

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2012
9:00 A.M.
Room 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 2429
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2429. 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 matters requiring timely action





Hawaii Farm Bureau
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LATE TESTIMONY

FEBRUARY 10, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2429
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Room 312
9:00 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 support the intent of HB 2429 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.