

# **HB487HD2**

## **Testimony**



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

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March 19, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 487, HD2  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 229  
2:45 PM

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Dean Okimoto, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,950 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 is in strong support of HB 487, HD2 which provides funds to allow qualified beef cattle, dairy, hog, poultry, goat, sheep, fish, and crustacean farms to apply for funds for their farm's feed expenses and creates a subsidy for qualified feed developers.

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, 3 those dairies and 4 off those egg farms have gone out of business. The remaining egg farms and another dairy are currently threatened with closure, due to rising production costs. Primarily due to feed costs.

HB 487, HD2 seeks to revitalize Hawaii's livestock industries by reimbursing qualified livestock producers up to sixty percent of their farm's feed expenses. This bill will help keep fresh, locally produced milk, eggs, beef, pork, poultry, sheep, goat, fish, and crustaceans available to the residents of Hawaii and will help to 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/16/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
corey gillins	Big Island Dairy	Support	No

Comments:

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/17/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William G. Jacintho	Maui Cattlemen's Association	Support	No

Comments:

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/17/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ron Weidenbach	Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association	Support	No

Comments: The HAAA strongly supports the intent of this measure. However, we respectfully request one amendment to address an important and unintended technical oversight whereby the rate of feed reimbursement for fish and crustaceans is omitted. Therefore, please amend Section 4, (d) (1) to read: "Sixty percent of the feed costs incurred for the production of poultry, fish, and crustacean products;". The feed costs for fish and crustaceans is typically sixty to seventy percent of total production costs, being seventy percent during the current feed crisis, so the grouping of poultry, fish, and crustaceans together is appropriate and respectfully requested.

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Email: [communications@uluponoinitiative.com](mailto:communications@uluponoinitiative.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Thursday, March 19, 2013 — 2:45 p.m. — Room 229

### **Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 487 HD2, Relating to Agriculture**

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally grown food, increase renewable energy, and reduce/recycle waste. Ulupono invests in projects that have the potential to create large-scale, innovative change.

Ulupono is testifying **strongly in favor** of **HB 487 HD2**, which would extend the livestock feed subsidy to help Hawai'i farms hit hard by the recent drought in Hawai'i and the Midwest. The bill would disburse up to \$200,000 or 15 percent of anticipated feed costs for sheep, goat, cattle, dairy, hog, poultry, fish, and crustacean farms. The subsidy is needed for Hawai'i's livestock producers to break even due to much higher-than-normal feed costs resulting from the devastating Midwest drought, which increased prices another 20 percent since last year. According to the USDA, corn prices have risen 97 percent since the 2009 season, the last year of stable feed prices.

Feed costs for livestock production in Hawai'i can comprise 70 percent of production cost, compared to 50 percent for Mainland producers, which has contributed to the decline of the local livestock industry. While the industry works to create more homegrown feed, the subsidy is needed to help sustain the industry through these drought-stricken times. Funding for this measure can come from a modest shift in the barrel tax.

The \$3 million annual cost of this measure should be compared to its benefits. If the support were removed before the industry had created alternative local feed, the tax revenues that the livestock industry provides would be lost. For example, what would be the consequence if just ONE of the industries supported by this measure failed?

Hawai'i's struggling egg industry is the most vulnerable and reported farm gate revenue of \$8.7 million (2008), which translates to direct and indirect economic impact to the State of \$16.53 million annually, another \$4.3 million direct to farmer revenue; \$0.55 million in state tax revenue annually. Thus, if we support the livestock industry, we get \$500,000 EVERY YEAR in revenue back to the State from the poultry industry alone. The numbers are correspondingly higher when the entire industry that this bill supports is considered.

If the Hawai'i egg industry were to lose the battle to survive, these economic benefits would be lost, along with the rich tradition of generations of farmer experience. When we lose the people that know how to manage the business, we lose the ability to bring the business back. We often lose the infrastructure the industry manages. Restoring an industry takes millions of new investment, far higher than maintaining it.

Ulupono has joined with a diverse group of organizations who have come together for the first time as the Local Food Coalition to support proposals designed to help grow more local food. The coalition brings together farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations. The idea is that putting more local food on local plates can best be accomplished by bringing people and organizations together who can work on the entire food value chain in a systematic way.

We believe that working together we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta  
General Partner

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Time: 2:45

Place: Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Re: HB 487 HD2

Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair Ronald D. Kouchi and honorable members of the committee:

I strongly **support** HB 487 HD2.

As a family member of Petersons' Upland Farm, I have seen firsthand how much the feed subsidy bill had made a difference. If the previous feed subsidy didn't happen, we don't know if our farm would be here today. For most farms, the highest cost is for feed. For us in particular, last year feed was 40% of our total costs and has been continually increasing. Please help us keep local agriculture alive.

Please help Hawaii's farms and vote yes for HB 487 HD2.

Sincerely,

James Peterson

1973 Eames St

Wahiawa, HI 96786



Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Time: 2:45

Place: Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Re: HB 487 HD2

Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair Ronald D. Kouchi and honorable members of the committee:

I strongly **support** HB 487 HD2.

As a family member of Petersons' Upland Farm, I have seen firsthand how much the feed subsidy bill had made a difference. If the previous feed subsidy didn't happen, we don't know if our farm would be here today. For most farms, the highest cost is for feed. For us in particular, last year feed was 40% of our total costs and has been continually increasing. Please help us keep local agriculture alive.

Please help Hawaii's farms and vote yes for HB 487 HD2.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Peterson

1973 Eames St

Wahiawa, HI 96786

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**Attachments:** [Feed Subsidy 2013 Testimony](#)

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Takaki	Mali Moa LLC	Support	No

Comments: I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL.

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Minda Takaki	Maili Moa, LLC	Support	No

Comments: I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB487 BILL. HERE IN THE ISLANDS, AGRICULTURE IS VERY IMPORTANT. WE ARE AN ISLAND AND WE NEED TO TRY TO SUSTAIN OURSELVES. I KNOW THAT THIS BILL IS A TEMPORARY FIX BUT FOR RIGHT NOW ANY HELP IS GOOD HELP. LIVE STOCK FARMERS ARE STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE. WE NEED YOUR HELP SO THAT WE CAN BE LESS DEPENDENT ON MAINLAND IMPORTS.

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Hawaii's Agricultural Partnership

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Tuesday March 19, 2013 2:45 PM Room 229

### **HB 487 HD 2 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Expands livestock feed subsidy to include feed for goats, sheep, lambs, fish and crustaceans. Creates a subsidy for qualified feed developers. Appropriates funds

#### **4 Ag Hawaii supports HB 487 HD 2**

Hawaii's family owned livestock farms are dependent on imported feeds and are experiencing significant feed price increases and such increases are projected by the USDA Farm Service Agency to continue for the rest of 2013 until the next successful grain harvest. In the meantime, our farmers and ranchers can expect to pay premium prices for imported grains and feeds. In order for Hawaii's livestock producers to meet these much higher-than-normal feed costs, a short term feed subsidy is needed.

Furthermore, HD 2 adds a subsidy for a Livestock Feed Development, which we strongly support. **Grants, tax credits and subsidies cannot go on forever, and developing our own local feed sources are an integral part of making Hawaii's livestock industries more self sufficient.**

4 Ag Hawaii is a non-profit 501[c] [3] corporation established as a public-private partnership focused on goals that include: promoting the agricultural economic welfare of Hawai'i and its counties; conducting agricultural economic; educational & media programs, and fostering statewide interest for responsible agricultural economic development of our islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Franco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anita Peterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Kahn-Langer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Honorable Legislators, I read the bill and the amendments. I see no need for creating this subsidy. It is poorly written without appropriate checks and balances as to who may qualify for for the subsidies. Looks like a boondogle to me. Please vote NO. Mahalo, Barbara Kahn-Langer

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**HB487**

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
brian Murphy	Individual	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Pagan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB487

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Peterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill could really make a difference for the remaining farms in hawaii. The money saved could allow the farms to make improvements to ensure they are able to survive in the years to come; allowing for our state to be a little more sustainable while promoting our local economy.

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Pagan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB487

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/15/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edith Terwey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB487**

Submitted on: 3/17/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fern Rosenstiel	Individual	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Halina M Zaleski	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Skyrocketing feed costs are harming production. Producers need time to develop alternatives.

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Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Time: 2:45

Place: Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Re: HB 487 HD2

Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair Ronald D. Kouchi and honorable members of the committee:

I strongly support HB 487 HD2.

I have been a farm worker on the Peterson's chicken farm for over 10 years and I see the difference the feed subsidy bill made to the Peterson's farm in 2007. We get more work done in the day now we have new chicken pens with new feeders that work and don't break down. Now I can do other needed work on the farm like repair other machinery and keep the chicken house clean. I like working in agriculture and have done it most of my life and hope I can continue.

Please help Hawaii's farms and vote yes for HB 487 D2.

Sincerely,

Herminia Bernales

1840 California Ave

Wahiawa, HI 96786

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jan Matsumoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB487.

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/17/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Murray	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: OPPOSE HB487

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**HB 487 HD 2 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Expands livestock feed subsidy to include feed for goats, sheep, lambs, fish and crustaceans. Creates a subsidy for qualified feed developers. Appropriates funds. Effective July 1, 2050

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committees:

My name is Jeff Peterson, my grandfather started farming poultry in Wahiawa in 1910. My family is still farming poultry for eggs on this same farm today. I also manage the sales and distribution of feed for Land O' Lakes here in the state. This is my personal testimony.

**I strongly support HB 487 HD2.**

During the last 12 years here at Land O Lakes I have seen farmers going out of business due to a few reasons but primarily due to escalating feed costs. High grain costs can be attributed to many reasons. Using corn in ethanol has dramatically increased the demand and price on corn. When corn goes up feed formulations will change to other protein sources, such as soybean meal which will then drive soybean prices up. It is a wicked circle. Other contributing costs, as we all know, are ocean shipping costs, fuel surcharges, labor costs at the docks, and the list goes on. However, cost of feed is the primary reason.

With my job at Land O lakes I am currently supporting and working with trials on using other local feed ingredients available here in Hawaii. The goal is using locally produced ingredients that would benefit poultry and other species. This is the direction I feel we need to go. It is a goal to achieve a higher degree of sustainability and survive here in Hawaii.

On one hand I see a few livestock farmers hiring consultants. I am seeing farmers investing, through loans or grants, in new equipment to reduce costs, in an effort to try stay in business. I also see pricing for livestock product being priced higher as both farmers and consumers realize it is a value added product and that is produced locally. This I feel is very good as they are changing their business models to adjust to the high costs of producing livestock products here in Hawaii. However, on the other hand in 2012 we continued to lose livestock farming operations. What is more troubling is the current existing farms in 2013 as can see drastic drops in animal numbers as farms continue to cut back and production decreasing. My family's poultry farm is no different then what I have just mentioned.

I strongly support the growing of livestock here in Hawaii and feel it is a necessity. I feel supporting the livestock farmers for a period of time to help them to continue to adjust and change their business model is extremely important and will benefit Hawaii consumers. Farmers have been responsive and flexible to these draconian market changes the last number of years. I strongly support this bill for another reason that these farmers hopefully will be around to take advantage of work being done now for different feed sources and feed formulations that are primarily derived from local sources here in the future.

Thank you for your time and letting me give my testimony.

Jeff Peterson  
808-682-2022

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelli Nakano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I think this would help agriculture in hawaii. This support could save the farms in our state which are struggling to survive!

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/17/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerri Marks	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Yamada-Okamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB487**

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Asagi	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Time: 2:45

Place: Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Re: HB 487 HD2

Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair Ronald D. Kouchi and honorable members of the committee:

I strongly support HB 487 HD2.

I have been a farm worker on the Peterson's chicken farm for over 10 years and I see the difference the feed subsidy bill made to the Peterson's farm in 2007. We get more work done in the day now we have new chicken pens with new feeders that work and don't break down. Now I can do other needed work on the farm like repair other machinery and keep the chicken house clean. I like working in agriculture and have done it most of my life and hope I can continue.

Please help Hawaii's farms and vote yes for HB 487 D2.

Sincerely,

Lusemata Fagafa

1799 Nakula St

Wahiawa, HI 96786

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [mary@bellosmillwork.com](mailto:mary@bellosmillwork.com)  
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HB487

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Bello	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Time: 2:45

Place: Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Re: HB 487 HD2

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Please help Hawaii's farms and vote yes for HB 487 D2.

Sincerely,

Michael Nacar

P.O. Box 522

Waipahu, HI 96797

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Time: 2:45

Place: Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Re: HB 487 HD2

Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair Ronald D. Kouchi and honorable members of the committee:

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Please help Hawaii's farms and vote yes for HB 487 D2.

Sincerely,

Policarpia M Llanesa

23-C Dole Rd

Wahiawa, HI 96786

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rennie Matsumoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB487

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Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Time: 2:45

Place: Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Re: HB 487 HD2

Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair Ronald D. Kouchi and honorable members of the committee:

I strongly support HB 487 HD2.

I have been a farm worker on the Peterson's chicken farm for over 10 years and I see the difference the feed subsidy bill made to the Peterson's farm in 2007. We get more work done in the day now we have new chicken pens with new feeders that work and don't break down. Now I can do other needed work on the farm like repair other machinery and keep the chicken house clean. I like working in agriculture and have done it most of my life and hope I can continue.

Please help Hawaii's farms and vote yes for HB 487 D2.

Sincerely,

Reynaldo Pasion

1860 California Ave

Wahiawa, HI 96786

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ric Matsumoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB487! Hawaii's local farms need this

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Matsumoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I think this bill will help farming in hawaii.

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/17/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill may mean well but I can't get past subsidising someone's goat - and the Livestock Feed Developer Subsidy worries me. Oppose.

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March 18, 2013

**Committee on Agriculture**

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Time: 2:45 PM

Place: Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Re: **HB487 HD2**

Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair Ronald D. Kouchi and honorable members of the Committee:

**I am in STRONG support of HB487 HD2.**

My name is Sharon Peterson Cheape of Petersons' Upland Farm LLC and I work on our family egg farms located in Kipapa and Wahiawa. I am also the President of the Hawaii Egg Producers Cooperative which represents all commercial egg producers in the state of Hawaii. In the early 1980's there were 21 commercial egg farms in our state. Today there remain only four, all of which are seriously threatened by closure.

As a recipient of the 2007 Livestock Revitalization Program, I can attest to the enormous value and difference it has made with our family's poultry farm. In fact, I can honestly say that we would not have been able to celebrate our 100 year anniversary in 2010 had we not received this help. Monies from the Revitalization Program enabled our farm to pay for rapidly increasing feed and shipping costs, to grow our existing flock number and to purchase new egg collecting and feed equipment which greatly increased our efficiency. In comparing years 2007 to 2013, we experienced a tremendous growth in our on-farm sales to be over 80%. **This growth in retail sales shows the growing support of local consumers wanting to support local livestock business's in Hawaii, know where their product is produced and who produces it.**

Our family's 4<sup>th</sup> generation has stepped up to the plate and begun to implement changes that is helping our farm to be more productive and run much more efficiently. Their passion for farming and preserving agriculture in Hawaii is both heart-warming and humbling. **The 2007 Livestock Revitalization Bill was cut short and never completely funded. SB 593 SD2 would finish the job that the 2007 Livestock Revitalization Bill intended to complete.** I strongly support SB 593 SD2. Your help will not only aid in the preservation of agriculture and the survival of our local farms, but also this treasured lifestyle. Once a farm closes it is virtually impossible to restart, which is why SB 593 SD2 is so vital.

My family along with the other 3 commercial poultry farms thanks you for providing the past funding from the 2007 Livestock Revitalization Bill which has kept us all persevering in our challenging profession of providing our state with fresh local eggs. Mahalo for your support of agriculture and for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

Sharon Peterson Cheape

Petersons' Upland Farm LLC



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**HB487**

Submitted on: 3/17/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sherrian witt	Individual	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

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HB487

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for AGL on Mar 19, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wayne Matsumoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: strong support of Hb487

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