

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
MARCH 11, 2013
Room 312
9:00 AM**

**SENATE BILL NO. 482 SD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 482 SD 1. This measure proposes to encourage and support sustainable beekeeping in Hawaii by raising the allowances for home production of honey, and enabling beekeepers to sell honey to retail outlets and directly to consumers. Currently home honey production in Hawaii is allowed for 50 gallons or less. The Department of Agriculture supports this measure.

The recent arrival of devastating honey bee pests has put additional pressure and financial burdens on beekeepers statewide. It is well understood that pollinator success is linked to other agricultural productivity. Hawaii's annual Farm Gate Sales from bee-pollinated crops is valued at \$212.8 million. A single colony of honey bees will forage on plants within a 3-5 mile radius, so every colony can have significant impact on agriculture and ecosystems. Newly introduced pests and parasites have severely impacted feral colonies, making managed colonies even more critical for agricultural success. In nationally established surveys to monitor honey bee health since 2006, beekeepers are classified as BACKYARD (small) beekeepers if they have 50 colonies or less, SIDELINERS with 51-500 colonies or COMMERCIAL beekeepers with 500+

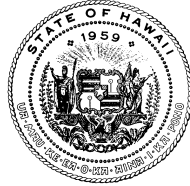


colonies. The vast majority of beekeepers in Hawaii have fewer than 500 colonies, although compared to all other states, Hawaii is consistently ranked near the midpoint for number of colonies statewide, and in the top 10th percentile for honey yield per colony. Honey yields and price per pound fluctuate annually, but using National Agricultural Statistic Service averages for the last 10 years of Hawaiian honey production, 50 gallons of honey would be produced by only 6 colonies making average honey crops. Production exceeding that level currently requires a certified food production establishment. This low limit disables most small beekeepers from selling their honey crop in compliance with state regulations. A higher allowance is desirable to encourage sustainable beekeeping and industry growth.

Other states such as Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin (all with many more managed colonies than Hawaii) require no permit or license for honey production, just proper labeling. Florida and Michigan (again with many more managed colonies than Hawaii) cap home production allowances at sales below \$15,000. If we apply this standard in Hawaii, using 10 year low and high prices per pound, this would allow a beekeeper to sell approximately 265-1126 gallons of honey, which is an appropriate range for an operation with less than 50 colonies.

We ask the committee to consider adopting a standard which would allow Hawaii beekeepers below COMMERCIAL production levels greater latitude to produce and sell their honey, up to 500 gallons, which will encourage sustainable beekeeping and agricultural growth throughout the state. We also are agreeable to the amendments made in the bill as proposed by the Department of Health.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Agriculture

SB 482, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

March 11, 2013
9:00 a.m.

- 1 **Department's Position:** The department supports this bill with suggestions.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** This bill has no significant fiscal implications for the department.
- 3 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill will allow the sale of home-produced honey directly to the
4 consumer as well as wholesaling the product to other licensed food establishments and amends
5 HRS §328-79 **Home-based agricultural producer of honey; exemption.** The department would
6 support this bill with the following changes: §328-79 (3) (E) should be amended to: **“This product is**
7 **home-produced and processed and has not been inspected by the Department of Health.”;**
8 **(F) The producer must attend a Department of Health approved food safety workshop and**
9 **pass the food safety certification exam; and**
10 **(G) The producer must keep honey production volume, and honey product distribution**
11 **records for a period of not less than two years, and must be made available to the**
12 **department.**

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



House Committee on Agriculture
Hearing on SB 482, SD1
3-11-13 9:00AM in House conference room 312
SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Honorable Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi, and committee members,

Vincent Mina
President
Maui

We support this bill with Amendments. HFUU opposes blending Hawaiian produced honey with imported honey or other sweeteners, and selling it labeled as Hawaiian honey. Our members that are honey producers are greatly concerned about the deregulation of home producers of honey leading to the dilution of the supply, and blending with mainland and foreign honey products and other sweeteners. We ask that you clarify the definition of home-based producer of honey and define it as an entity that sources 100% of their honey products in Hawaii. HFUU likewise believes that the increase in the amount of honey produced without an inspection process will give home producers an incentive to blend Hawaiian honey supplies with cheaper imports. The language in the bill as written leaves a lot of latitude as to who is a home-based producer.

Simon Russell
Vice-President
Maui

David Case
Secretary
Kona

Therefore we respectfully request that you amend Section 2: "[§328-79] Home-Based agricultural producer of honey; exemption" to add a definition of "home-based agricultural producer" as subsection "(b) and re-label the first line of §328-79 as subsection "(a)" to read as follows (amendments underlined in bold):

Ray Maki
Treasurer
Kauai

"[§328-79] Home-based agricultural producer of honey; exemption. (a) A home-based agricultural producer of honey shall not be required to process honey in a certified honey house or food processing establishment, or be required to obtain a permit from the department [of health], if the producer:

[NO CHANGES TO SUBSECTIONS 1 THROUGH 5 OF §328-79 IN SECTION 2 OF THE BILL]

Insert the following definition as subsection (b) following subsection "(5)" of §328-79:
(b) As used in this section a "home based agricultural producer" is a producer all of whose honey and other apiary products are of Hawaii origin.

Moriah Smith
Member
Oahu

Thank you for your consideration of our amendment to SB 482, SD1.

Respectfully submitted,
HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED

[Handwritten signature of Vincent Mina]
Vincent Mina, President

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 09, 2013 3:24 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Tominmaui@me.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM*

SB482

Submitted on: 3/9/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom BlackburnRodriguez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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I wish to ask for your support for the amendment of the existing Home-based agricultural producer of honey exemption (Section 328-79 HRS) as underlined in SB482. This will allow local bee keepers to safely sell the honey produced at local apiaries to local retail establishments for consumption by the local community.

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 9:41 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM

SB482

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmer's Union United	Support	No

Comments: We support this bill with Amendments. HFUU opposes blending Hawaiian produced honey with imports, and selling it labeled as Hawaiian honey. We believe that the increase in the amount of honey produced without an inspection process will lead to abuse, and prolific blending of the Hawaiian honey supply. Since mainland honey and other sweeteners known to be blended with honey are so much cheaper. Therefor please define "Home-based producer" to mean someone who sources 100% of their honey products from Hawaii. Respectfully submitted Simon Russell Legislative Chairman Hawaii Farmer's Union United

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 09, 2013 6:12 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: bbonar@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM

SB482

Submitted on: 3/9/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert A. Bonar	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My testimony is in support of SB482. As legislators are well aware, the honey bee has had numerous challenges to its continued health and existence on our islands since the arrival of varroa mite, nosema, and the small hive beetle. Beekeepers are forced to invest in extensive pest management strategies that are both financially challenging and labor intensive. For all beekeepers, commercial and hobbyist alike, the extraction and sale of the honey produced by their hives supports and funds the management of the bees in their care. Without the income which their honey crop provides, many beekeepers would be forced out of business. Please support this measure.

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Maui Natural Bee, LLC.

February 23, 2013

Dear Senators,

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB482, which is before you today.

I am a resident of remote Southeast Maui, and with my wife Helen and our assistants we have been raising honeybees and producing high grade raw artisan honey on our farm in a remote area of Southeast Maui for the past several years. Our farm and residence are off the grid, with a well-developed infrastructure that utilizes solar energy and rain water that is filtered, purified and UV treated. My family has been living on renewable resources and growing food at this location since 1972.

We are currently not allowed to sell our honey to retail establishments, although there is an intense demand for our high grade of pure, local honey. This is due to State DOH regulatory requirements that require honey for sale in Hawaii to be either imported from somewhere else, or extracted and bottled in a certified kitchen or processing facility.

It is practically impossible for us to create a certified processing facility on our farm, because a certified facility in Hawaii requires access to Municipal treated water, as well as the removal of other water systems from the site. It would be dangerous and impractical to move our hives to a certified kitchen off-site for extraction and bottling.

Neither water or any other substance is ever added to our honey. Honey is plant nectar that has had water removed from it by the honeybees, until it is below 17% moisture content. As long as honey remains below 17% moisture, it is antiseptic, antibiotic, anti-fungal and antibacterial. It never spoils and cannot host harmful bacteria. The blanket requirement for water certification is non-sensical in regards to honey, and indeed is unique to Hawaii.

Our honeybees are thriving, vibrant and healthy, and we have great concern about the predators and bee diseases that are decimating bee colonies around the world. For this reason, we do not wish to have to transport our frames of honey in wax combs off our property to a certified kitchen for extraction, as has been suggested by DOH. Good beekeeping practice calls for the frames to be replaced in the hives as quickly as possible after the honey is removed so that nothing alien can nest in them.

I wish to ask for your support for the amendment of the existing Home-based agricultural producer of honey exemption (Section 328-79 HRS) as underlined in SB482. This will allow us to safely sell the honey produced at our apiaries to local retail establishments for consumption by the local community. It will similarly help the many other small apiaries throughout the State that cannot currently market their honey, or are forced to sell it directly to consumers or in bulk to go-betweens who export it or sell

it on the grey market. This will lift the primary impediment that is now stopping many small farmers on remote agricultural lands from cultivating honeybees.

I thank you for your consideration and assistance in our attempt to make our honey available to consumers in our communities. Passage of this bill would allow us to continue our beekeeping, and expand our operation far beyond our current 30 thriving colonies.

With Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Starr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jonathan Starr
[Maui Natural Bee, LLC](#)
(808) 249-0032
Piilani Highway, Mile 37.5
Between Kaupo & Kipahulu,
Hana, Maui, 96713

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 9:59 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mauimartha@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM

SB482

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martha Lind	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill!

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 09, 2013 6:31 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: leslie.kornblatt@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM*

SB482

Submitted on: 3/9/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
leslie kornblatt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 8:44 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: lauraine_a@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM

SB482

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauraine Ayers-Briel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB482 SD1 and I support local Farmer and Bee Keepers. There are few agricultural practices that can compare to the perfect sustainability of Bee Keeping and honey production. The traditional craft of harvesting and consuming honey has been used safely for centuries. Hawai'i nui proudly exports of the healthiest queen bees, critical to the regeneration of pollinating agriculture, at this critical time when bee colonies world-wide dwindle from multiple hazards. Finding only imported honey on the store shelves of Hawaii's markets is an affront to the principles of local agriculture and food security in Hawaii. To further handicap the labor intensive efforts and dedication of Hawaii's bee keepers is myopic. Allowing beekeepers to be directly accountable their customers is prudent. I encourage your support of SB482 SD1 Mahalo, Lauraine Haiku, Maui

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 09, 2013 2:38 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Karey@myislandsoul.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM*

SB482

Submitted on: 3/9/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karey Kapoi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 9:18 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Karen@RedwoodGames.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM*

SB482

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Chun	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 6:49 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: bees@maui.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM

