

**LINDA LINGLE**  
Governor



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

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

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008  
9:30 A.M.**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2584, S.D. 2  
RELATING TO HONEY**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2584, S.D. 2, 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.



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March 12, 2008

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON  
SB 2584, SD 2  
RELATING TO HONEY

Chair Tsuji 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 an agricultural 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.