

**TESTIMONY**

**SB2332, SD1**

**AGL/WLH, HTH**  
**Committee Hearing**  
**02-27-2012**

Testimony for HTH 2/27/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2332

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Brenda Kosky

Organization: Individual

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Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:



**Hawaii Farm Bureau**  
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FEBRUARY 27, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TESTIMONY ON SB 2332, SD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 229  
2:45 PM

Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

I am **Brian Miyamoto**, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for 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 supports the intent of SB 2332, HD1**, which proposes to exempt certain producers of agricultural products from processing the product in a certified honey house or food-processing establishment, or obtaining a permit from the department of health.

HFBF recognizes that honey bees play a critical role in Hawaii agriculture. Honey bee problems are problems for all of us since many local crops are pollinated by bees. Hawaii produces some of the finest quality honey and there is a growing demand for artisan Hawaiian honeys.

HFBF supports the continued viability of honey bee stocks and the growth of Hawaii's honey industry. With regards to the amendments to §328-79, which increases the exempted amount of honey that a home-based honey producers can sell and also allows the home-based honey producers to sell directly to retail outlets, HFBF supports the intent of the amendments which may encourage more people to go into the beekeeping business. We defer to DOA and DOH to determine the appropriate actions, if any, are needed if the amendments are adopted.

I can be reached at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.