

HB 242

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009
9:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 242, H.D. 1, S.D. 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

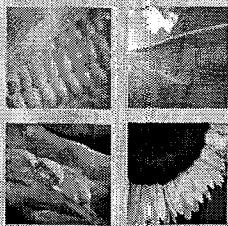
Chairperson Kim and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 242, H.D. 1, S.D. 1. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds, matched dollar-for-dollar by federal funds, in cash, or by in-kind donations by the private sector for the planning, repair, and modification of agricultural facilities at the former Del Monte operation on Oahu and at Maui Community College, in fiscal year 2009-2010 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for the fiscal year 2010-2011.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) recognizes the importance of value-added processing as a component that can utilize lesser grade produce and add income to a farming operation. It also diversifies the products that can be offered to consumers and provides products that may be more easily exported than fresh goods. We greatly appreciate your committees' interest in assisting our agricultural producers to obtain higher returns for their products and, thereby, achieve greater financial stability.

Agriculture has many needs and in better economic times, HDOA would fully support this bill, however, as the cost for planning and modification of the specific value-added facilities is undetermined and the in-kind match of funds is uncertain, we respectfully recommend that this bill be deferred and reintroduced at a time when the costs are better known, the state can better afford its implementation, and there is a higher degree of certainty that matching federal funds will be available to assure success of these projects.

Regarding the proposed amendment in Section 2, we support the intent of the amendment but believe it should include poultry and not include imported items of these same species.



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony By: Alicia Maluafiti
HB 242sd1, Relating to Agriculture
Sen WAM Committee
April 2, 2009
Room 211, 9:30 am

Position: Strong Support

Chair Mercado Kim and Members of the Sen WAM Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association. 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 strongly supports this measure and appreciates the request for general obligation bonds for the planning, repair and modification of the Del Monte and Maui Community College facilities for value-added agricultural production. To paraphrase Richard Ha at the HFBB State of Agriculture briefing, "farmers will farm if they are making money." The added-value processing facilities provide a needed venue for off-grade produce and also increases the range of products that are bonafide made in Hawaii products, such as guava jam/jellies, pineapple juice, etc.

Your support of this measure is strongly urged. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

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Gina Williams

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 7:38 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ethompson@pmciahawaii.com
Subject: Testimony for HB242 on 4/2/2009 9:30:00 AM
Attachments: HB242_HD1_SD1_Value Added_WAM_040209.pdf

Testimony for WAM 4/2/2009 9:30:00 AM HB242

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Warren Watanabe
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E-mail: ethompson@pmciahawaii.com
Submitted on: 4/1/2009

Comments:
Dear Sirs:

Please find attached testimony for HB242, HD1, SD1, Relating to Agriculture to be heard in Senate Ways and Means Committee on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 9:30am in Conf. Rm. 211.

Thank you very much for your help with this matter.