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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 AM  
ROOM 312

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 147  
REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE  
MEASUREMENT STANDARDS BRANCH WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 147. The purpose of this resolution is to request the auditor to conduct a management audit to determine the current state of the Measurement Standards Branch and make recommendations on the resources needed to fully carry out its purpose and responsibilities. The Department supports this resolution.

The objectives of the Measurement Standards Branch is to minimize inaccuracy or fraudulent practices in commercial measurement, labeling, and pricing to reduce losses for sellers and consumers through a program of licensing, inspecting, testing, calibrating, and investigating. Duties of the Branch inspectors include device inspection of scales, retail petroleum pumps, and taximeters; packaging inspections pertaining to the quantity, labeling and pricing of packages, and retail price scanners.

Over the years, positions within the Measurement Standards Branch have been reduced through attrition and, in addition, the reduction-in-force in 2009 has reduced the staff to three Measurement Standards inspectors, one metrologist and two clerks remaining. This has further reduced the Branch's ability to fulfill its mandated responsibilities.



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