



# LAND USE COMMISSION

*Komikina Ho'ohana 'Āina*

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omōhala Pā'oihana, 'Imi Wai wai a Ho'omāka'ika'i*

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Statement of  
**Daniel E. Orodener**  
**Executive Officer**  
State Land Use Commission

Before the  
**House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs**

Thursday March 27, 2025  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Room 325 and Video Conference

In consideration of  
**SB1099 HD1**

## **RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Chair Tarnas; Vice Chair Poepoe; and members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

The proposed measure would authorize the Land Use Commission ("LUC") to designate lands and adopt maps as Important Agricultural Lands ("IAL") for any county that fails to identify and recommend IAL by December 31, 2027, using the process as established pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS") section 205-49(a).

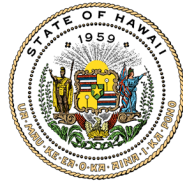
The LUC has taken a position to support the intent of the measure. We believe that the HD1 of this measure essentially negates its impact as it limits the LUC's ability to designate IAL lands to only State and county lands. Designation of State and county lands is only a very small portion of the agricultural lands in the State, and they are not necessarily in danger of losing their agricultural designation.

We however, are in support of the original version of this bill. The counties have had a significant amount of time to designate IAL within their jurisdiction. This bill would allow the LUC to undertake this important and constitutionally mandated designation of important agricultural lands to preserve them for future generations and ensure food security into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



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**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025**  
**2:00 PM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1099, HOUSE DRAFT 1**  
**RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No.1099, House Draft 1 that authorizes the Land Use Commission (LUC) to designate county or State lands as Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) and adopt maps for the designated lands, in counties that fail to identify and recommend Important Agricultural Lands by December 31, 2027. The Department of Agriculture (Department) offers comments.

The Department strongly supports the county process described in Section 205-47 as this would provide decisionmakers with maps of agricultural lands that should receive existing and future incentives to maintain a "strategic agricultural land resource base that can support a diversity of agricultural activities and opportunities that expand agricultural income and job opportunities and increase agricultural self-sufficiency for current and future generations." (Section 205-42 Important Agricultural Lands; definitions and objectives). We would caution against ignoring or undervaluing a county's familiarity with its agricultural lands, existing agricultural operations and their characteristics, historic uses, potential uses, agriculture-related infrastructure capacities, and so forth.

With respect to State lands to be designated by the LUC as IAL, the existing process to identify certain State lands as potential IAL is found in Section 205-44.5.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



