

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2009
10:00 A.M.
ROOM 312

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 177
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 141
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXPLORE AND
DEVELOP INCENTIVES AND PREFERENCES FOR SMALL FARMERS TO ALLOW
THEM TO EXPAND AND CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FOOD
SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF THE STATE

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution No. 177 and House Resolution No. 141 which requests the Department of Agriculture to explore and develop incentives and preferences for small farmers to allow them to expand and continue to contribute to the food self-sufficiency of the state. The department recognizes the importance of incentives and preferences for small farmers; however, we cannot support these resolutions as it sets an unfunded mandate for the department.

In these difficult economic times, the department does not have the resources, either financial or personnel, to convene groups of small farmers across the state. We recommend that instead, the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation Strategic Plan be used to identify the issues and needs of small farmers. This document, drawing upon many stakeholders and the Farm Bureau's 1,600 statewide members, most of whom are small farmers, provides an excellent resource to achieve the same objectives called for in the resolutions.

wooley1-Christopher

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2009 8:53 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: bcole47@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HCR177 on 3/27/2009 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/27/2009 10:00:00 AM HCR177

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elizabeth Cole
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: bcole47@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 3/26/2009

Comments:

Small farms are key to Hawaii's economic and social survival; they are the viable way to assure a local food supply. Please provide the Dept. of Ag with the resources to help development this farming sector.

wooley1-Christopher

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2009 12:15 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: uluahunter@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR177 on 3/27/2009 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/27/2009 10:00:00 AM HCR177

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Thomas
Organization: Individual
Address: P.O. Box 458 Laupahoehoe, HI
Phone: 808
E-mail: uluahunter@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/25/2009

Comments:

I support this bill. Any legislation that will give credibility to a small farm operation is good for this state. I am totally supportive of this bill.