allow for more equitable access to enforcement resources, providing small and large farmers alike with the support needed to safeguard their crops, livestock, and property. This statewide commitment not only enhances security but also promotes a resilient agricultural economy that is vital to the sustenance and wellbeing of Hawaii's communities. Institutionalizing the Agricultural Enforcement Program in this manner demonstrates a strong investment in the future of agriculture in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin  
Advocacy Director  
Hawai'i Farmers Union



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Chris Todd, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

**SB2798 SD1 HD1**

RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

April 7, 2026, 2:00 PM

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB2798 SD1 HD1** which makes permanent the Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program established pursuant to Act 235, SLH 2025. Renames the program as the Agricultural Enforcement Program and expands the program statewide.

Thanks to the Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program, we have had more attention and resources directed towards agricultural crime than ever before. Expanding this program statewide is necessary, as agricultural producers experience vandalism, trespassing, poaching, and theft in all counties. We urge the legislature to ensure that with the expansion of the program, the permanent program receives adequate funding for the Department of Law Enforcement to hire, train, and retain staffing to address the needs of those who grow food for our community.

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



April 06, 2026

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

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2798 SD1 HD1– Relating to Law Enforcement

Aloha,

My name is Carlin McFadden, writing on behalf of Hawai'i Food+ Policy in strong support of **SB2798 SD1 HD1**, which makes permanent the Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program established pursuant to Act 235, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2025, renames it the Agricultural Enforcement Program, and expands its operation statewide.

This measure is important not only for agricultural security, but also for fiscal responsibility and long-term economic stability. Agricultural theft, trespass, and vandalism impose ongoing financial losses on farmers and ranchers across Hawai'i. These impacts extend beyond individual operations, reducing productivity, increasing costs, and weakening the overall economic viability of local agriculture. Without adequate enforcement, these losses compound over time and can discourage continued investment in Hawai'i's agricultural sector.

SB2798 SD1 strengthens the bill by moving beyond a limited pilot structure and establishing a permanent, statewide Agricultural Enforcement Program within the Department of Law Enforcement. The amendment removes prior sunset which ensures that State resources already invested are not lost, and that Hawai'i avoids the inefficiencies of restarting or redesigning similar efforts in the future. A permanent structure allows for more consistent use of funds, better long-term planning, and improved program accountability. It also extends the program statewide which provides protection to valued farmers across all the islands.

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**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.



From a fiscal perspective, proactive enforcement helps prevent greater downstream costs. Agricultural crime contributes to higher food prices, supply instability, and increased reliance on imports when local production is disrupted. Strengthening enforcement helps protect local production capacity, supports rural economies, and keeps more food dollars circulating within the State. Investing in prevention and coordinated enforcement is more cost-effective than responding to repeated losses and system disruptions statewide.

This program also improves efficiency through coordination. Dedicating agricultural enforcement personnel to focus on agricultural enforcement can enhance investigations, evidence collection, and interagency collaboration, improving outcomes across departments. A more specialized and consistent approach helps close enforcement gaps while building trust with agricultural communities.

Additionally, providing a clear and accountable enforcement structure improves public safety. Farmers and ranchers are the backbone of our society and they should not be left alone to manage ongoing theft and trespass issues on their own. A personalized and permanent, statewide program ensures a more appropriate and coordinated response towards crime committees against our farmers. Lets not wait until it's too late to protect them.

For these reasons, Hawai'i Food+ Policy strongly supports SB2798 SD1 HD1 and respectfully urges the Committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Carlin McFadden & the Hawai'i Food+ Policy Team

#fixourfoodsystem

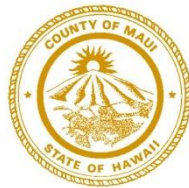
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**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**JOSIAH K. NISHITA**  
Managing Director



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
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TO: Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor  
Rogerene Arce, Director of Agriculture

DATE: April 7, 2026

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB2798 SD1 HD1, RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure.

The Act makes permanent the Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program established pursuant to Act 235, SLH 2025. Renames the program as the Agricultural Enforcement Program and expands the program statewide.

We **SUPPORT** SB278 for the following reasons:

- 1. Empowers Farmers Against Theft:** Permanently codifying the Agricultural Enforcement Program relieves Maui County farmers and ranchers from the burden of agricultural theft victimization by providing consistent, proactive enforcement, safeguarding their livelihoods and reducing financial losses.
- 2. Economic Stability for Outer Islands:** Making the program permanent supports Maui County's full-time farmers/ranchers and outer island operations by freeing up department resources for education and prevention, sustaining jobs and food security without added costs.
- 3. Equity for Outer Island Farms:** Permanency extends the same robust enforcement privileges already piloted successfully on Oahu to Maui and other outer island farms, ensuring all Hawaii producers—regardless of location—benefit from equal protection against theft and biosecurity threats.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 7:37:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

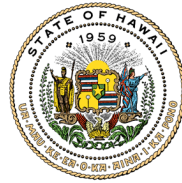
<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!!! MAHALO!

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY**  
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**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson  
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026  
2:00 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2798, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2798, SD 1, HD1 that makes permanent the Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program established pursuant to Act 235, SLH 2025. The program is to be renamed as the Agricultural Enforcement Program and expands the program statewide.

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) strongly supports this measure. Agricultural crimes is a serious problem and a challenge for farmers and ranchers on all islands. Agricultural crimes reduce the viability of agricultural operations and threatens public safety. Farmers and ranchers should not have to be fearful just trying to make a living and having permanent dedicated law enforcement will reduce these pressures. The pilot program is making inroads on this serious issue and making the program permanent and expanding it statewide will allow the Department of Law Enforcement to continue doing the important work of protecting the State's agricultural community and assets.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.