

HB2429 HD1

Testimony

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
MARCH 13, 2012
Room 229
2:50 P.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2429, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2429, House Draft 1. This bill proposes to allow ex-officio members of the Board of Agriculture to designate a representative to attend board meetings in their stead.

The Department strongly supports this bill. Currently, HRS section 26-16 requires that the Board of Agriculture be made up of 10 members, three of which are ex officio voting members: the Chairperson for the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, and the Dean of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Often the busy schedules of these ex officio members make it extremely difficult for them to attend board meetings and their inability to attend has resulted in failure of the board to act on matter requiring timely action.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE**

**Tuesday, March 13, 2012
2:50 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2429, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

House Bill 2429, House Draft 1 seeks to allow ex officio members of the Board of Agriculture to designate a representative to attend Board meetings in their place. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) **strongly supports** this Administrative measure.

The Chairperson of the Department serves on numerous boards and commissions, including the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Commission on Water Resource Management, the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission, and the aforementioned Board of Agriculture. However there could arise instances when the Chairperson of the Department is unable to attend meetings due to a conflict in schedule or illness. This measure would permit a designated representative of the Department to continue to participate in discussions and decisions of the Board of Agriculture.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



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

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March 13, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SEANTE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2429, HD1
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Room 229
2:50 PM

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, 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 support the intent of HB 2429, HD1 which would allow ex officio members of the Board of Agriculture to designate a representative for board meetings. HFBF appreciates that the intent of this measure is to help achieve quorum at meetings, however, we encourage that all designated representatives have proper agricultural experience and background and are knowledgeable about agricultural issues.

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