

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**

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**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](mailto: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**

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**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](mailto: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.