



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

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Testimony By: Alicia Maluafiti
SB 2523 HD 1, Relating to Agriculture
House Committee on Finance
Friday, March 26, 2010
Room 308, 11:00 am

Position: Strongly Support

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of 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.

The seed industry appreciates – and has testified in support – of most legislative solutions to generate revenue and address the loss of the agricultural inspectors and other staff at the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Our dialogue with the HDOA these past few months as well as our role at the state legislature demonstrates our sincere commitment to seek out solutions that are fair and balanced. We do this in recognition of the growth of the seed industry in Hawaii, our responsibility to support the regulatory authority of the HDOA, and our collective ability to absorb some of the financial burden on behalf of the agricultural industry - as best we can.

SB 2523 HD 1 is another important and collaborative legislative solution involving a number of allies and stakeholders from the agricultural industry to provide the Dept. of Agriculture with efficient and reliant alternatives to fiscally sustain their department.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

LATE TESTIMONY