

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE  
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2008  
2:00 P.M.  
ROOM 325

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

Chairperson Herkes 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.

00008

**HAWAII FARM BUREAU FEDERATION**  
2343 ROSE STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819

**TESTIMONY ON**  
**SB 2584, SD2**

HEARING BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Chair Herkes and committee members:

My name is Alan Takemoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, a non-profit general agriculture organization that represents approximately 1,600 farm family members statewide.

**We support the intent of SB 2584, SD 2**, which recognizes honey as an agricultural commodity. We recognize the importance of the Hawaii's honey bee production as part of the agricultural production chain and responsible for the pollination of many crops. This amendment will provide the first steps to encouraging the expansion of the honey bee industry.

Thank you.