SB482

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Starr	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am submitting this testimony in support of SB482 SD1, which is before you today. I am a resident of remote Southeast Maui, and with my wife and helpers I have been raising honeybees and producing high grade raw artisan honey on our farm in a remote area of Southeast Maui for the past several years. Our farm and residence are off the grid, with a well developed infrastructure that utilizes solar energy and rain water that is filtered, purified and UV treated. My family has been living on renewable resources and growing food at this location since 1972. We are currently not able to sell our honey to retail establishments, although there is an intense demand for our high grade of pure, local honey. This is due to State DOH regulatory requirements that require honey in Hawaii to be extracted and bottled in a certified kitchen or processing facility. It is practically impossible for us to create a certified facility on our farm, because a certified facility requires access to Municipal treated water. Neither water, or any other substance is ever added to our honey. Honey is plant nectar that has had water removed from it by the honeybees, until it is below 17% moisture content. As long as honey remains below 17% moisture, it is antiseptic, antibiotic, anti-fungal and antibacterial. It never spoils and cannot host harmful bacteria. The blanket requirement for water certification is non-sensical in regards to honey, and indeed is unique to Hawaii. Our honeybees are thriving, vibrant and healthy, and we have great concern about the predators and bee diseases that are decimating bee colonies around the world. For this reason, we do not wish to have to transport our frames of honey in wax combs off our property to a certified kitchen for extraction. Good beekeeping practice calls for the frames to be replaced in the hives as quickly as possible after the honey is removed so that nothing can nest in them. I wish to ask for your support for the amendment of the existing Home-based agricultural producer of honey exemption (Section 328-79 HRS) as underlined in SB482 SD1. This will allow us to safely sell the honey produced at our apiary to local retail establishments for consumption by the local community. It will similarly help the many other small apiaries throughout the State that cannot currently market their honey, or are forced to sell it directly to consumers or in bulk to go-betweeners who export it or sell it on the grey market. I thank you for your consideration and assistance in our attempt to make our honey available to consumers in our communities. Passage of this bill would allow us to continue our beekeeping, and expand our operation far beyond our current 32 thriving colonies. With Aloha, Jonathan Starr kalepa@maui.net 249-0032 Piilani Highway, Mile 37.5 Between Kaupo & Kipahulu, Hana, Maui, 96713

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 8:57 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jonthebru@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM

SB482

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Bruce	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill should be made into law. Small farmers have and will have a large part to play in our food security. Having rules that inhibit small personal operations is a wrong headed travesty that would automatically favor large agribusinesses. Passing this bill into law would assist in securing our food independence for the future.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 8:59 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Jandelliott@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM

SB482

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments: Honey is a wonderful agricultural product for Hawaii. Most honey producers are in remote rural areas where it is impossible to comply with strict health department regulations that are unnecessary for this product. Support small ag producers and pass this bill.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 09, 2013 2:39 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: oluolu@maui.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM

SB482

Submitted on: 3/9/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helen Nielsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As Hawaii moves towards food sustainability and security, and as the state encourages buying 'local', please support this bill. It's important to support local farmers. I understand some businesses wish to protect their own market share, however, there is still so much honey being brought in from other places... there is plenty of support in the market for good, local honey made locally but healthy bees. Please support this bill; thank you.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 9:33 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: contessa2@mac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM*

SB482

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gayle Stephens	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 9:46 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kuladot@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM*

SB482

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dorothy Binder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 10:51 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: don.couch@mauicounty.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM

SB482

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Couch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This will help promote our stated goal of achieving "sustainability". Please support this bill.

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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
www.hfbf.org

March 11, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 595, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312
9:00 AM

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishii, 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 supports the intent of SB 482, SD1 which proposes to exempt certain producers of agricultural products from processing the product in a certified honey house or food-processing establishment, or obtaining a permit from the department of health.

HFBF recognizes that honey bees play a critical role in Hawaii agriculture. Honey bee problems are problems for all of us since many local crops are pollinated by bees. Hawaii produces some of the finest quality honey and there is a growing demand for artisan Hawaiian honeys.

HFBF supports the continued viability of honey bee stocks and the growth of Hawaii's honey industry. With regards to the amendments to §328-79, which increases the exempted amount of honey that a home-based honey producers can sell, allows the home-based honey producers to sell directly to retail outlets, and provides safeguards for food safety, HFBF defers to DOA and DOH to determine the appropriate actions needed to address potential risks and food safety concerns if the amendments are adopted.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 8:00 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dalebonar@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM*

SB482

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale B Bonar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: COLEHOUR BONDERA [colemel@kanalanifarm.org]
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 4:08 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: SB482, SD1

Colehour Bondera
KANALANI OHANA FARM
www.kalanifarm.org
PO Box 861
Honaunau, HI 96726
808/640-1643 cell/text
March 10, 2013

Aloha Legislators-

Regarding SD1 of SB482 regarding honey and home grown and scale of operation piece of work, I request that you sincerely note that I support the piece as amended by the Hawaii Farmers Union United included in their testimonial letter bearing the date of "3-11-3012" and signed by "Vincent Mina, President".

