



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

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: info@hfbf.org
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February 4, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

TESTIMONY ON HB 98
RELATING TO EXPORTS

Auditorium
11:00am

Chair Wooley, Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, Vice Chair Ward and Members of the Committees:

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 respectfully requests that you oppose HB 98 related to exports.

HFBF is concerned that unintended agricultural products being properly and legitimately exported from Hawaii under the current laws and regulations may get "caught up" in the seed removal language expressed in HB 98. Many exportable agricultural products produced here in Hawaii are seeds or contain seeds. Coffee beans are seeds. Nuts are seeds. Edible beans are seeds. Grains of rice are seeds. Many of our fresh fruits and vegetables contain seeds or could be considered seed starts.

We humbly request that you oppose this measure. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 1:11 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: angelavideotron@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Breene	Individual	Support	No

Comments: AGR & EDBC Committee Hearing 2/4/13 11:00am RE: Support HB98 Aloha Representatives, I am writing in support of HB98 to remove seed, as defined under section 147-122, Hawaii Revised Statutes, from the general excise tax exemption for certain scientific contracts with the United States and the export of "tangible personal property" from the State. GMO seed companies can afford to pay tax to the State of Hawaii! Currently they exploit our resources to grow and ship these seeds out of state without paying G.E.T.. Pass HB98 to stop this unwise exemption. Sincerely, Angela Breene angelavideotron@gmail.com Haleiwa, HI 96712

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 8:15 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: annoshiro@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Oshiro-Kauwe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 4:33 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: redahi@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
B.A. McClintock		Support	No

Comments: I cannot believe this has been happening so long. Why should a corporation, making billions of dollars be exempt from paying taxes when our poor here in Hawaii are not? This is a no-brainer. Please Support!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 8:19 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: watsonblake8@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Blake Watson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 5:29 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mauibrad@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brad Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 6:38 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: diamondbranchhi@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brendan Balthazar	Hawaii Cattlemans Assn.	Oppose	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 8:46 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: bkdl@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Lehmann	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I'd like to thank the Committees for this opportunity to submit testimony. With the multiple annual harvests in Hawaii's favorable climate biotech companies have already taken advantage of, I don't see why they should also be given preferential treatment in shipping seed out of state, especially when those shipments result from crops which are not contributing to the local food supply, and Hawaii imports most of its food. Therefore, I wish to indicate my support of HB98.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 2:08 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: haha@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
C. Kong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Be pono.

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onishi1-Jerry

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Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 9:02 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: peepail@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Kasak	Occupy Monsanto (OWS~Maui)	Support	No

Comments: End the corporate welfare state and end GMO tyranny for the welfare of all! Bill removes seed from export tax exemption. At this time the GMO industry is receiving tax exemption for all the GM seeds they are growing here and shipping out of state without having to pay General Excise (GE) taxes on their products. They need to pay taxes on these. Demonstrate wealth of the major seed industry, they can afford taxes.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 2:36 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: collardgreen@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colleen Carswell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Agriculture & Economic & Business Development Committee Representatives, mahalo for your consideration of my testimony in SUPPORT of HB98. Export of seeds should be included in GE taxes, just as sales of seeds are included in taxation.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 6:00 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: corey@bigislanddairy.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
corey gillins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 12:29 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: esfhawaii@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elijah Frank	Individual	Support	No

Comments: No tax exemptions for GMO seed.

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Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 9:37 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ebluml@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elisabeth Bluml	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB98. Mahalo, Elisabeth Bluml

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 11:13 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mschelleigh@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily M Hoots	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 8:47 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tamf002@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frank Tam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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2/2/13 Testimony from: Kauai County Councilmember Gary Hooser

Re: HB98 Agr/Edb; Removes seed, as defined under section 147-122, HRS, from the GET exemption

Hearing: Monday February 4, 2013 11:00am Committee on Agriculture

Position: Strong Support –

My name is Gary Hooser, I am an elected member of the Kauai County Council and am speaking today on my own behalf as an individual.

