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TESTIMONY
OF
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ADMINISTRATOR
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TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEES
ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
AND
WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

February 14, 2012

1:30 p.m.

SB 3059

RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY.

Chairs Fukunaga and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Wakai and Solomon, and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 3059. This bill allows an exemption from HRS chapter 103D, Hawaii Public Procurement Code, for services of a coordinator or facilitator to implement Act 181, SLH 2011.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) opposes the exemption language on page 2, lines 8 to 10 of this bill. The bill identifies the "*contract for a coordinator or facilitator*", essentially services for a consultant which the department may solicit using the procurement method pursuant to HRS section 103D-303, competitive sealed proposals (CSP).

Public procurement's primary objective is to provide everyone equal opportunity to compete for government contracts, to prevent favoritism, collusion or fraud in awarding of contracts. To the extent agencies may need specific purchases to be exempt from the procurement code requirements; the code provides an exemption process.

There is no compelling reason to statutorily exempt the award of a contract for consultant/specific services from the requirements of HRS chapter 103D since current statutes and administrative rules already provides independence and flexibility in the awarding of contracts.

The SPO recommends the exempt language on page 2, lines 8 to 10 be deleted. Thank you.

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February 14, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING

TESTIMONY ON SB 3059
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

Room 225
1:30 PM

Chair Fukunaga, Chair Dela Cruz, 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 supports with comment SB 3059 requiring the Office of Planning to establish guidelines and benchmarks for sustainability.

During the AFBF Convention held recently in Honolulu, the President of American Farm Bureau Federation told nearly 7,000 farmers and ranchers from across the country, we are the 1% providing for the 99%. This clearly articulates the reality of agriculture today. Highly productive farmers and ranchers are able to provide for many, providing opportunities for people to pursue career choices without having to worry where their food comes from. These farmers and ranchers also support not only their families but provide employment and support other businesses in the community.

We have often found the role of agriculture ignored at sustainability discussions. Agriculture must be at the table for these discussions. We are the ones that must deliver agricultural products that provide the basis for sustainability and should have a

voice in ensuring that the key elements to allow us to deliver these results are addressed.

Identification of key indicators for measuring sustainability and metrics to determine progress is critical. This year, there are measures in the legislature targeted at improving viability of agriculture. We hope that those supporting this bill will also support these measures as implementation can begin today. We do not need to wait for the results of a study.

We do agree with the need for data. The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service has been the collector and repository of agricultural data and annually publishes the Hawaii Agricultural Statistics. Much of the data requested in this measure is already available. However, due to cutbacks, their ability to collect and analyze data has been severely curtailed. What is needed is a restoration of capacity for the Department to collect data, not just food but all agricultural data. We understand some of the positions are being restored, however, County level data previously available may no longer be possible. This information is important as it guides access to funds and other critical matters for agriculture. Support of restoration of this program which operates in conjunction with Federal funds will provide key data points that can be related to historical information.

HFBF respectfully requests your support in moving this measure forward, specifically including agriculture as a participant and identifying other policies and steps that can incrementally move efforts in sustainability forward, beyond studies.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our views on this issue.