This is an important piece of protection for small- scale bee keepers and honey producers, and thus should have the support of anyone who wants agriculture in Hawaii to survive and thrive!

Yours,

Colehour Bondera

TESTIMONY REGARDING AMENDING
SENATE BILL 482

SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND COMMERCE
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2013

Dear Honorable Senators,

I am a home based honey producer on Hawaii Island. I have been reading the proposed amendments to this bill from the Senate Health Committee and from the Hawaii Beekeepers Association. Initially I wrote in favor of this bill because increasing the volume of honey sold by home based producers would greatly help the finances of small producers like myself. Allowing for sales to customers outside of Farmers Markets would also help significantly. Having said this I also share the Hawaii Beekeeper's Association concern that increasing the volume of sales for home-based producers may encourage unscrupulous persons to import honey to sell as "Hawaii home produced honey". I support the suggestion that there be some type of certification of Hawaii honey producers. The State Apiary Specialist Office is already registering Hawaii beekeepers on a voluntary basis. Documentation of registration may be all that's required for certifying that a honey producer actually operates an apiary in Hawaii.

If further evidence of the source of Hawaii home-based honey is needed, random sampling of home based honey being sold through retail outlets could be conducted. Just the knowledge that a honey could be tested at any time would certainly reduce the likelihood of attempts to "cheat" the system. Dr. Kliks of the Hawaii Beekeepers Association in collaboration with researchers at the University of Hawaii has demonstrated that the spectral analysis of honey is a low cost method of determining the source of a honey. The exact nature of a random testing program would be left up to the Department of Health based on available resources. Just announcing such a program, however, would greatly help. (And it need not be limited to home-based honey producers.)

As for courses in safe food handling for beekeepers, again it would be in the honey producer's best interest to demonstrate to his/her customers that they take concerns about food safety seriously and have the documentation of attending such a course ready and on display for all to see. This I see as a matter of beekeeper and customer education. The only limitation here is lack of information on when and where courses are being offered, especially on islands other than Oahu.

Further labeling of this product I believe is unnecessary. (There's only so much space on a bottle.)

As for record keeping, it should be based on sales of product. Small honey producers consume a considerable portion of what they produce and give away a lot as favors to relatives, friends,

and neighbors. An attempt to establish an exact correlation between production and sales would be a bureaucratic nightmare.

Cary Dizon
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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 10:45 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: buck@tiki.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM

SB482

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Buck Joiner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill and urge you to do likewise. The current law limits production to 50 gallons per year which is less than 1 gallon per week. Assuming that each of the 8 pints are sold at \$4, that is a gross income of \$32 per week. That is a preposterous limitation. Honeybees sting. Therefore honeybees cannot be raised in an urban environment. Can you imagine a honeybee farm adjacent to a school, playground, elderly care facility, shopping center? Therefore honeybees must be raised away from populated areas which usually are not, and cannot be, supplied by water from an urban treatment facility. No water is used in the processing of honey. Therefore it is preposterous and illogical for the current law to have such a requirement. Please support SB482

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: Sunday, March 10, 2013 6:53 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: bruce.corker@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB482 on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM

SB482

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bruce Corker	Rancho Aloha	Support	No

Comments: To: House Agriculture Committee From: Bruce Corker Rancho Aloha Re Hearing on SB482, SD1, Monday, March 11, 2013 Dear House Agriculture Committee Members I am a coffee and avocado farmer in the North Kona District in Hawaii County, and have a small number of bee hives on the farm. I support SB482, SD1--BUT ONLY IF the bill is amended to make clear that home-based producers of honey and apiary products include only persons or entities that produce or sell only 100% Hawaii produced honey and apiary products. It is important that the bill DOES NOT permit any producer or seller of honey or apiary products to use Hawaii origin or place names on labels or in marketing unless the products are of 100% Hawaii origin. Sincerely, Bruce Corker, owner Rancho Aloha Holualoa, Hawaii County

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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