I am testifying today in strong support of HB98 which removes a GET exemption for seed as defined under section 147-122, HRS,.

While it is unclear to me to what extent the GMO/Seed companies are taking advantage of this exemption, it is clear that from a public policy perspective there is no public benefit from offering tax exemptions to these large multimillion dollar global companies and thus HB98 should be passed and the provision authorizing these tax exemptions should be repealed.

It is my understanding through my direct experience on Kauai and through the research I have done, that companies engaged in the research, development, sale or production of genetically engineered products are doing a booming business and aggressively expanding their operations wherever they can find suitable agricultural land.

It is also my understanding, from direct conversations with industry representatives, that these companies pay zero GET on the export/sale of their products. While the literature and studies done on the value of the GMO industry in Hawaii claims an annual value of approximately \$250,000,000, I have been told by representatives in the industry that no GET is paid – apparently nothing is sold but merely just transferred intercompany to another branch or unit.

It is also my understanding that even though no actual food is produced for consumption, these industrial farming operations pay the minimum property tax allowed under law via their “agricultural exemptions”.

Compiling the injustice of offering these major multinational corporations tax exemptions when they pay very little tax in the first place is the fact that the long term public and environmental impacts and thus long term public costs though largely unknown and quantified, could be significant. Issues dealing with pesticide drift, sediment run-off, soil depletion and long term retention of industrial agricultural chemicals in both ground and near shore waters – have yet to be fully explored.

For these reasons, I strongly urge this committee to unanimously pass out HB98 and repeal this tax exemption that is unnecessary and inappropriate.

Respectfully,

Gary Hooser
Councilmember
Kauai County

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 10:06 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: aquaponicsoahu@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jay Ogden	AquaponicsOahu.com	Support	No

Comments: We are a local community company which provides assistance and services to Oahu residents and community groups to encourage home-grown-food. We also teach organic principles of growing food. Our organization has synergism with hundreds of local individuals and groups who believe it is time to end tax relief to large, wealthy international companies in our community who currently control a large percent of the seed industry in the world. As the public entrusts these issues to you, our legislators, we are calling on you to listen now as we speak concerning the need to have all who sell products in our state, especially large, international, very profitable businesses like those involved in food & seed manufacturing and distribution, to pay their fair share of local taxes to support our community. These large, international, very wealthy companies, especially those involved in GMO seed production, since GMO have not had the testing required to assure it's safety in our food supply, do not need to have tax relief from our community. If after needed research on GMO safety has been completed, their may be need to support their efforts with our confidence. This is lacking at present. If you do the research on this you may come to the understanding we have that their science does not offer much confidence in their product. Most of Asia and much of Europe do not wish to have GMO in their food. And for good reason, the safety research science is lacking. If you wish to continue in this role as our legislators, it would be best for you to listen and do your own research on this issue. Mahalo, Jay Ogden, President, AquaponicsOahu.com

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 4:02 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jsacher@kona.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Sacher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 10:09 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: giehni@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Bonifacio	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I SUPPORT this bill for the same reasons I support HB479. These companies' products (SEEDS) and their presence do not benefit the state. These GMO companies should pay something that directly benefits the state (even though we don't want them here). If it's tax money, so be it.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 7:55 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: konanuij001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerry Konanui	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha mai kakou.....I support HB98..please pass HB98.

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Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 3:53 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Jessicamwhite707@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica White	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 9:24 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jimmygomes@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jimmy Gomes	Ulupalakua Ranch Inc.	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 9:56 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: julia@hanahou.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia Steele	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 8:11 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: 09jjju@hotmail.com
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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julian Jiman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: 77coconuts@gmail.com
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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kahala Lei Azuma Maui	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Kallygos@mac.com
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HB98

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kally Goschke	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Corporations and government should pay GET like the rest of us , especially for seed which could exact a toll on environment .

