



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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LATE

Thursday, February 9, 2012
1:15 am
Conference Room 225
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

Testimony on SB 2377

RELATING TO HUNTING

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon, 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

We **strongly support** this simple bill that would require people who want to hunt on private property, our ranches and farms, to get written permission from our farmers and ranchers.

Despite the title, this bill isn't really about hunting; it's certainly not about the right to bear arms. Many of our members are hunters themselves and own and use guns. They are not against hunting or hunters.

This bill is about **CRIMINAL TRESPASS**. It is about people who come onto others' property with deadly weapons. When they're caught, *if* they're caught, they say they have permission to be there.

This measure would provide a bright line for farmers and ranchers and for law enforcement to enforce the current laws that prohibit trespass, that prohibit hunting without permission, that prohibit hunting at night.

Our farmer and rancher members and many law enforcement officers believe that trespassing with a gun should be a felony offense. Not a misdemeanor. It's dangerous; the farmer or rancher doesn't know what the trespassers are doing on the property, whether they are legitimately hunting or if they're there to kill the farmer or rancher, slaughter his livestock, or steal his equipment or crops. These illegal activities are becoming rampant throughout the islands and we need the tools to put a stop to them.

Thank you very much for your support of Hawaii's farmers and ranchers.