

RE: SB2272

Dear Legislators,

My name is Michael Kohn. I am the owner of Hawaii Fruit Company. Since 1988 we have packed and shipped papayas to overseas markets. All of our markets have one thing in common. They do not require phytosanitary treatment. The problem for us but also most shippers in Hawaii is that those markets are very limited, such as Vancouver, BC with some 2 million consumers. Markets like the US Mainland or Japan that require phytosanitary treatment have remained off limits to us. This is because the few treatment facilities that remain in Hawaii either do not allow us to treat or are otherwise not accessible. Combined these markets represent over 430 million consumers. It seems obvious that the industry including growers will do better if these markets are accessible to all and not just a very few.

Japan, that requires phytosanitary treatment, recently approved GM papayas. This came after 13 years of exhausting studies by the USDA. Yet those companies that monopolize the Japan market refuse to promote and ship GM papayas from Hawaii. It should not be left to a few for the detriment of many. The Hawaii papaya industry needs those markets. More demand must be generated, not less.

When I started this business in 1988, the demand for papayas resulted in a farm price of 30 cents per lb. For most of 2011 demand has been so poor that prices were still at 30 cents. At these price levels, farmers cannot produce high quality fruits. They simply cannot afford to buy needed fertilizer or pesticides or keep their equipment running.

I am also president and founder of Pa'ina Hawaii that will soon offer irradiation treatment to any papaya shipper and grower in Hawaii. I am not worried about additional or potentially competing treatment capacities. I am worried about the health of the industry. The irradiator and the proposed heat treatment facility in SB 2272 will surely open up markets for Hawaii's papaya industry. It will increase demand for papayas and increase prices for farmers not just for the few monopolies.

I strongly support SB 2272.

Aloha,



Michael Kohn
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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: oyama_farm@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2272 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 2:39:30 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2272

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Roy Oyama
Organization: HPIA BD> Member, Treasure
E-mail: oyama_farm@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

I am on the bd. but was not contact to join the meeting, so I inquired, with resulting information that the packers controlled the meeting.
HPIA is to represent the farmers!! If no farmer
no packing house!! Farmers are looking for better future but limited packers have not paid a very fair price to growers. That is why they have not or will not openly say so!! Also for this funding!!

Iam for the farmer as I have farmed over 50 plus years!!

Roy Oyama
Mahalo