



**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**

**House  
Committee on Agriculture  
February 11, 2011**

**HB 12  
Relating to Plant Theft**

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee,

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, on behalf of our commercial farm and ranch families and organizations across the State, **strongly supports this bill.**

We are so appreciative that you have asked Hawaii's farmers and ranchers what you can do for us (without having to spend money!) and you have listened.

Everyone knows that farming is inherently risky. There are no guarantees of a successful crop.

Besides being vulnerable to invasive pests and diseases, erratic weather patterns, and multi-year droughts, high land, labor, fuel, and other farm costs leave us unable to compete with mainland prices. On top of this, farmers are highly susceptible to theft. Our location and relatively large acreage, usually in more remote areas and impossible to guard 24 hours a day, leave us open to thieves that reap the benefit of our hard work or vandals that destroy our crops for kicks.

By requiring a convicted thief to pay for the stolen agricultural products and replant them, this bill will provide some measure of justice for those who have no respect for others' property. It may just make potential thieves think twice before they take away a farmer's livelihood.

Thank you very much for your help to protect the viability of the farmers and ranchers of Hawaii who would like to continue to supply food to our residents and visitors, and help Hawaii move toward food self-sufficiency. We would be pleased to answer any questions, please contact Janet Ashman, at 226-5483.