



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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March 28, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1941, HD2, SD1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION FACILITIES AND
RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

Room 211
9:35 AM

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, 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 is in strong support of HB 1941, HD2, SD1, providing an appropriation for critical biosecurity facilities.

Several years ago, a state of the art biosecurity facility was constructed on Maui. It was constructed as part of an agreement resulting from a lawsuit associated with the proposed extension of the runway at Kahului Airport. The state spent significant amount of resources in the lawsuit.

Today, transportation infrastructure across the state is need of improvement. As EIS and EA steps are taken, there will be the inevitable question – are protections in place to guard against invasive species. We have a choice today of taking a lesson from the past and proactively placing the guards in place or wait and be forced to do it under lawsuits and delayed projects.

Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture is one of the major victims when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State while control measures take time to develop, leaving farmers and ranchers at risk. This is not consistent with the State's goal of increasing self sufficiency and sustainability.

New food safety requirements will look at the entire system from farm to fork. This means our harbors, ports and transportation system must be able to transport agricultural products preserving integrity that includes temperature control and protection from elements. This measure is a proactive step to meeting these conditions.

HFBF respectfully requests your strong support and restoration funding and effective date to this measure as a proactive step to improve transportation infrastructure across the State.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this important measure.