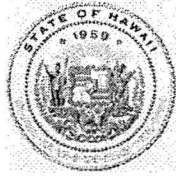


LINDA LINGLE  
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE OKAMOTO  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
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**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
FEBRUARY 13, 2008  
11:15 A.M.**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2083  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING FACILITIES**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 2083. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to establish a state agricultural processing facility. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is in support of the intent of this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact our priorities in our Executive Biennium Budget.

Increased local market distribution through new retailers and a focus on purchasing local items is providing an unprecedented opportunity for Hawaii producers to expand to meet this increasing demand. A local processing facility would not only create new jobs but would allow for close control of the manufacturing processes and better serve the needs of local businesses.