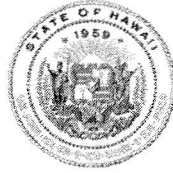


LINDA LINGLE
Governor



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LATE TESTIMONY

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 HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS & MILITARY AFFAIRS
AND
AGRICULTURE
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2009
10:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**SENATE BILL NO. 506, S.D. 1
RELATING TO PROCUREMENT**

Chairpersons McKelvey and Tsuji and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 506, H.D. 1. The purpose of this bill is to further the State's efforts toward self-sufficiency by amending the Hawaii Procurement Code to make it more likely that agricultural products procured by government agencies will be products grown within the State. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) supports raising the preference for Hawaii products to 15% which will help Hawaii producers.

HDOA has been facilitating meetings with public institutions and farmers/ranchers to understand the procedures for purchasing and discuss ways to increase the use of locally produced foods. We appreciate the willingness of all the parties to working together and feel that these efforts are showing positive results.