

Hawai`i State Association of Counties (HSAC)

Counties of Kaua`i, Maui, Hawai`i and City & County of Honolulu

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February 1, 2017

TO: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Water & Land

FROM: Stacy Crivello
HSAC President

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2017; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 309, RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Hawaii State Association of Counties in **support** of this measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the counties to identify and map important agricultural lands.

This measure is included in the 2017 Hawaii State Association of Counties Legislative Package. Therefore, I submit this testimony on HSAC's behalf.

HSAC supports this measure for the following reasons:

1. In 2005, the legislature enacted Act 183 which directed each county to identify and map potential important agricultural lands. Designation would allow for a variety of incentive programs and favorable infrastructure and permit requirements. Most counties did not receive state funds to assist with the duties imposed by Act 183 and have not yet completed the identification and mapping process.
2. The \$250,000 funding to the counties would greatly help implement and achieve the purposes and goals of the program.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HSAC:FY2017:17Testimony:HB309a_mkz