NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor

RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, March 21, 2012
9:00 A.M.
Room 312

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 138

ENDORSING THE RENAMING OF THE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS (STEM) INITIATIVES TO THE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING AGRICULTURE MATHEMATICS (STEAM) INITIATIVES

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution No. 138. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this resolution that requests the existing six STEM organizations (University of Hawaii at Manoa Colleges of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and Engineering; the departments of Education and Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; the Hawaii Robotics Organizing Committee; and the Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii, Inc.; and the Hawaii 3Ts School Technology Laboratories Fund) to address in their respective written supplemental reports to the 2013 State Legislature, the following issues:

1. Recommendations on how agriculture can be integrated into current science, technology, engineering, and mathematics initiatives;

2. The economic value of expanded workforce development capacity of agriculture and related industries; and

3. The status of each entity's agriculture initiatives, activities, and recommendations for long-term expansion and funding requirements.

We believe it is through educational initiatives such as proposed in the STEAM initiatives, that the skill sets needed in the many agricultural related employment opportunities will be met and the outcome will help continue moving agriculture forward as an important component of a diversified Hawaii economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.