



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

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2012
10:00 AM
ROOM 308

SENATE BILL NO. 2695 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK FEED

Chairperson Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2695 Senate Draft 2 House Draft 1. The purpose of this bill is to create a livestock feed feasibility pilot project to investigate the viability of a livestock feed program and allocate matching funds for a federal construction grant to build a pilot-scale feed mill. We are in support of this bill.

The rising cost of feed has a significant impact on production costs for our local protein producers. Since 2007, two dairies and four egg farms have gone out of business primarily due to the rising cost of feed for livestock animals. Currently, only four egg farms remain and they are being threatened by closure which would heighten the State's dependence on imported foods and threaten the State's food security and self-sufficiency. Without these local agricultural businesses, all beef, milk, pork, chicken, fish, and eggs would have to be imported into the State, requiring up to ten days of shipping before being sold to consumers. This pilot project and pilot-scale feed mill would assess the viability of growing livestock feed in Hawaii and look to reducing the cost of feed and increase the profitability of our local protein producers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

