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Thursday, March 29, 2012
2:00 pm
Conference Room 325
House Committee on Judiciary
SB 2354 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee,

I am Janet Ashman, testifying on behalf 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF strongly supports this measure that will strengthen existing law to make sure that the certificate *already required* when transporting or selling agricultural commodities is meaningful. By including other information and validation of I.D., the document will help police trace back where and from whom the farm product originated.

Existing provisions in the law are not deterring thieves and theft from farms has become rampant throughout the islands. No farmer can guard every inch of his property every minute of the day and night. Although we are working with our local police departments and they are aware of the increase in agricultural crime and are trying to help, they don't have the staff to be everywhere at all times. This bill was introduced at the behest of and with the participation of the county prosecutors' offices to help deter agricultural theft.

Thieves have become so brazen that they are now taking orders from farmers' markets and filling them by stealing fruits and vegetables right from farmers' fields the night before their promised delivery.

Although the current law requires ownership and movement certification documents for the transportation and sale of agricultural commodities over two hundred pounds or worth at least \$100, these documents are easily falsified. This bill clarifies the current requirements and requires proof of identification.

High land, labor, and shipping costs, competition from the mainland and foreign countries, and a myriad of other factors such as disease and pests make farming an especially risky venture in Hawaii. These thefts are serious and threaten farmers' entire livelihood.

Please help support our local farmers by passing out this bill with the requested amendments. Please call Janet Ashman at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions.



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY

SENATE BILL 2354, SD1, HD1

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

PRESENTED TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

MARCH 2012

CHAIRPERSON KEITH-AGARAN and Members of the Committee:

STRONG SUPPORT.

My name is Loren Mochida, Director of Agricultural Operations at W. H. Shipman, Limited in Keaau on the Big Island. We are a local kamaaina-family owned land management company that is engaged in Agriculture and Commercial/Industrial development and leasing. We currently lease lands to over 130 individually growers at W.H. Shipman, Ltd.

W. H. Shipman, Ltd., and their growers provide strong support to SB 2354, SD1, HD1 Relating to Agricultural Commodities. This will establish criminal penalties for failure to maintain ownership of agricultural products or commodities. It will also assist in enforcement and deter thefts and the profits that thieves gain from them by clarifying the current requirements and requiring proof of identification upon sale of farm goods to buyers.

The majority of stolen products or commodities are often sold to vendors at the local farmers markets on the islands. In order to restrain people from selling stolen agricultural products or commodities, a certificate of ownership or written proof of ownership shall be required or they face criminal offenses.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2354, SD1, HD1.

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:57 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: hooluanaranch@yahoo.com

Testimony for JUD 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM SB2354

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Luana Beck

Organization: Individual

E-mail: hooluanaranch@yahoo.com

Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

Aloha!

Agricultural theft in Hawaii is on the rise "today". Many families financially affected by agricultural theft support this measure, as I do, with one exception. This bill needs an effective date prior to 2030 for those victims of agricultural theft. Mahalo!

Luana Beck

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:13 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony for JUD 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM SB2354

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Alan Gottlieb

Organization: Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

E-mail: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 5:07 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: karin@princevilleranch.com

Testimony for JUD 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM SB2354

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Karin Carswell Guest

Organization: Princeville Ranch

E-mail: karin@princevilleranch.com

Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:09 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: PSGMikilua@aol.com

Testimony for JUD 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM SB2354

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser

Organization: Mikilua Farm Bureau Center

E-mail: PSGMikilua@aol.com

Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

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mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:20 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: jacinthow001@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony for JUD 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM SB2354

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: William Jacintho

Organization: Maui Cattlemen's Association

E-mail: jacinthow001@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:20 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: kwood@parkerranch.com

Testimony for JUD 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM SB2354

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: keoki wood

Organization: Hawaii Cattlemens Council

E-mail: kwood@parkerranch.com

Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:03 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: kaimiunger@gmail.com

Testimony for JUD 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM SB2354

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Keith Unger

Organization: McCandless Ranch

E-mail: kaimiunger@gmail.com

Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:29 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: jimmygomes@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony for JUD 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM SB2354

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: jimmy gomes

Organization: ulupalakua ranch

E-mail: jimmygomes@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:15 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: lanipetrie@aol.com

Testimony for JUD 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM SB2354

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Lani C. Petrie

Organization: Individual

E-mail: lanipetrie@aol.com

Submitted on: 3/28/2012.

Comments:

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:24 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: afrancokaupo@gmail.com

Testimony for JUD 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM SB2354

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Alex Franco

Organization: Individual

E-mail: afrancokaupo@gmail.com

Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

Controlling agricultural theft in our industry is critical, having the ability to police ownership of products will help farmers deter theft, allowing them to focus on producing products for a growing local market.

Thank You,

Alex Franco

Maui Cattle Company

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

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mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:39 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: fmencher@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony for JUD 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM SB2354

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Frederick M. Mencher

Organization: Individual

E-mail: fmencher@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for SB2354 on 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:52 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: diamondbranchhi@aol.com

Testimony for JUD 3/29/2012 2:00:00 PM SB2354

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Brendan Balthazar

Organization: Maui Cattlemens Assn.

E-mail: diamondbranchhi@aol.com

Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

Agg theft has gone on long enough. Penalties need to be large enough that it is a deterrent.