

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
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TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2008
9:00 A.M.

SENATE BILL NO. 2584, S.D. 1
RELATING TO HONEY

Chairpersons Kokubun and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2584, S.D. 1, recognizing honey as an agricultural commodity. The department supports the intent of the bill and offers comments. 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 are 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, raw honey will not qualify under the U. S. Grade Standards for Extracted Honey.



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

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February 26, 2008

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION
AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

TESTIMONY ON
SB 2584
RELATING TO HONEY

Chair Kokubun 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.