

Arlina Agbayani

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 2:07 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: raechele.a.joyo@hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony for HB2393 on 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB2393_AGR_01-29-10_AGR.pdf

Testimony for AGR 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM HB2393 ✓

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sandra Kunimoto
Organization: HDOA
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: raechele.a.joyo@hawaii.gov
Submitted on: 1/28/2010

Comments:

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
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**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2010
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2393
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 2393. The purpose of this bill is to establish an agricultural product processing incentive program to assist producers in processing agricultural products grown in the state.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) opposes this measure as we believe that this is not the appropriate time to create a new program and to further reduce state revenues by providing generous tax credits which exceed those provided for other established agricultural initiatives including Important Agricultural Lands.

It is unclear at this time how many producers would benefit or would be encouraged to establish an agricultural product processing operation and whether the anticipated annual fees will offset the loss in tax revenue or even pay for program expenses.

Arlina Agbayani

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 4:13 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mnakahata@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2393 on 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB2393 ag processing incentive Agr.pdf

Testimony for AGR 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM HB2393

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Mae Nakahata for Luella Costales
Organization: HFBF
Address:
Phone: 808 2819716
E-mail: mnakahata@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/28/2010

Comments:
Testifier will be Luella Costales



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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TESTIMONY

HB 2393 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of our farmer and ranch families and organizations support HB 2393 establishing an agricultural product processing incentive program.

One of Hawaii agriculture's major shortcoming is the lack of value added processing. Most farmers on the mainland have value added products that can be produced from off grade or surplus products. This provides an additional revenue source that helps increase farm/ranch viability.

A major reason has been the small size of our farms. Value added production often involves major capital investments beyond the reach of our smaller farmers. Additionally many of our farmers and ranchers are just that ...they farm and ranch. Value added processing is beyond their capacity. Opportunities lie in partnerships with other small businesses. In these cases, these operations may be in industrial areas or other non-agricultural areas. Most of the State is within an Enterprise Zone. However, most populated areas, including business districts fall outside of the Zone. This measure seeks to incentivize agricultural value added ventures by providing businesses with the same EZ benefits even if they are not within the zone.

HFBBF believes this is a worthwhile means to bring investment into agricultural value added ventures and strongly supports the measure.

HFBBF respectfully requests your strong support of this measure so value added businesses can begin and our farmers and ranchers can see an expansion of their revenue bases. If there are any questions, please contact Luella Costales at 848 2074. Thank you