

**LINDA LINGLE**  
Governor



**SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DUANE K. OKAMOTO**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 Fax: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON  
AGRICULTURE  
AND  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2010  
9:30 A.M.**

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 308  
REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ON  
BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES AS A RESULT OF THE REDUCTION IN SERVICES  
PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH  
AND COMMODITIES BRANCH STATEWIDE**

Chairpersons Tsuji and Morita, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent No. 308. The purpose of this resolution is to request the Office of the Auditor to conduct a study on the economic and environmental impacts on businesses and communities due to the reduction of services by the department's Plant Quarantine Branch and Commodities Branch statewide. The department would like to offer some general comments.

In Fiscal Year 2010, the Plant Quarantine Branch and Commodities Branch has experienced a reduction in force of personnel in the amount of 27-percent and 50-percent, respectively, which has drastically reduced services statewide. Although the auditor would be responsible for analyzing the environmental and economic impacts to each program, the department staff will be expected to assist with records, data gathering, and providing a basic understanding of the role of the two branches, which would ultimately take staff away from providing core services to industry and the public. The communities and businesses of Hawaii would be better served if personnel time is used for inspection purposes instead of assisting the auditor as would be required under this measure.



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

2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819

Phone: (808) 848-2074; Neighbor Islands: 1-800-482-1272

Fax: (808) 848-1921; e-mail: [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org)

LATE  
Testimony

## TESTIMONY

**RE: HCR308 REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ON BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES AS A RESULT OF THE REDUCITON IN SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH AND COMMODITIES BRANCH STATEWIDE**

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

HFBF on behalf of our member commercial farm and ranch families and organizations provides the following comments on HCR 308, requesting a study on the economic impacts of HDOA PQ and Commodities service reductions.

During late 2009, various hearings have been held across the State to gather information on impacts of the staff reductions and resultant affects on services to our farmers and ranchers. The various Bills that have been introduced this session seeks to proactively address these issues and HFBF has taken an unprecedented position of supporting a form of taxes on ourselves in the form of fees for services. We did this because it was important to implement solutions.

If there is a lack of information to justify some measure that must be addressed, this study may be of value. However, if information is already available we feel that implementing actions are a better use of staff time.

Thank you.