



**HAWAII COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL**

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To: Committee on Agriculture  
Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2009  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 312 – State Capitol  
Copies: 5 copies

**Re: TESTIMONY OF GEORGE YOKOYAMA IN SUPPORT OF HB 246 –  
RELATING TO BIODIESEL FEEDSTOCK**

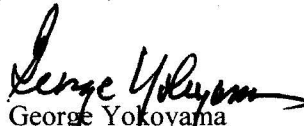
Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Committee:

I submit my testimony in support of HB 246 – Relating to Biodiesel Feedstock. I strongly believe in the national and state goal for renewable energy that is, complete energy self-sufficiency particularly eliminating the need to import fossil fuel for transportation and power generation.

One positive way to contribute to energy self-sufficiency is by the production of jatropha curcas oil. In a short period of 18-months, jatropha curcas plant cultivation has been ever increasing throughout the southern hemisphere. China leads the world with more than 2 million acres in cultivation, African, Southeast Asian, and South American countries have embarked on mass cultivation of jatropha curcas.

As described in HB 246, Hawaii can become the leader in the marketing of jatropha curcas. Lastly, we are aware of the state's budget deficit. However, we urge HB 246 be passed out of the Committee on the merits of its content and allow the money committee to do its duty in the determination of funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

  
George Yokoyama  
Executive Director