



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2012
10:00 AM
ROOM 312

SENATE BILL NO. 2695 SD2
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK FEED

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2695 Senate Draft 2. The purpose of this bill is to create a livestock feed feasibility pilot project to investigate the viability of a livestock feed program on Department of Agriculture land. We are in support of this bill but we would ask for the committee to defer the bill to a later date to allow us to work on solidifying the requested funding amount and potentially identify project partners.

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 one dairy and 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, 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 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. Working together with private and public research organizations and the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources staff will deliver the best results.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:00 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: bcraven@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: britt craven
Organization: palani ranch
E-mail: bcraven@lanihau.net
Submitted on: 3/15/2012

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

State Democratic Headquarters ♦ 1050 Ala Moana Boulevard, D26 ♦ Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96814
(808) 596-2980 ♦ <http://EnvironmentalCaucusoftheDemocraticPartyofHawaii.com>

March 16, 2012

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2695 SD2 **LATE TESTIMONY**

Aloha Chairman Rep. Clift Tsuji and Chairman Rep. Angus McKelvey and members of the committees on Agriculture and Economic Revitalization and Business. My name is Mrs. Juanita C. Kawamoto Brown, Subcommittee Chair of Food and Farm Sustainability of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, Executive Board member at Large and a Native Hawaiian citizen advocate.

I am here to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 2695 – Relating to the Livestock feed feasibility pilot project. The ECDPH introduced SB 1156 relating to the need for task force to address local feed mills and agricultural cooperatives as part of our initial platform issue and are greatly encouraged at the introduction of this bill. ECDPH has presented this concern for local feed mills to the 2011 Oahu County Democratic convention at which time the convention voted in strong support and adoption of a the resolution to support this endeavor.

The need for local fresh feed and the development of local grown feed ingredients will literally turn our livestock industry back into a thriving and successful agribusiness that will support and sustain us to true food security

Senate Bill 2695 will create a bill that will support food farms who are dedicated to addressing food security for all the people of Hawaii. The passing of this bill will build the integral foundations and solutions for food self sufficiency for many farmers, small businesses and community based cooperatives who are locally based looking to stimulate Hawaii's agribusiness economy. Hawaii needs to be able to find our food farm resources ready and willing to feed the people of Hawaii, reduce the import of out of state and out of country foods that could be easily grown here in our own state which then keeps our local economy thriving via more local jobs and other local green career oriented businesses that are developed as a result of small family farms and all agricultural industry dedicated to true food security.

Please support this bill and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Juanita C. Kawamoto Brown
Subcommittee Chair
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii
Democratic State Headquarters
1050 Ala Moana Blvd, D26
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

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THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 16, 2012
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: Testimony in strong support of SB 2695 SD2 RELATING TO LIVESTOCK FEED FEASIBILITY

Aloha Chairs Tsuji and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Hashem and Choy, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association (HAAA), representing Hawaii's aquaculture and aquaponics industry statewide, strongly supports SB 2695 SD2. This bill Creates a livestock feed feasibility pilot project to investigate the viability of growing and processing livestock feed on land held by the department of agriculture.

Feed costs are typically one of the highest costs if not the highest cost in most aquaculture operations. At present all aquaculture feeds are imported, with transportations costs increasing total feed costs by as much as 50 percent, i.e., a 24 ft container of feed for freshwater fish currently costs approx.. \$16,000, and the costs of overland transportation, ocean freight, wharfage and fuel service charges, and local delivery add another \$8,000, for a combined cost of approx. \$24,000. Marine fish feeds cost significantly more. The only way for Hawaii aquaculture to reach its full potential is to develop a local source of high-quality fish feed made from locally grown and locally sourced products and by-products.

The HAAA therefore respectfully requests the House Committee on Agriculture to pass SB2695 SD2 for the benefit of Hawaii's farmers and ranchers who use commercial feeds to produce their livestock products including fish and shellfish.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Ronald P. Weidenbach
HAAA President