

LINDA LINGLE  
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010  
3:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 2503, HD1  
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Chairperson Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2503, HD1, which is an Administration proposal. The purpose of this bill is to authorize expansion of the permissible users of the Pesticides Use Revolving Fund to include personnel costs for compliance monitoring. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) strongly supports this measure.

Compliance monitoring surveillance is an integral part of ensuring protection of the public and the environment. Conducting actual use inspections of agricultural and non-agricultural entities is the most important component of compliance monitoring; detecting violations before they occur rather than responding to post-use complaints. Compliance monitoring also includes inspections in the marketplace, at pesticide distributors, and at the ports of entry.

Management of the Pesticides Program is challenging with the absence of a Branch Manager. While the Plant Industry Administrator has temporarily assumed the

responsibility of acting Branch Manager in addition to his administrative duties, more active and direct oversight is essential in assuring that the program continues in the right direction to provide services to protect the public and the environment.

The ability to fund compliance monitoring personnel including the Branch Manager through the Pesticides Use Revolving Fund will provide the Department with the flexibility to maintain services necessary to provide adequate monitoring in this important area.



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

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**February 18, 2010**

**TESTIMONY**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**HB 2503 HD1 Relating to the Environment**

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

I am Luella Costales, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF) which is the largest statewide non-profit general agriculture organization, representing approximately 1,600 farm and ranch family members.

HFBF recognizes that the Department of Agriculture Pesticide Branch serves an important function in assuring the appropriate use of pesticides through registration and licensing, training workshops, and educational programs. Without adequate funding, the Pesticides Branch may be unable to perform these duties. Because of the budget shortfall, we **support** the use of the pesticide use revolving fund for staffing within that Branch.

We respectfully request that this bill be passed with a restored effective date and a sunset date of five years so that funding needs can be reassessed at that time. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.