

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
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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 COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY
AND
AGRICULTURE
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2009
10:00 A.M.
ROOM 309**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 12

**REQUESTING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PROVIDE FEDERAL AID TO
ASSIST AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS IN VOG-IMPACTED AREAS IN MEETING THEIR
WATER NEEDS.**

Chairpersons Hanohano and Tsuji and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Concurrent Resolution No. 8 and House Resolution No. 12 which seeks federal aid from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to meet the water needs of agricultural operations impacted by the effects of vog. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) supports the resolutions.

We wish to note that at this time there is an outstanding grant request to the Bureau of Reclamation to provide funds for water hauling for use similar to that described in the resolutions. HDOA will continue to work with our partners in the Federal, State and County agencies, non-profit organizations, UHCTAHR, and affected farmers and ranchers to address problems caused by the vog.