

testimony

From: Richard Ha [richard@hamakuasprings.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2008 5:29 AM
To: testimony
Cc: 'Alan Takemoto'; Dean.M.Matsukawa@hawaii.gov
Subject: SB2467SD1 Relating to Loans to Assist Agricultural and Aquacultural Industries

Senator Roz Baker

Ways and Means Committee

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Thursday, Feb 21, 2008

Support of SB 2467 SD1

Aloha Senators.

I am Richard Ha, President of Hamakua Springs Country Farms, a 600 acre, fee simple, diversified agriculture operation 11 miles north of Hilo. Approximately 100 workers are employed here. We farm bananas and hydroponic vegetables. We have been in farming for more than twenty five years. Three generations of us work on the farm. Our farm is known for it's sustainable farming practices.

I strongly support SB2467 SD1, RELATING TO LOANS TO ASSIST AGRICULTURAL AND AQUACULTURAL INDUSTRIES. This bill would assist bona fide farmers to make investments in farm appropriate alternate energy projects.

This bill helps farmers stabilize energy costs. This will help the farmer become comparatively more competitive to imported produce. If farmers can make money, more farmers will farm. This will help make Hawaii more food secure.

If farmers are able to supply electricity to the grid, this helps to make Hawaii more energy secure.

Energy produced by Hawaii farmers will help to avoid buying fossil fuel from foreign countries. This will keep money in our economy to circulate.

To conclude: I am strongly in favor of this bill because it helps to make Hawaii food and energy secure.

2/21/2008

This bill also helps to keep our economy stable and secure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Richard Ha

President

Hamakua Springs Country Farms