



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

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: info@hfbf.org
www.hfbf.org

February 9, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2512
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

Room 225
2:45 PM

Chair Gabbard, Chair Fukunaga, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

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 strongly supports SB 2512, which increases the amount of the per-barrel allocation of the barrel tax to the Energy Security Special Fund and the Agricultural Development and Food Security Special Fund from 15 cents to 45 cents.

Sustainability, self-sufficiency and growing agriculture are popular concepts seen in many of the measures before the legislature this year. This Legislative Session, there have been many bills introduced that support of Hawaii's Agricultural Industry. This year, HFBF has introduced a package of measures addressing the real needs of our farmers and ranchers all associated with increasing farm and ranch viability. These include infrastructure needs, agricultural crime, permitting, and regulatory assistance.

Many of the bills introduced in support of agriculture identify the Agricultural Development and Food Security Fund as the funding source. If the Agricultural Development and Food Security Fund allocation isn't increased, these critical agriculture initiatives may go unfunded. HFBF respectfully request your support of this measure.

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



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

LATE

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT;
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY; AND AGRICULTURE

Thursday, February 9, 2011
Room 225
3:45 P.M.

SENATE BILL NO. 2512
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

Chairpersons Gabbard, Fukunaga, and Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 2512 that proposes to increase the existing allocation of the Act 73, SLH 2010 \$1.05 per barrel tax revenue to the Agricultural Development and Food Security Special Fund and the Energy Security Special Fund from \$0.15 per barrel to each fund to \$0.30 each; renaming the Hawaii Economic Development Task Force to the Hawaii Food and Energy Security Council and have it continue the responsibilities identified in Act 73 until June 30, 2014; and appropriate \$8 million each to the food and energy special funds for FY12-13, and any funds unexpended or unencumbered as of June 30, 2013 not lapsing to the general fund.

The Department of Agriculture offers comments. The Department is fully aware of the State's difficult budgetary situation and the need to identify and support the State's critical priorities. In this regard, we defer to the Department of Budget and Finance in addressing the needs of the State given the most recent forecast by the Council on Revenues. However, when the State's fiscal position improves serious



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consideration should be given to fulfilling the intent of Act 73 in moving towards increased self-sufficiency in food and energy for Hawaii.

The Department would like to take this opportunity to commend the 15 members of the Hawaii Economic Development Task Force who committed their time, expertise, and creativity over the past two years in developing a comprehensive approach to reversing the export of \$8 billion annually for food and energy. I also thank the diligence and resourcefulness of the supporting staff whose efforts made it possible for the Task Force to complete their final report and recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.