

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009
10:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 016**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 988, H.D. 2, S.D. 1
RELATING TO PROCUREMENT**

Chairperson Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 988, H.D. 2, S.D. 1. The purpose of this bill is to further the State's efforts toward self-sufficiency by amending the Hawaii Procurement Code to make it more likely that agricultural products procured by government agencies will be products grown within the State. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) supports raising the preference for Hawaii products to 15% which will help Hawaii producers.

HDOA has been facilitating meetings with public institutions and farmers/ranchers to understand the procedures for purchasing and discuss ways to increase the use of locally produced foods. We appreciate the willingness of all the parties to work together and feel that these efforts are showing positive results.