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February 23, 2012
9:00 am
Room 211

SENATE
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony on SB 2739 SD1
RELATING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, 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.

The Farm Bureau strongly supports the mission and work of the SBRRB. Our farmer and rancher members have benefited from the Board's conscientious review of rules, some of which would have otherwise negatively impacted food production in Hawaii.

We are concerned that because of limited resources and minimal staff support within DBEDT, the Board, which consists of volunteer members, may be unable to continue to fulfill its mission.

Although the Farm Bureau does not presume to know how best to ensure adequate funding for the SBRRB, we support the concept of fees to be charged to each agency submitting rules to the board.

Thank you for your support of agriculture in Hawaii through your support of the Small Business Regulatory Review Board. Please call Janet Ashman at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions.