

TESTIMONY
SCR217

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

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2010
3:15 P.M.
ROOM 229**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 217
REQUESTING A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE CONTRACTING OF THIRD PARTY
AGENTS TO INSPECT AND CERTIFY HAWAII-GROWN GREEN COFFEE BEANS**

Chairperson Hee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 217. The purpose of this resolution is to request a feasibility study on the contracting of third party agents to inspect and certify Hawaii grown green coffee beans.

The department opposes this resolution as it does not appropriate any funding for such a study. Moreover, all of the economic analysis staff and state statisticians that might normally contribute to such a study have been laid off and the commodities staff are already stretched thin performing their core work so they cannot take on new additional tasks.

Chris Manfredi
Ka'u Farm and Ranch Co. LLC
Ka'u Local Products, LLC
PO BOX 1109
Naalehu Hawaii 96772

March 19, 2010

RE: Testimony in support of SCR 217

Dear Chairman Hee and members of the Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs committee,

I am offering testimony in support of SCR 217.

As a stakeholder in the fledgling Ka'u coffee industry and founding president of Ka'u County Farm Bureau, I commend Senator Kokubun, his staff, the introducers and supporting members of the Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs committee for introducing and hearing SCR 217.

This resolution represents precisely the type of targeted support we need in our rural communities.

In Ka'u we were experiencing challenges relating to affordable access to commodity inspectors long before the proposed HDOA budget cuts. Additional expense in terms of time and cost were making our district un-competitive in a very competitive marketplace.

Natural challenges in the form of drought and VOG have made this season particularly challenging. Economic challenges piled on top of these have caused some of our efforts to grow this emerging industry to stall.

It would be very helpful if we were able to conduct feasibility study to examine the contracting of third party agents to certify coffee. Utilizing knowledgeable members within our community to certify coffee would make compliance with the law affordable, accessible and farmer friendly; not gaining a competitive advantage, but helping to level the playing field with already stiff competition from around the globe.

Like a knowledgeable local mechanic can certify that your car is safe to drive on a State highway, so too can a knowledgeable member of our community certify that Ka'u coffee is in compliance with all applicable laws.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 217.



Chris Manfredi



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TESTIMONY

RE: SCR217 REQUESTING A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE CONTRACTING OF THIRD PARTY AGENTS TO INSPECT AND CERTIFY HAWAII-GROWN GREEN COFFEE BEANS.

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

HFBF on behalf of our member commercial farm and ranch families and organizations, and specifically, our coffee farmers **strongly supports SCR217** exploring the feasibility of contracting third party agents to inspect and certify Hawaii-Grown Green Coffee Beans. However, at the same time, we respectfully request consideration of **incorporation of the contents of HB2290HD2 into an existing Bill that will provide for immediate implementation of the proposed feasibility study.**

The intent of this measure is critical. During these difficult economic times it is critical that monies be used in the most effective way possible. Currently, inspectors or coffee must travel significant distances to be certified for export. Export sales is what brings money into the General Fund through tax dollars. Every effort should be undertaken to support these sales and to make sure that undue disruptions do not impeded their existing markets.

HB2290HD2 provides for hiring of third party inspectors, authorizing what is proposed to be studies in this resolution. Below is the section of the Bill that addresses this matter.

"[H]§147-112[H] **Cooperative agreements and contracts to provide auditing and certification services.** The department may enter into cooperative agreements with the United States Department of Agriculture or other agreements and contracts with private parties or other governmental agencies for the purposes of:

(1) Auditing and certifying that applicants are following good agricultural, handling, processing, and manufacturing practices; [and]

(2) Hiring and paying travel and other expenses for inspectors to perform the certification and audit services required under this chapter;

While HFBF requests your support of this feasibility study, we STRONGLY request your support in identifying a mechanism to insert the contents of HB2290HD2 that will IMMEDIATELY upon passage provide the mechanism to implement this action. If there are any questions, please contact Mae Nakahata at 2819716. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 8:32 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: lorie_o@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for SCR217 on 3/22/2010 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 3/22/2010 3:15:00 PM SCR217

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lorie Obra
Organization: Ka'u Coffee Growers Cooperative
Address: Pahala HI 96777
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E-mail: lorie_o@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 3/22/2010

Comments:

TESTIMONY
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(END)