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Wednesday, April 11, 2012  
1:15 pm  
Conference Room 16  
Committee on Economic Development and Technology

**Testimony on GM 521**  
**Consideration and confirmation to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, HOWARD WEST**

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee,

I am Janet Ashman, testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF is very familiar with the role of the Small Business Regulatory Review Board to review any proposed new or amended rule or to consider any request from small business owners for review of any rule adopted by a state agency and to make recommendations to the agency or the legislature regarding the need for a rule change or legislation. Members, who are all volunteers, must be prepared to review and understand complicated regulatory matters on a wide range of topics, they must do so quickly and thoroughly, and they must be able to anticipate the impacts of those rules on the small businesses.

Mr. West's education and experience in the sciences, especially environmental regulatory work, make him uniquely qualified to support the mission of the Board. Having recently testified at a meeting of the Board in which Mr. West participated as a member, we were impressed by his ability to immediately grasp the complex regulatory issues and understand and articulate potential concerns of the small business community, including those of Hawaii's farmers and ranchers.

For these reasons, HFBF **strongly supports** Mr. West's confirmation to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board.