

# **SB593**

## **Testimony**

**LATE**

January 29, 2013

Senate Agriculture Committee

Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI  
RE: Senate Bill 593

LATE

To Hon. Senators

:

Our family is writing in strong support of this legislation to expand the livestock feed subsidies to other classes of livestock within our state. When the subsidies were first offered, we were very sad that goats were not included.

We have suffered through droughts on record and my goat farm realized huge increases in feed costs as a result. Feed prices continue to soar...every time I buy the monthly supply, the cost per bag rises.

bags of feed every month. I also purchase additional hay to keep the pastures from suffering.

I hope you will support Bill 593 for our goat and lamb producers. I also hope that you will work with

the farming community to help create incentives for local producers to grow our own feedstock. Land that is

being used to grow GMO crops could certainly produce a sustainable crop. I believe that it could even be

done with organic practices.

Sincerely yours,

Kristen M Troyer

Kehaulani Farms

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB593 on Jan 29, 2013 14:45PM\*  
**Date:** Monday, January 28, 2013 10:11:59 PM

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LATE

**SB593**

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for AGL on Jan 29, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser	Mikilua Poultry Farm Inc	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Email: [communications@uluponoinitiative.com](mailto:communications@uluponoinitiative.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Tuesday, January 29, 2013 — 2:45 p.m. — Room 229

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 593, Relating to Agriculture**

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally grown food, increase renewable energy, and reduce/recycle waste. Ulupono invests in projects that have the potential to create large-scale, innovative change.

Ulupono is testifying strongly in favor of SB 593, which would extend the livestock feed subsidy to help Hawai'i farms hit hard by the recent drought in Hawai'i and the Midwest. The bill would disburse up to \$200,000 or 15 percent of anticipated feed costs for sheep, goat, cattle, dairy, hog, poultry, fish, and crustacean farms. The subsidy is needed for Hawai'i's livestock producers to break even due to much higher-than-normal feed costs resulting from the devastating Midwest drought, which increased prices another 20 percent since last year. According to the USDA, corn prices have risen 97 percent since the 2009 season, the last year of stable feed prices.

Feed costs for livestock production in Hawai'i can comprise 70 percent of production cost, compared to 50 percent for Mainland producers, which has contributed to the decline of the local livestock industry. While the industry works to create more homegrown feed, the subsidy is needed to help sustain the industry through these drought-stricken times. Funding for this measure can come from a modest shift in the barrel tax.

Ulupono has joined with a diverse group of organizations who have come together for the first time as the Local Food Coalition to support proposals designed to help grow more local food. The coalition brings together farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations. The idea is that putting more local food on local plates can best be accomplished by bringing people and organizations together who can work on the entire food value chain in a systematic way.

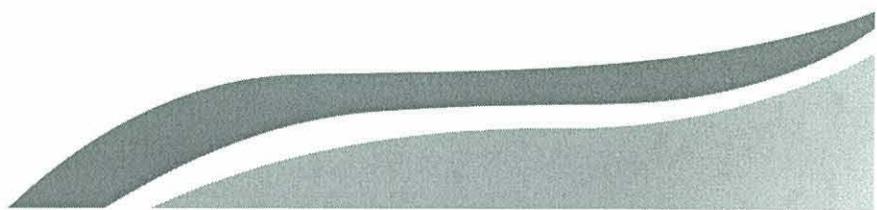
We believe that working together we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta  
General Partner

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January 29, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 593  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 229  
2:45 PM

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Dean Okimoto, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,950 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community

HFBF is in strong support of SB 593 which provides funds to allow qualified beef cattle, dairy, hog, poultry, goat, sheep, fish, and crustacean farms to apply for funds for their farm's feed expenses.

Hawaii's livestock industry faces numerous challenges. One of their biggest challenges is the rising cost of feed for livestock production. These costs have been a contributing factor to the decline of the state's livestock industry.

In 2007, there were 5 dairies and 6 egg farms in Hawaii. Since then, 3 those dairies and 4 off those egg farms have gone out of business. The remaining egg farms and another dairy are currently threatened with closure, due to rising production costs. Primarily due to feed costs.

SB 593 seeks to revitalize Hawaii's livestock industries by reimbursing qualified livestock producers up to sixty percent of their farm's feed expenses. This bill will help keep fresh, locally produced milk, eggs, beef, pork, poultry, sheep, goat, fish, and crustaceans available to the residents of Hawaii and will help to revitalize our dwindling livestock industry. A decrease or absence of livestock production increases the State's reliance on the importation of food and threatens the State's food security.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.