



# HAWAII TEAMSTERS AND ALLIED WORKERS, LOCAL 996

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

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Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Kalani English, Vice-Chair

**LATE**

Glenn Ida  
Hawaii Teamsters Local 996 PAC Co-Chair  
295-1280

Jan. 31, 2008

Support SB2215, Relating to Meat

The Hawaii Teamsters Local 996 negotiates and enforces over 51 contracts that cover 6000 members in a variety of industries in Hawaii and Guam. The Teamsters represent the meat cutters at Don Quiote (formerly Daiei, Hi.) and Times Market, which is still in a Labor dispute with Local 996.

SB2215 provides the consumer the choice to buy or not to buy based on where the meat is from. I believe that consumers' confidence in a product is influenced from where and how it was handled before it got to them because of preconceived opinions on things such as sanitation when certain Countries are mentioned. Another factor would be the time and distance spent to get to Hawaii.

Labeling the country of origin is even more important when it comes to recalling tainted meat. The ability to trace back to the source with speed and accuracy will get spoiled products off the shelves as soon as possible.

The Hawaii Teamsters Local 996, Supports SB2215.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify.

# LATE TESTIMONY

January 31, 2008

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture &L Hawaiian Affairs  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

By: Hawaii Food Industry Association  
Richard C. Botti, President  
Lauren Zirbel, Government Relations

By: SB 2215 RELATING TO MEAT

## Chairs & Committee Members:

While we are still acquiring information from retailers on the exact impact this measure will have on retailers and consumers in Hawaii, we take the following position:

This is a federal issue with the USDA as the agency responsible for implementation. For Hawaii to be involved will create unnecessary costs to everyone involved doing business in Hawaii and to government in Hawaii.

We do support promoting Hawaii produced products with special marketing programs. If it is a product involved in interstate commerce, we should not be attempting to out maneuver the federal government. It will only increase costs to consumers, or create a shortage of product.

## The following is the latest update we have from USDA:

On November 10, 2005, President Bush signed Public Law 109-97, which delays the implementation for all covered commodities except wild and farm-raised and shellfish until September 30, 2008. As described in the legislation, program implementation is the responsibility of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

WASHINGTON, June 15, 2007 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that it is reopening the comment period for 60 days for the Proposed Rule (PR) for mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) for beef, lamb, pork, perishable agricultural commodities, and peanuts.  
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/news/123-07.htm>

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