



LATE TESTIMONY

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
February 1, 2012
8:00 A.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2421
RELATING TO FEED MILLS

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2421. The bill proposes to award a grant to the Oceanic Institute for the purpose of the construction of a feed research and pilot production facility. The department supports this bill.

The cost of feed can constitute up to 70 percent of the total production cost for local producers. A feed mill would assist in the development of local feed production to stabilize the livestock and aquaculture industries. Along with HB 2433, which authorizes a pilot project to assess the viability of growing livestock feed in Hawaii, development of a feed industry would help reduce the dependence on imported feed and expense for our local producers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





LATE TESTIMONY

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

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FEBRUARY 1, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2421
RELATING TO FEED MILLS

Room 312
8:00 AM

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem 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 2421 which awards a grant to the Oceanic Institute for the construction of the feeds research and pilot production facility.

Hawaii's livestock industry faces numerous challenges. One of their biggest challenges is the rising cost of feed for livestock production. These costs have been a contributing factor to the decline of the state's livestock industry.

In 2007, there were 5 dairies and 6 egg farms in Hawaii. Since then, 2 of those dairies and 4 off those egg farms have gone out of business. The remaining egg farms and dairies are currently threatened with closure, due to rising production costs. This is primarily due to feed costs.

If we want to keep fresh, locally produced milk, eggs, beef, pork and chicken available to the residents of Hawaii, we need to help revitalize our dwindling livestock industry. A decrease or absence of livestock production increases the State's reliance on the importation of food and threatens the State's food security.

Locally produced livestock feed would help reduce the production costs of our protein producers making them more profitable, which will help to revitalize our livestock industry.

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

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 9:22 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2421 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2421

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Juanita Kawamoto Brown
Organization: Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hi
E-mail: farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

We strongly support this bill and the potential for livestock farmers who will benefit from a long awaited program that couldn't start at better time.