

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2011
9:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1274
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 1274. This bill provides a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to the *4Ag Hawaii* non-profit corporation to expand the outreach and e-educational initiatives begun in 2010. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this bill.

The Department strongly supports the adoption of good agricultural practices to provide the safest food possible to consumers statewide and recognizes that this position is in alignment with the Food Safety Modernization Act, signed into law by President Obama on January 4, 2011.

The *4Ag Hawaii* efforts propose to provide additional outreach and education activities on all aspects of food safety to the visitor industry, the agricultural industry and the educational community. We concur with your committee's finding that these activities serve a public purpose and will help the state move towards improved food safety and food security.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.