



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 2380, HD2, SD1
RELATING TO SHIPPING

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 supports HB 2380, HD2, SD1 which establishes a working group to explore options for reducing the shipping time and costs for transporting goods from Molokai, Lanai, and Hana, Maui to Oahu.

HFBF continues to pursue methods that will improve shipping and we encourage any dialogue that could result in reduced rates to all farmers and ranchers. Furthermore, we are supportive of the creation of a working group that would specifically explore options to seek ways to further reduce shipping costs for the transportation of goods from Molokai, Lanai, and Hana, Maui to Oahu (and vice versa), as shipping input costs for farmers and ranchers are an important and large part of our cost of goods, which contributes to our challenge of competing in the local Hawaii markets.

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



Molokai Farm Bureau



An Affiliate of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

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Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Molokai Farm Bureau supports HB 2380, HD2, SD1, which establishes a working group to explore options for reducing the shipping time and costs for transporting goods from Molokai, Lanai, and Hana, Maui to Oahu.

As the Molokai Farm Bureau, we are continually interested in improved methods of transporting our products to market, and encourage any dialogue that could result in valuable, improved and practical methods to accomplish this, for all of our farmers and ranchers.

Furthermore, we are supportive of the creation of a working group that would specifically explore options to seek ways to further reduce shipping costs for the transportation of goods from Molokai, Lanai, and Hana, Maui to Oahu, as well as from Oahu to Molokai, Lanai, and Hana Maui. As much as the cost of shipping our final products to market is a challenge, the shipping costs for needed inputs brought in to develop our goods to be ready for market are also an important and very large part of our cost of goods, which contributes to our challenge of competing in not only the local Hawaii market, but broader markets within our specified targets.

We thank you for the consideration and amendment to include a Molokai representative in the working group. Allowing Molokai to participate in identifying and conveying critical information regarding realistic needs and challenges that would eventually directly affect Molokai, is a fair requirement. We also support the inclusion of other affected islands, agencies and industry representatives, as this assessment needs to take into account an overall balanced vision, and responsibly vet any redundant consequences that could impact certain crucial sectors, and the State as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration, and the opportunity to submit testimony. **We support HB2380, HD2, SD1.**