

**SB 2584**

LINDA LINGLE  
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2008  
2:45 P.M.

SENATE BILL NO. 2584  
RELATING TO HONEY

Chairpersons Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 2584, recognizing honey as an agricultural commodity. The department supports the intent of the bill and offers a comment, we recognize the importance of the honey industry. Hawaii's honey bees are a critical part of the agricultural production chain and responsible for the pollination of many crops grown in Hawaii. The department also recognizes that local beekeepers produce one of the world's highest quality honeys.

Although the current definition of "agricultural commodity" in section 147-1 refers to fresh fruits and fresh vegetables of every kind and character, whether produced in the State or imported, the inspection of imported agricultural commodities and food products is under the jurisdiction of federal agencies, such as the United States Department of Agriculture and United States Department of Commerce. Under cooperative agreements with various federal agencies, the department is able to conduct inspections of a number of imported agricultural commodities and food products. However, honey is not currently part of these agreements. We suggest that sufficient time be allowed for implementation so that we can confer with our federal partners and establish standards and train inspectors in order for the law to be enforceable.



**Hawaii Farm Bureau**  
F E D E R A T I O N

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February 12, 2008

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON  
SB 2584  
RELATING TO HONEY

Chair Tokuda 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 (HFBF) supports SB 2584, which recognizes honey as an agricultural commodity. We believe the production of honey is a form of growing a product and should be considered as a commodity. This amendment will provide the recognition and support needed to encourage and expand this industry.

We appreciate your support and passage of this measure.

Thank you.

**LATE**

**TESTIMONY OF CHRISTOPHER S. WARD IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2584**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
FEBRUARY 12, 2008, ROOM 224, AT 2:45 PM, THE STATE CAPITOL**

*Aloha* Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee!

As beekeeper, member of the Hawai'i Beekeepers' Association, a co-worker of Manoa **Honey Company**, and on behalf of all beekeepers, consumers of fine Hawaiian honey, and farmers whose crops depend on pollination by our honey bees, **I wish to testify in strong support of SB2585 that will recognize honey as an agricultural commodity in the state of Hawai'i under HRS Chapter 147.**

All we are saying, **give our bees and very hardworking beekeepers a chance. . .to compete on an equitable basis!**

Christopher S. Ward  
2623 Halelena Place, Honolulu, HI 96822