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Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 8:11 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: keith@keithkessler.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith Kessler	Individual	Support	No

Comments: No excise tax exemption for GMO products!

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Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 10:14 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: hunbet@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Larry Obermann	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Passing this bill could result in one of 2 things happening. The seed companies will move out of the state taking many jobs with them or it will increase the cost of food.

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Cc: liamg@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Liam Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

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Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 11:53 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: liamg@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Liam Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 8:10 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ggexcavations@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

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

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 6:27 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mark@marksheehan.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Sheehan	Haiku Aina Permaculture Initiative	Support	No

Comments: Dear Committee Members, H.A.P.I. is 14 acre organic farm and research/training facility in Haiku, Maui. We support this legislation and urge you to vote YES. We think GMO seeds should be taxed. It's terrible that we are the GMO experimental site for the planet; worse that biotech be exempt from paying taxes.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 6:08 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: oceanfrontfarm@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marlene gilbert	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I do not understand this bill. I do understand that anything that could be affecting our health and could be killing the bees should not be in Hawaii. I am a Hawaii resident.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 7:10 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: hokuokekai50@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

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

Comments: Mary Lacques HB98 Chairperson Representative Jessica Wooley House Committee on Agriculture Monday February 4, 2013 11:00am Capitol Auditorium Position: Strong support HB98 Aloha Chair Wooley, Vice-Chair Onishi and Members of the Committee, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB98. I strongly urge you to pass HB98 for the simple reason that Hawai'i is losing tax revenue every time genetically engineered seed leave the state. A Honolulu Star Advertiser poll on Saturday asked readers whether the hotel room tax should stay at its current elevated level of 9.25. Our most profitable economic engine is being taxed to death while the State's most profitable sector of agriculture is not paying their fair share of taxes. Mahalo for being fiscally responsible by removing the seed industry from export tax exemption status. Sincerely, Mary Lacques P.O. Box 14 Hale'iwa HI 96712

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 1:49 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: makana@kevcom.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Swalinkavich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 9:24 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: alohamelissag@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

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Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 7:20 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: son2k77@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 8:41 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mdclark88@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monet Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 7:05 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: pbream@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mr Perry Bream	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I strongly support this bill.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 8:38 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: zaffbryan@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noel Bobilin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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In Support of HB98
Hawaii House of Representatives
AGR/EDB CommitteeMembers

February 4, 2013 11:00 AM

Aloha Honorable Agriculture and Economic Development & Business Committee Members,

On behalf of Babes Against Biotech, a non-profit organization devoted to environmental awareness, we appreciate this opportunity to testify as we voice our support for HB98. We represent over 1,900 members and supporters and we are unanimous in strong support of ending tax breaks that support the research, sale, cultivation and production of genetically engineered organisms in Hawaii.

Why should companies who are introducing genetic toxins into our soil, environment and air, be allowed any tax relief whatsoever? GMO's are banned at some level in at least 29 countries, their makers have been exiled from numerous countries and sued time and again for chemical poisoning alone. The time has come for Hawaii to eject the biotechnology seed industry and abolish the global and political GMO safe-haven that has severely derailed our sustainable future and caused Hawaii to become the foremost site and worldwide ground zero for open air genetic experimentation.

Our organization was formed in response to the dire condition of our legislation and state of our agriculture and local food supply regarding GMO corporations. We advocate for citizen engagement in these issues that are coming about when many are unaware they are even up for consideration. Biotechnology corporations conducting research and production of genetically engineered organisms are, in addition to threatening our fragile ecosystem, literally exposing us to components of war chemicals, spraying it next to schools, and kupuna homes.

Class action lawsuits are starting to address heavily exposed areas and incidentally, already 52,000 sea urchins were found dead off the coast of a GMO farm in Kauai alone. These are not farming companies, these are chemical companies who seek to increase the sale of chemicals and the pestilential expansion and cross-contamination of their patented, literally now viral, genetic alterations on life.

