



LATE

Testimony Reference : HB 1787

Committee : HLT

Date of Hearing: Jan 10

From: Hawaii Farmers Union United

SUPPORT

Testimony:

Farmers that farm and live on properties that are not served by "potable water connected to a municipality" are in trouble.

Honey producers that only need a hand wash station are having their product removed from store shelves because they did not meet this standard. There was no problem or contamination with the product. But it had been bottled in a facility that was not connected to municipality water.

Never mind that they used bottled water or purified and filtered water.

Never mind that the water was not used in the products.

Never mind that plate lunch wagons are not connected to municipality water.

This problem is not just the beehive farmers, it is the community kitchen in Hanalei that serves a cooperative group of farmers. They do not have a municipality water source, and they do not have a well that meets municipality water standards. So, they truck in water at great expense. Still they are hampered with processing the local produce.

We need to change the regulation, that simply requires that POTABLE water fit for human consumption is usable for farmers and kitchens and processing plants.

For folks that have been granted exemptions, we read in the newspaper that IF allowed to use bottled water, they must remove all pieces of rain catchment water, that was used for other purposes.....like in their home or garden! Yet we are told over 60,000 Big Island are on rain catchment systems.

There needs to be rule that says that "potable" municipality water OR equivalent.

As long as the producer can demonstrate that the water used in the facility, for hand washing or processing is safe and suitable for human consumption, it should be allowed.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak for the family farmer in Hawaii.

Glenn Martinez  
HFUU President

FYI:

Hawaii Farmer Union United is the largest agriculture organization in the State of Hawaii that represents the small family farmers at the exclusion of GMO and Mega Corporation mono-crop industrial farms. With small family farmers on every island Hawaii Farmers Union is the only Grassroots farm organization where the members have direct voice.

Any testimony given to the Legislature is vetted to the membership. Often the testimony is a blend of opinions voiced directly from membership. We also encourage all individual members to submit testimony directly, particularly where there voice is different then the majority, thus all farmer voices are heard, not just the loudest.



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L A T E

February 10, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TESTIMONY ON HB 1787, HD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 329  
9:30 AM

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF supports the intent of HB 1787, HD1, which proposes to exempt certain producers of agricultural products from processing the product in a certified honey house or food-processing establishment, or obtaining a permit from the department of health.

HFBF recognizes that honey bees play a critical role in Hawaii agriculture. Honey bee problems are problems for all of us since many local crops are pollinated by bees. Hawaii produces some of the finest quality honey and there is a growing demand for artisan Hawaiian honeys.

While HFBF supports the continued viability of honey bee stocks and the growth of Hawaii's honey industry, we do have a concern with HB 1787, HD1. We believe that there are options available to beekeepers that do not have access to a municipal water supply. There are water treatment options that are already being used which can provide clean water for food safety needs in areas with only non-potable water. The Department of Health's food-processing establishment requirements are quite extensive and comprehensive. We don't believe that inaccessibility to a municipal water supply is justification enough for an exemption to these requirements. We defer to the Department of Health to determine if an exemption is warranted.

With regards to the amendments to §328-79, which increases the exempted amount of honey that a home-based honey producers can sell and also allows the home-based honey producers to sell directly to retail outlets, HFBF supports the intent of the amendments which may encourage more people to go into the beekeeping business. We again defer to HDOA and DOH to determine the appropriate actions, if any, are needed if the amendments are adopted.

I can be reached at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.