

LATE TESTIMONY

HAWAII FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
2343 ROSE STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96819

JANUARY 29, 2008

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
BUSINESS CONCERNS AND
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2416 AND HB 2417
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES

Chairs Yamashita and Tsuji and committee members:

My name is Alan Takemoto, Executive Director, of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, which is the largest non-profit general agriculture organization representing approximately 1,600 farm and ranch family members statewide.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation supports the concept of HB 2416 and HB 2417, establishing a statewide agricultural cooperative.

Cooperatives are utilized across the nation as well as here in Hawaii for the purposes of forming a cohesive marketing and purchasing organization. We can see the tremendous benefits small farmers would have if we could form a cooperative to help in being competitive in the global economy. While we support the concept of forming a cooperative, we should also understand the challenges that we have faced in the past as well as what we may encounter in the future. We hope that with this understanding, we can assure a greater success rate for a statewide cooperative.

Thank you.