



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

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LATE TESTIMONY

March 21, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY ON HR73/HCR101
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO IMPLEMENT AN
INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO PROMOTE THE PURCHASE OF HAWAII GROWN
AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

HR74/HCR102
CONVENING AN AGRICULTURE POLICY TASK FORCE TO REVIEW AGRICULTURAL
POLICIES FROM OTHER STATES IN PROVIDING FOR HAWAII'S AGRICULTURE
INDUSTRY

HR75/HCR103
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S EFFORTS
TO STIMULATE THE STATE'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY, INCREASE AND
DIVERSIFY AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT, AND PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY

Room 312
9:00 AM

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

I am Dean Okimoto, President of 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 this package of resolutions providing a framework for policy support of the agricultural industry.

Hawaii's State Constitution, State Policies as defined in HRS 226, various County General Plans and most recently the Governor's Platform of a New Day all speak to the importance of agriculture to Hawaii's future.

At the same time, efforts are often disconnected, with many pointing to the Department of Agriculture to carry out this mission. There may have been a time during abundant resources that such an order may have been reasonable. However, times have

changed and the demands on the Department expanded. Hawaii's support of agriculture cannot just lie in the Department's hands or that of the legislature but needs to be a collaborative public private partnership. Developing the relationships and commitments will be a significant first step to solidifying the foundation for Hawaii's agricultural future and therefore our level of self sufficiency and sustainability.

Discussions by the parties identified in HR74/HCR102 to craft a comprehensive plan that has a broad foundation, supported by the individual department budgets and goals and legislative priorities in 2013-2014 will be a major breakthrough in providing actual support to implementing the various policies speaking to supporting agriculture in the State.

We respectfully request your strong support of these resolutions.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
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LATE TESTIMONY

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 102
CONVENING AN AGRICULTURE POLICY TASK FORCE TO REVIEW AGRICULTURAL
POLICIES FROM OTHER STATES IN PROVIDING FOR HAWAII'S AGRICULTURE
INDUSTRY

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 102. The purpose of this resolution is to convene an agriculture policy task force to review agricultural policies from other states in providing for Hawaii's agriculture industry.

The Department believes strongly in the importance of good agricultural practices, water resources, air quality, and food safety. However, the Department wishes to highlight its lack of resources that would make it difficult to fully carry out the requests outlined in this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

