

TESTIMONY
HB1471, HD2
LATE

LATE TESTIMONY

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1471, H.D. 2

March 20, 2009

RELATING TO FARMS

House Bill No. 1471, H.D. 2, establishes the Food Certification Pilot program to be managed by the Department of Agriculture with assistance from the Department of Health to:

- 1) encourage farmers to form agricultural cooperatives;
- 2) coordinate purchasing agreements between the agricultural cooperatives and hotels, restaurants, and other buyers in the visitor and hospitality industries; and
- 3) develop and implement “safe” food certification to promote fresh, high-quality, locally-grown produce grown by Hawaii farmers.

The bill also establishes the Food Certification Pilot program special fund into which: 1) appropriations made by the Legislature; 2) gifts and grants; and 3) any other moneys available to the Food Certification Pilot program special fund shall be deposited to support the program.

As a matter of general policy, this department does not support the creation of any special or revolving fund which does not meet the requirements of Sections 37-52.3 and 37-53.4 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Special or revolving funds should:

- 1) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program;
- 2) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and
- 3) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining.

It is difficult to determine whether the fund will be self-sustaining.



Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

Administration: P.O. Box 100, Kunia, HI 96759

Ph: 808-621-1350/Fax: 808-621-1359

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

HOUSE BILL 1471, HD2

Relating to Farms

March 20, 2009

Chairman Hee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC). I am testifying today on behalf of the center and our research and support staff.

HARC supports House Bill 1471 HD2 Relating to Farms.

This bill will help support the local agricultural community and promote safe, fresh, high-quality, locally-grown produce.

It provides funding to promote food safety certification for farmers throughout the state to meet increasingly required standards for a safer food supply. The bill makes possible the continuation of a great partnership that will encourage an increased local market supply of fresh, safe cuisine for the tourism industry and for our citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Hawaii's diversifying agriculture.



LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY

Senate Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs Committee
RE: HB 1471 HD2: RELATING TO FARMS

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of its member farmers and ranchers is in **support** of HB1471HD2, establishing a pilot program to develop safe food certification compliance for providers of fresh produce to hotels and restaurants and to coordinate purchase agreements between wholesalers and farmers.

The economic downturn has affected all sectors of business in Hawaii and we see the impacts on the tourist industry. Efforts to draw tourists into Hawaii means demonstrating a uniqueness to the Hawaii experience. Our local agricultural products used in world recognized Hawaii Regional Cuisine are used as draws for people from across our shores. At the same time increased publicity of foodborne illnesses has brought food safety concerns to an all time high. Restaurants who want to depend on locally grown are requiring food safety certification by our farmers and ranchers. It has come during a time when our farmers and ranchers are also undergoing financial difficulties. Their input costs have been at an all time high without any corollary increase in produce prices received from vendors. These difficult economic times make adoption of new practices that increase costs difficult.

The concept of this program is good. It recognizes that local agriculture will play a significant role in attracting visitors to Hawaii. It provides the means to proactively facilitate the use of locally grown products into the restaurants and hotels to enhance the visitor experience. The bill addresses needs of the farmers to not only meet food safety requirements but to also learn how to better secure purchase agreements with wholesalers that are fair and contribute towards farm viability.

HFBF urges support of HB1471HD2 and is ready as an organization to work with the parties involved to achieve the goals of this initiative. Thank you.



LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY

Senate Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs Committee
RE: HB 1471 HD2: RELATING TO FARMS

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of its member farmers and ranchers is in **support** of HB1471HD2, establishing a pilot program to develop safe food certification compliance for providers of fresh produce to hotels and restaurants and to coordinate purchase agreements between wholesalers and farmers.

The economic downturn has affected all sectors of business in Hawaii and we see the impacts on the tourist industry. Efforts to draw tourists into Hawaii means demonstrating a uniqueness to the Hawaii experience. Our local agricultural products used in world recognized Hawaii Regional Cuisine are used as draws for people from across our shores. At the same time increased publicity of foodborne illnesses has brought food safety concerns to an all time high. Restaurants who want to depend on locally grown are requiring food safety certification by our farmers and ranchers. It has come during a time when our farmers and ranchers are also undergoing financial difficulties. Their input costs have been at an all time high without any corollary increase in produce prices received from vendors. These difficult economic times make adoption of new practices that increase costs difficult.

The concept of this program is good. It recognizes that local agriculture will play a significant role in attracting visitors to Hawaii. It provides the means to proactively facilitate the use of locally grown products into the restaurants and hotels to enhance the visitor experience. The bill addresses needs of the farmers to not only meet food safety requirements but to also learn how to better secure purchase agreements with wholesalers that are fair and contribute towards farm viability.

HFBF urges support of HB1471HD2 and is ready as an organization to work with the parties involved to achieve the goals of this initiative. Thank you.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Mailing List
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2009 1:03 PM
To: WTLTestimony; WAM Testimony
Subject: FW: Testimony for HB1471 on 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM

Forwarding email

Regards,
Casey Alinan
Senate IT HelpDesk
Email: c.alinan@capitol.hawaii.gov

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

From: Preese, Dodi [<mailto:dodi.preese@Sheraton.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2009 12:53 PM
To: Mailing List
Subject: RE: Testimony for HB1471 on 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM

Aloha,

Unfortunatley, I will not be in attedance at today's testimony. Please remove my name if I was scheduled to testify.

Mahalo,
Dodi Preese

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
[<mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 1:40 PM
To: WTLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Cc: Preese, Dodi
Subject: Testimony for HB1471 on 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM HB1471

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Dodi Preese
Organization: Sheraton Princess Kaiulani
Address: 120 Kaiulani Ave Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808341-8829
E-mail: dodi.preese@sheraton.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2009

Comments:

This electronic message transmission contains information from the Company that may be proprietary, confidential and/or privileged.

The information is intended only for the use of the individual(s) or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying or distribution or use of the contents of this information is prohibited. If you have received this electronic transmission in error, please notify the sender immediately by replying to the address listed in the "From:" field.

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY
HB1471, HD2
LATE
(END)