

SB2351

Testimony

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
January 31, 2012
2:45 P.M.

SENATE BILL NO. 2351
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2351, which requires the Department of Agriculture to maintain an online system of licensure for dealers of farm products and establishes a department of agriculture operations special fund to support this system. The Department supports this bill.

The Department has scheduled a meeting with the High Technology Development Corporation to formulate department-specific ideas for transaction items to be implemented on the eHawaii.gov site and will also be looking into a broad-band initiative which is looking at ways we can use the internet to provide more access and increase our efficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2351

January 31, 2012

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Senate Bill No. 2351 requires the Department of Agriculture to establish and maintain an online system of licensure for commission merchants, dealers, brokers, agents, processors, and retail merchants of farm products and creates an operations special fund to administer the program.

While the Department of Budget and Finance does not take any position on the policy of establishing an online system of licensures, as a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of special funds which do not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Special or revolving funds should: 1) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program; 2) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 3) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. In regards to Senate Bill No. 2351, it is difficult to determine whether the fund will be self-sustaining.