GMO's are the most endangering and invasive species of all, there is no recuperation from GMO's, we may never be able to grow food on GMO farm land again. We do not feel GMO's should even be allowed to farm in the open air in Hawaii as they contaminate conventional crops. This is the most pressing issue in Hawaii today. Over 1,000 citizens marched down Beretania to the Capitol on opening day just January 16th to a roar demanding the end of GMO's and at the very least, labeled toxins and that, should be a strong reflection of the community response to GMO's in Hawaii.

We must address GMO industry impacts on our local economy in addition to the social and environmental costs they are inducing. These companies are chemically farming an export GMO seed industry that receives obscene levels of tax relief and retains little to no benefit or profit for the state or the citizens. We desperately need local, non-toxic farming support, not In addition to performing literally the most open air experimental field trials in the world in Hawaii, they are depleting our natural

resources. Hawaii's climate is ideal for agriculture and they are able to turn 3-4 crops per year as opposed to 1-2 most places in the United States. Few other countries allow GMO companies to perform unlimited open air genetic experiments.

The once rich soil, which they are monocropping compounds similar plantation and chemical farming damages on farm lands. The same nutrients are pulled from the soil over and over, they plant no cover crops and they do not rotate crops. Instead of using cows to fertilize, and chickens to eat the pests, they use chemical fertilizers and pesticides and herbicides which saturate our soil, contaminate groundwater and kill the healthy microorganisms and bacteria that are necessary for plant life. Supporting GMO tax breaks means supporting the potential and founded undesirable expressions of DNA forced into foreign species in laboratories and they are in our strong opinion, completely undeserving of tax breaks.

The companies that produce genetically engineered products are irresponsibly releasing highly controversial new life forms, of highly questionable ethics in regards to health and environmental safety and should not be receiving any tax incentives. We do not wish to provide any support whatsoever to an industry that seems to have no moral compass guiding affairs of public health and ecological responsibility. The companies manufacturing GMO's have been exiled from dozens of countries, and the damages are piling here. As public concern begins to flow and more countries ban or demand labeling, we as a society must also stand up and cease GMO related tax breaks at the absolute, bare minimum.

They should be paying more tax to pay for risk management of their questionable practices. In fact, we propose here and now legislation that they be additionally, heavily, taxed. We want them gone altogether, that is our absolute preference. However if we could induce additional appropriate taxes on them at 75% or some other duly reasonable rate to compensate for the massive agricultural, economical, medical and nutritional rehabilitation that will be required to best amend the damages they have already caused, they would find it no longer favorable to do business here and leave of their own accord. The solely profit-minded chemical industry of genetically altered industrial farming, subjects us as unwilling participants in a toxic science experiment biotech multinational conglomerations already controlling the majority of the world's seed. We need to stop creating favorable conditions for biotechnology and discourage their presence altogether while we still have our resources.

We should be also be supporting HB96 on the condition it includes our proposed amendment to exempt GMO farms from the tax break, which otherwise creates an income tax exemption on income for family farms, family farm communities, and family farm cooperatives. This is the industry we should be giving incentives to, family farmers. The hard working families that are cultivating the land and feeding our people good healthy, non-GMO food.

GMO companies have shown no regard to the environment or public health concerns and should be required to pay full taxes. We and our supporters passionately encourage them to abandon their work in Hawaii altogether. Tax incentives are for people and companies who are doing good things in society and increasing our sustainable growth and GMO corporations are literally the opposite.

Mahalo for considering this testimony in favor of HB98 that would end tax breaks for the GMO seed industry in Hawaii.

