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February 22, 2019

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Committee on Judiciary

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 759, SD1 Relating to Agriculture (Agricultural Theft)

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 759, SD1.

For about a year, our Prosecuting Attorney's office has had an investigator working on agricultural crimes, and we have received positive comments from the agriculture community about his work. The preamble of this bill does a good job of explaining the vulnerabilities agriculture has to theft and vandalism, and our news media has documented farmers who have gone out of business because of their losses.

In order to continue the program, state funding is both desirable and appropriate. I hope you will act favorably on SB 759, SD1, and consider increasing funding to accommodate the expansion of the program to Maui.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR