

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor



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**LATE**

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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011  
9:20 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 1559, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1559, Senate Draft

1. The purpose of this measure is to create new incentives for designated Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) such as a property tax exemption, provide for additional guidance to the counties for certain existing incentives such as priority improvements permit processing, and establishing preferential electricity rates.

The Department of Agriculture agrees with the general intent of this measure but recommends that the provisions in the IAL Law (Part III of Chapter 205, HRS) and the IAL Incentives Law (Act 233, 2008 SLH), which are the result of broad-based and intensive stakeholder deliberation over a four year period, not be subject to revision at this time. Further, the fact that the counties have not prepared maps and reports to identify potential IAL in accordance with Section 205-47 has prevented the continued implementation of the IAL Law. Senate Bill 1152, that was not scheduled for hearing, requested an appropriation to assist the counties in completing IAL mapping and could have substantially allowed continuation of the implementation of the IAL Law. Without



this provision, delays in implementation, other than the voluntary designation process, will continue.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity to testify on this measure.