Best Regards,

Nomi Carmona

President

Babes Against Biotech 501(c)3

Honolulu, HI

nomi@babesagainstbiotech.org

www.babesagainstbiotech.org

www.facebook.com/babesagainstbiotech

www.twitter.com/babesagainstgmo

www.instagram.com/babesagainstbiotech

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 4:18 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: liquidsouljah@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
P. Yushin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, GMO's are completely against being in harmony with Nature and Hawaii. They destroy soil, contaminate water, poison human beings, and animal life. Although I support taxing GMO seeds, GMO's should be completely banned. Mahalo, P. Yushin

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 10:06 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: pamelaboyar@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Boyar	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 7:30 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: paul@kauainature.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Massey	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill because I believe that the massive multinational chemical seed companies should not be exempt from paying GET on the sale of their seed. We should be discouraging, not encouraging, their harmful business practices.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 1:19 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB479 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB479

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Penny Levin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The same rationale as HB98 applies. The seed industry has received tax exemptions for many years now. There is no reason to continue any exemptions any longer. If after more than seven years, multi-billion dollar companies can not make it economically or say they can not afford to stay here without these breaks, then there is something terribly wrong. If we were a bank, we would have foreclosed on them long ago. If we continue to believe the seed industry needs these exemptions, we all ought to be fired for believing them! I urge you to be fiscally responsible and support this bill.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 8:09 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: silverpenny10@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
penny silva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 8:10 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: pualehuafarm@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pua kamoia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 3:55 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: rasikaleue@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rasika Leue	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Kind of Shocking, isn't it - that something so hazardous was actually tax exempt?! They should be paying us to do this - not getting a free ride!! Mahalos.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 2:42 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mauibecca@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Lea	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Organic farmers should be receiving tax exemptions not GMO crops. We need to preserve our soils and waters for our future generations.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 3:30 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ritahands@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rita massey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 2:35 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: r.souzasolar@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Souza	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 10:58 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Sethraabe@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Seth Raabe	Whispering Winds Bamboo	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 4:58 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: haysamsongs@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sheryl Samuel	Individual		No

Comments: It is important to us to make the large corporations that are experimenting on us with their GMO products pay. Please make them pay taxes, while exempting organic family farms from taxation. Mahalo.

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Simon Russell
Hui 'O Mālama 'Āina
910-A E. Kuiaha Rd
Haiku, HI 96078

Aloha Honorable Representatives,

I am writing to support HB 98. Almost 40% of Hawaii's agricultural crop production as measured in dollars is Biotech seed exports. Not only are these seeds tax free, they are leaving the state, and we cannot eat them. So thousands of acres and millions of gallons of water are being used so that non-Hawaiian corporations can make hundreds of millions of tax free dollars. Please get them paying their fair share.

Respectfully Submitted,
Simon Russell
Owner and Farmer
Hui 'O Mālama 'Āina

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 11:56 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Gratefalsa76@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacey Tucker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: GMO seeds should be REMOVED from tax exemption! Why would they be receiving special treatment?

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 5:10 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: naritaslee@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Law	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I SUPPORT HB98! Seeds grow into our food, so there should be NO tax Exemptions for theexport of seeds from Hawaii, or at minimum, tax exemptions should be suspended until the GMO seed producers label their products "CONTAINS GMOs". Thank you for reading, aloha, Susan Law

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 3:39 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: sueperb33@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Werb	Individual	Support	No

Comments: There is no valid reason for these profit-making products be exempt from taxes.

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2/3/2013

RE: HB98

I support this bill as bio-tech companies should not be given any tax advantages. They should be taxed as every business in Hawaii is. All for more for what they are doing on our Aina.

mahalo,

Tami Winston
Photo Resource Hawaii Inc.

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 9:12 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Realeyesohana@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tarah Bartlett	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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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 8:10 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tjsimms2000@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tj simms	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 6:47 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: woolfcat@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM

HB98

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tom woolf	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Who's brilliant idea was it to give something so dangerous tax exempt status in the first place? That is what we will be investigating next. Do yourself and yours a big favor, stay on the right side of what you know is right. Quit committing evil acts.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 9:42 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: wtchd@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
william collins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 2:23 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: wochinadoll.ozoa9@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB98 on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM*

HB98

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 4, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Willynn Ozoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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