

LATE

HAWAII BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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TESTIMONY OF 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 President of the Hawaii Beekeepers' Association, owner 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 SB2584 that, for the first time, would recognize honey as an agricultural commodity under HRS Chapter 147.

This recognition is long overdue because honey was arguably the first commercial export commodity in this state and has been in continuous production since 1857. In 1918 production reached an all time high of 2.4 million pounds by some 30,000 colonies with a value in today's dollars of about \$20,000,000. Today honey production is only about one-third of that amount. Today, our beekeepers produce the finest, purest honeys in the world but the very existence of our industry, and the future of diversified fruit and vegetable agriculture in Hawaii is being challenged by our recent discovery of the parasitic mite *Varroa destructor*, and by the continued presence of **un-naturally cheap, adulterated or contaminated and, or, mislabeled "honey" in our marketplaces.**

This bill will permit us to develop a standard of identity for honey and to establish rules that can be enforced at the state level. This bill does not seek to gain unfair trade protection for the producers and sellers of Hawaii's world class honeys. This is a fair trade equity issue. We are the victims of blatantly illegal and unfair trade practices by foreign and domestic importers, packers, and distributors of adulterated, contaminated and mislabeled honey. If our beekeepers are to survive and prevail, they will need to have the encouragement provided by a legal framework that defines and protects their naturally pure and healthy products.

Our larger goal is to move toward **food self-sufficiency** and to protect all members of the agricultural community in Hawaii, especially honey producers, and those involved in diversified agricultural activities that require pollination. We are also protecting the consumers' future ability to choose from a wide variety of high quality, locally grown fruits and vegetables. . . as opposed to being forced to purchase products imported from foreign countries with a 6,000 mile long supply chain that is vulnerable to unforeseeable, and unavoidable disruptions in the future. This is a **food security** issue as well as food supply sustainability issue. How can members of our industry secure the future of apiculture here in Hawaii and make a continuing contribution to local food self-sufficiency, food security and food supply sustainability if we must compete with cheap imposters?

All we are saying is give bees a chance. . . to compete on an equitable basis!

Michael M. Kliks, PhD

President, Hawaii Beekeepers' Association, 3081G Paty Drive, Honolulu, HI 96822

Darlene Tsukazaki

From: Sen. Jill Tokuda
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 10:17 AM
To: Darlene Tsukazaki; Kamakana Kaimuloa
Subject: FW: SB2484 Tuesday 2-12 2:45pm

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-----Original Message-----

From: ellynt@lava.net [mailto:ellynt@lava.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 10:15 AM
To: Sen. Clayton Hee; Sen. Jill Tokuda
Cc: ellynt@lava.net
Subject: SB2484 Tuesday 2-12 2:45pm

February 12, 2008

Chairman Hee, Vice Chairman Kokubun, Chairwoman Tokuda, and Vice Chairman Russell Kokubun and members of the committees, my name is Ellyn Tong and on behalf of the Pacific Fisheries Coalition I am testifying in support of the Hawaii Aquatic Stewardship Act SB2483.

The board of Land and Natural Resources has requested the creation of an advisory board to advise on areas of scientific expertise to help them make the best informed decisions regarding the sustainability of Hawaii's natural resources. Besides scientific advisement, the board could also use cultural advisement, and SB2483 also creates a cultural advisory group made of diverse practitioners from many areas that would help to form decisions respecting and uplifting Hawaii's unique and endemic culture. Communication should be facilitated between the scientific advisors and cultural advisors prior to Board of Land and Natural meetings to help create the most useful advice possible to the board members at the meetings.

The Aquatic Stewardship Act compliments the 2050 Sustainability Plan and the Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan. The Aquatic Stewardship Act furthers the goal of managing for sustainability by recognizing the importance of Hawaii's endemic culture and using the best cultural and scientific information available. It sets an active priority of protecting and restoring Hawaii's aquatic ecosystems.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ellyn Tong
Pacific Fisheries Coalition
A project of the Hawaii Audubon Society

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HAWAII ISLAND HONEY COMPANY
Hilo, Hawai'i

TESTIMONY OF IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2584
FAXED TO 1-808-587-7220

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Michael Cummings
Owner, Hawai'i Island Honey Company, Hilo, Hawai'i
Tel. No. : 808-969-6929

