



BIG ISLAND FARM BUREAU

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Re: HCR 7, HCR 11, HR 8, HR 12 Relating to Vog

Position: Support

Chairmen Tsuji and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lorie Farrell; I am the executive director for the Big Island Farm Bureau. We are the largest general agriculture organization in the State of Hawaii & the Big Island; representing over 650 agricultural members/producers on the Island of Hawaii & over 1600 statewide. We are unique in representing all agricultural commodities & utilize our diverse membership base to direct our policies. The Big Island Farm Bureau is comprised of the individual farm bureau chapters on the Big Island and we are directly related to the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and affiliated with the American Farm Bureau Federation.

We support the vog resolutions to and their intent to support & provide financial relief to agriculture operations affected by vog damage. The effects of the vog have been felt by producers of every size. This bill seeks help alleviate portions of the economic hardship felt by our producers. We fully support the intent of the resolutions as the damage to crops has been widespread, affecting a multitude of crops, including flowers, papayas, foliage, trees, and watercress. In today's economic climate things are tough enough as is, but to have your infrastructure prematurely fail can be the type of issue that a producer cannot recover from in a tough economic time.

We appreciate the chance to submit testimony and your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Lorie Farrell

Lorie Farrell

Executive Director