

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



State of Hawaii
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Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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LATE

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011
TIME 9:20 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 1142, S.D. 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Ige and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 1142, S.D.1. The purpose of this bill is to establish a food safety and security program within the department of agriculture, to make an appropriation to the department to meet the objectives of the program and to provide a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to the *4Ag Hawaii* non-profit corporation to expand the outreach and e-educational initiatives begun in 2010. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this bill with reservations due to possible duplication of services currently under department purview.

The Department strongly supports the adoption of good agricultural practices to provide the safest food possible to consumers statewide and recognizes that this position is in alignment with the Food Safety Modernization Act, signed into law by President Obama on January 4, 2011.

The Department also recognizes and supports efforts to provide additional outreach and education activities on all aspects of food safety to the visitor industry, the agricultural industry and the educational community. We concur with your committee's finding that these activities serve a public purpose and will help the state move towards improved food safety and food security.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.