

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2013 8:35 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB487 on Jan 31, 2013 09:00AM*



HB487

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for AGR on Jan 31, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Arakawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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LATE

January 31, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 487
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312
9:00 AM

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi, 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 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.

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 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.

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2013 9:13 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB487 on Jan 31, 2013 09:00AM

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HB487

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for AGR on Jan 31, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juanita Brown Kawamoto	Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of HI	Support	Yes

Comments: ECDPH supports this legislation and it is also reflected as supported by the DPH in accordance with resolutions supporting the local food sustainability, self sufficiency and local feed production.

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2013
9:00 A.M.
ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO 487
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 487. The bill proposes to provide funds to qualified farms for the cost of feed fed to livestock animals, fish and crustaceans which would only be a short term mitigation measure.

It is true that the rising cost of feed has a significant impact on the production costs for our local protein producers. Currently, only four egg farms and two major milk dairies remain. Additionally, our ranching community is also wrestling with the problems associated with higher feed costs. 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. Hawaii's livestock industry must be supported to ensure protein production in the long term.

In line with these efforts, the department is currently finalizing the contract on a pilot feed mill project per Act 122 from the 2012 Legislative Session which would help to assess the viability of growing livestock feed in Hawaii and look to reducing the cost of feed and increase profitability of our local protein producers in the long-term. Please



consider providing incentives to those who will grow and develop traditional livestock feed.

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