



LATE TESTIMONY

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2012
8:00 A.M.
ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 2430 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2430. The purpose of this measure is to create an agricultural development and food security program within the Department of Agriculture. We strongly support this measure.

The goal of this measure is intended to integrate programs in order to develop Hawaii's agriculture and food security. Hawaii's agriculture has transformed from sugar and pineapple to diversified agriculture and now faces such complexities as diversified export markets, increased pest pressure, global competitiveness, sustainability, food safety, food security and self-sufficiency.

To move the agriculture industry forward and meet the needs of the industry, a coordinated effort with the agricultural, transportation, and business industries, research organizations, and other federal and state agencies will be required. Although the objectives appear simple and straightforward, the complexities can only be solved with cooperation and cohesive industry strategies and planning.



YH This program takes a holistic approach from farm-to-market, including subsystems which are not necessarily under the Department of Agriculture's purview, but critical to the development of agriculture. The overall concept overseen by the Department includes subsystems or subprograms such as farm inputs, labor, infrastructure, biosecurity, food safety, sustainability, market development, and research and development. The Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is the government agency best positioned to oversee the development of agriculture, with active participation from the agriculture industry, transportation, the University of Hawaii-College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), public and private research entities, and other Federal and State agencies.

Thank you for allowing us 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 ON HB 2430 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312
8:00 AM

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

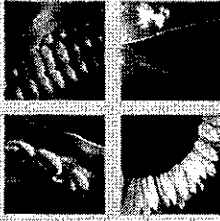
I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF is in strong support of SB 2692, creating an agricultural development and food security program within the Department of Agriculture.

During the 2010 Legislative Session, HFBF did something we have never done before. Historically, the organization has advocated for reduction in taxes. Yet, we realized that change was needed. Investments in agriculture were lagging and critical infrastructure repairs were not happening. Consistent funding for expansion in source development for water and infrastructure for expansion of agricultural production was needed. We therefore supported the expansion of the Environmental Revolving Fund to include Agricultural Development and Food Security.

This measure establishes the Agricultural Development and Food Security program in the Department of Agriculture which will use these funds to develop programs that will help to advance Hawaii's agricultural industry. This program will take a comprehensive approach that encompasses all aspects of agriculture to ensure the viability and success of Hawaii agriculture.

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



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LATE TESTIMONY

Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti
HB 2430 – Relating to Agriculture
The House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, February 1, 2012
8:00 a.m., Room 312

Position: Support

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, a nonprofit trade association representing Hawaii seed farmers.

We support HB 2430 as an attempt by the State Department of Agriculture to provide a comprehensive and strategic approach to addressing many of the challenges facing agricultural viability and sustainability in Hawaii. Seed farmers – like many other commodity groups including the landscape, floral and coffee farmers – may not be growing crops or produce that contributes to meeting our food security goals. But that does not diminish the important role that we play in providing Hawaii with important export markets that elevate Hawaii as a global competitor.

We believe that the HDOA understands, embraces and values all forms of agriculture. HB 2430 would allow the HDOA to move forward a program and plan that is important to the agricultural viability and sustainability – above and beyond just food.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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hashem1 - Julie

From: Glenn Martinez [hfuglenn@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 6:47 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Late testimony

LATE TESTIMONY

>> Please accept my late testimony on Bill HB 2430
>>
>> As President of Hawaii Farmers Union United, we are SUPPORT HB 2430
>>
>> We are hopeful that the Dept of Ag can support the farmers of Hawaii as an advocate of marketing and food production.
>>
>> This bill will challenge the DOA to organize and promote the financial success of Hawaii Farmers.
>>
>> IF the DOH cannot Support this bill it will show their true colors.
>>
>> Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.
>>
>> Aloha,
>> Glenn Martinez