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Testimony in support of ~~S.B.~~ NO. 3034

My name is Monique van der Stroom; I am the current Farm Manager of Pacific Dairy in Waianae. I am here to support this bill for the benefit of the Big Island Dairies.

- As many of you may already know Pacific Dairy is the latest Oahu Dairy to shut down operations. (Our last day to ship milk to the processor is Feb. 10,2008)
- We are the last dairy in the Honolulu Milk Shed to close due to extremely high cost of feed and the rapidly increasing cost of operations.
- The last few weeks have been very emotional for me and my longtime employees. However I feel it is important to continue to support the remaining dairies. I also hold out hope that in the future if good farm land with long term leases would become available through the state, that I myself would be able to once again milk cows on the Island of Oahu. By supporting this bill I hope to help the future dairies of Hawaii.
- Class II milk should not be paid for any milk produced in Hawaii as long as it meets Class I standards. Class II milk should be only declared by the processor if the quality of milk falls below the Fed. Standards. In that case the entire load should be paid Class II price. To my knowledge there has never been an entire load of milk rejected due to poor quality, and than declared Class II and paid accordingly. Usually only a % of our milk is declared Class II (it has been as high 14%) for the same quality of milk.
- All milk produced in Hawaii should be Class I. Milk produced locally has an advantage over milk shipped in from the mainland. Any fresh food product produced in Hawaii would be considered equal to mainland produced fresh foods at the time of harvest. Because of the days in transport these mainland products lose that freshness.
- I also feel that the dairy industry along with the Dept. of AG needs to change the outdated milk act to address some of these problems. The local dairies do have a unique product and it should be marketed that way. This would encourage local consumption of Island Fresh Milk. If the consumer is willing to pay such high prices for organic milk shipped in from the mainland, there are consumers willing to pay a little higher price for locally produced Island Milk.
- Thank-you for your time and understanding.

Monique van der Stroom  
Manager Pacific Dairy

Senate companion: SB 2956 same

## LATE TESTIMONY

FROM: Ed Boteilho Jr - President Boteilho Hawaii Enterprises  
TO: Senator Jill Tokunaga  
01-31-08 at 2:45 pm in conference room 224  
SB2956

Cloverleaf Dairy has been in business for 46 years and has seen the decline of dairies in our state that is directly related to the allowance of Class II local milk being declared in a market that is in short supply of island fresh milk. Because of a shortage of local milk all island produced fresh milk should be paid as Class I fluid milk to meet local needs. This Senate Bill 2956 addresses Class I milk and shortage. I fully support legislation to help our local farmers receive full payment for all fluid milk produced in our state.

Respectfully,  
Ed Boteilho Jr.

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