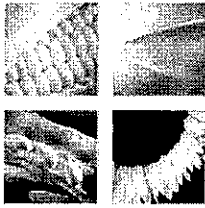


TESTIMONY
HB 2290 HD2



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

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Executive Director
Alicia Maluafiti

Testimony By: Alicia Maluafiti
HB 2290 HD2, Relating to Agriculture
The Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, March 10, 2010
Room 229,2: 45 pm

Position: Support

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association. HCIA is a nonprofit trade association representing the agricultural seed industry in Hawaii. Now the state's largest agricultural commodity, the seed industry contributes to the economic health and diversity of the islands by providing high quality jobs in rural communities, keeping important agricultural lands in agricultural use, and serving as responsible stewards of Hawaii's natural resources.

HCIA believes that HB 2290 is an important and necessary attempt to mitigate further cutbacks to the Dept. of Agriculture as a result of Hawaii's fiscal crisis and the department's reliance on the general fund to support the ag inspector positions. It is an important, comprehensive and necessary initiative because of all the state departments impacted by the furloughs and reduction in force, the Department of Agriculture suffered the greatest loss. Therefore, the seed industry is supporting a number of efforts this legislative session -- including HB 2290 - to restore the Dept. of Agriculture positions and minimize future losses to the department in the face of a worsening budget crisis. The restoration of their department is critical to not only the agricultural industry, but to the health and safety of the entire state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

MONSANTO HAWAII

2104 Lauwiliwili Street
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

March 10, 2010

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE,
AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON
HB 2290, HD 2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Hee and committee members:

My name is Alan Takemoto and I am the Community Affairs Manager for Monsanto.

We support HB 2290 HD 2, which establishes an agriculture inspection and certification special fund under the department of agriculture.

As the economy continues to struggle, the agricultural industry is confronted by a substantial decrease in agricultural inspection services statewide. The ability to move products in and out of the state as well as interisland is critical to our industry and our economy. With the anticipation of reduced agricultural inspections services, we appreciate all that the legislature and the HDOA has done in seeking alternatives and solutions.

As part of the farming community, we want to support every effort to making the Hawaii Department of Agriculture capable of meeting the needs of all farmers and related organizations. We hope that by establishing a special fund specifically for the services rendered, the HDOA can provide the necessary services that are required to protect Hawaii's agricultural industry.

We know there is much more to be done and we want to help in facilitating the process by which we all can be a partner during these difficult times.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 11:12 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: jacinthow001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2290 on 3/10/2010 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 3/10/2010 2:45:00 PM HB2290

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Jacintho
Organization: Maui Cattlemen's Association
Address: Kula, Hawaii
Phone: (808) 878-2660
E-mail: jacinthow001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/8/2010

Comments:



HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

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Phone (808)533-1292 - Fax (808)599-2606 - Email: hawaiiifoodind@aol.com

March 10, 2010 @ @ 2:45 p.m. in CR 229

To: Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

By: Richard C. Botti, President
Lauren Zirbel, Government Relations

Re: HB 2290 HD2 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs & Committee Members:

We support this measure as a practical approach to avoiding the potential catastrophic situation we faced last year when there was a strong possibility of not having agricultural inspectors available.

We support allowing the Dept. of Agriculture to enter into agreements with private agencies to perform certain services, as this will provide a safety net for our food supply.

We do suggest that there be a requirement that there be a clear nexus between fees charged and benefits received, to assure that any one segment of the agricultural industry does not bear an unfair financial burden. With that said, we do need a fee for service structure, and this measure appears to go in that direction.

TESTIMONY
HB 2290 HD2
(END)