

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1869

Hawaii farmers have long been crippled with lack of protection or enforcement of theft of Agriculture products.

I have personally witnessed and experienced theft that the police are reluctant to investigate or charge the accused.

The thief generally claims to have "found" the plants.

The burden has fallen to the farmer to PROVE that the plants or animals belong to the farmer. The thief has no obligation to prove they own it.

This bill will serve to turn the tide and put the law on the side of protecting the farmer.

The fence requirement hurts and is not recommended. Many taro fields are not fenced.

Many properties do not want to post rude and unattractive signs.

There should be a minimum requirement that the property appears to be private and that the animals and plants there in are private.

A home owner or farmer should not have to have a PRIVATE sign on the front door of their house of property.

When someone climbs over the back fence of a farmers yard, they should not have to post signs on the entire fence to declare PRIVATE.

But we support this bill in the hopes that it will improve the efforts of the police to bring charges on agriculture theft.

Thank you,

Glenn Martinez
President, Hawaii Farmers Union United