



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

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March 29, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2244, HD1, SD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL INSPECTORS

Room 211  
9:00 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 strongly supports HB 2244, HD1, SD1, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to establish compliance agreements with the federal government and other states for inspections at the state of origin.

This is a timely and appropriate measure in light of the threat of invasive species and the limited resources facing the Department of Agriculture. The training and inspection of Christmas trees in the state of origin dramatically reduced invasive species introduction into the State. As inspections were forgone, invasive species returned even to the scope of the yellow jacket wasps in a container load of trees a few years ago. Recently, our inspectors went back and the incidence of invasives dropped again. This demonstrates that inspection at the state of origin makes sense. Expansion to address our high risk imports is in the interest of the State.

We respectfully request your support of this measure. Thank you.