



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

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March 16, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2695, SD2
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK FEED

Room 312
10:00 AM

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

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.

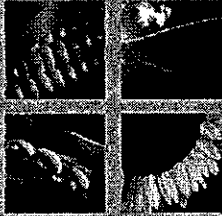
HFBF strongly supports SB 2695, SD2 which creates a livestock feed feasibility pilot project to investigate the viability of a livestock feed program on Department of Agriculture land.

Hawaii's livestock industry faces numerous challenges. One of their biggest challenges is the rising cost of feed for livestock production. These costs have been a contributing factor to the decline of the state's livestock industry.

In 2007, there were 5 dairies and 6 egg farms in Hawaii. Since then, 2 of those dairies and 4 off those egg farms have gone out of business. The remaining egg farms and dairies are currently threatened with closure, due to rising production costs. This is primarily due to feed costs.

If we want to keep fresh, locally produced milk, eggs, beef, pork and chicken available to the residents of Hawaii, we need to help revitalize our dwindling livestock industry. A decrease or absence of livestock production increases the State's reliance on the importation of food and threatens the State's food security.

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



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Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti
SB 2695 SD 2 – Relating to Livestock Feed
The House Committees on Agriculture
and Economic Revitalization and Business
Friday, March 16, 2012
10 a.m., Room 312

Position: Support

Aloha Chairs Tsuji and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Hashem and Choy, and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, a nonprofit trade association representing Hawaii seed farmers.

We support SB 2695 SD 1 and believe that it is an important first step to understanding the feasibility of providing feed for Hawaii's struggling livestock industry. With the leadership of the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture, the various stakeholders will be able to move from dialogue to action after years of attempting to address the challenges in our state. Regardless of the outcome – it is a process that many in the agricultural community recognizes and supports.

Hawaii's seed farmers look forward to collaborating with our agricultural allies and working on a solution to address our food security challenges in Hawaii. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:25 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jsgreenwell@lanihau.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2695 on 3/16/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/16/2012 10:00:00 AM SB2695

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James S. Greenwell
Organization: Palani ranch Company
E-mail: jsgreenwell@lanihau.net
Submitted on: 3/14/2012

Comments:

Developing more local feed sources is vital to growing more protien locally and would help both livestock producers, farmers and consumers.

hashem3 - Casey

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 8:26 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: diamondbranchhi@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2695 on 3/16/2012 10:00:00 AM

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Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brendan Balthazar
Organization: Maui Cattlemens Assn.
E-mail: diamondbranchhi@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/14/2012

Comments:

hashem3 - Casey

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:55 PM
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Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wayne Shimokawa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: wislts@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/14/2012

Comments: