

**LINDA LINGLE**  
Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

**SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DUANE K. OKAMOTO**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE  
AND  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008  
11:00 A.M.**

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 75**

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH A WORKING  
GROUP TO EVALUATE HAWAII'S FOOD READINESS AND FOOD SECURITY IN  
RESPONSE TO NATURAL OR MAN-MADE DISASTERS.**

Chairpersons Tsuji and Evans and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) recognizes that providing food in the event of a natural or man-made disaster is of utmost importance. However, we feel that HCR 75 is unnecessary in light of the Federal and State on-going activities addressing preparedness for emergencies and disasters.

The State Civil Defense, in conjunction with the County Civil Defense agencies form the basic structure of the emergency management system in Hawaii. These agencies coordinate with federal, state, county, community and private organizations to address disaster response and assistance.

State departments have been assigned responsibilities using the Emergency Support Functions (ESF) structure following the National Response Framework and the ESFs therein. HDOA is the coordinator for the "Emergency Support Function 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources Annex" and along with other primary and support agencies coordinates support for four primary functions: (1) Identification and provision

of nutrition assistance; (2) Animal and plant disease and pest response; (3) Assurance of the safety and security of the commercial food supply; and (4) Protection of natural and cultural resources. In the event of an emergency, SCD would call up the appropriate State Emergency Response Teams (SERTs) in conjunction with Federal teams if necessary to coordinate needed functions.

Through these structures, planning and training is already underway. Next week USDA is holding an 8 hour training sessions on ESF 11 with many federal, state, county and related organizations attending. The SCD also plans additional briefings and trainings this year.

The HDOA appreciates the time, attention and resources dedicated to this critical issue. We will continue to work with the State Civil Defense to ensure a coordinated Federal, State and County emergency management system for Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 75  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH A WORKING  
GROUP TO EVALUATE HAWAII'S FOOD READINESS AND FOOD SECURITY IN  
RESPONSE TO NATURAL OR MAN-MADE DISASTERS

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE  
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

March 7, 2008

Chair Tsuji, Chair Evans, and Committee Members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 75. This resolution requests the Department of Agriculture to establish a 26-member working group to evaluate the State of Hawaii's food readiness and food security in response to natural or man-made disasters and report to the findings back to the Legislature.

There are several agencies which address emergency food supplies and food safety. At the federal level the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides coordinating leadership for Food Nutrition/Consumer Services, Food Safety, and emergency food supplies. The Federal Emergency Management Agency participates with the USDA and with the State in maintaining plans for emergency food supplies and distribution to mass care facilities. These agencies and the State Department of Agriculture have access to information and input from farm bureaus, farm cooperatives, to include other organizations in the food industry.

We believe it is unnecessary to form a working group to evaluate Hawaii's food readiness and food security. However, we would welcome the opportunity to submit recommendations for any proposed legislation prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this measure.



## HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

820 Mililani St., Suite 810, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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Richard C. Botti, President



March 7, 2008

House Committee on Agriculture  
Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair  
Rep. Tom Brower, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS  
Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair  
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

By: Richard C. Botti, Pres. Or Lauren Zirbel, Gov't. Relations  
Hawaii Food Industry Association

Re: HCR 75 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH A WORK-  
ING GROUP TO EVALUATE HAWAII'S FOOD READINESS AND FOOD SECURITY IN RE-  
SPONSE TO NATURAL OR MAN-MADE DISASTERS.

Chairs & Committee Members:

While we support the intent and purpose of HCR 75, there is a vital ingredient missing in the measure. That is the availability, security, and electrical power needs of refrigerated warehousing for all food requiring refrigeration. Without this element, you will be missing your purpose.

We all know what happens to refrigerated and frozen foods when we lose our electrical power for more than 24 hours. Food. Refrigeration capabilities must be an integral part of this issue. It should also include the availability of refrigerated containers and trucks from all types of food distributors.

**EAST OAHU COUNTY FARM BUREAU****45-260 WAIKALUA ROAD S 101 KANEHOE, HI 96744**

March 5, 2008

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair, House Committee on Agriculture and  
Representative Cindy Evans, Chair, House Committee on Public  
Safety and Military Affairs  
c/o State Capitol Building  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Tsuji and Evans and Members of the Committees:

I am sending this testimony to express the strong support of the East Oahu County Farm Bureau for HCR 75, "Requesting the Department of Agriculture to Establish a Working Group to Evaluate Hawaii's Food Readiness and Food Security in Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters." The question of food security is especially critical on Oahu, which has a population exceeding 900,000 but (according to resolutions now before the City Council) whose agricultural lands have shrunk from 125,000 acres in the 1970's to only 70,000 acres today. Further, much of this acreage is currently out of production and some of it is at high risk for development. Food production on Oahu will not be sufficient to support its population if food imports cannot be maintained. We therefore urge your Committees to ensure that Hawaii prepares for the possibility of an interruption in food supplies by passing HCR 75 and heeding the recommendations of the working group it creates.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher  
For Grant Hamachi, President