

SB 817

Testimony



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
February, 05, 2013
Room 229
2:50 P.M.

SENATE BILL NO. 817
RELATING TO GENERAL EXCISE TAX

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 817. The Department of Agriculture supports efforts to encourage food production for local consumption, but has concerns with this measure. This measure provides a GET exemption on amounts received by persons or entities for the sale of supplies or equipment to producers of agricultural crops.

The Department of Agriculture is concerned that this GET exemption provided to the sellers of supplies and equipment would benefit the producers in Hawaii. The Department of Agriculture is also concerned with the amount of resources that would be necessary to effectively monitor this exemption to ensure that it is not being abused.

As this measure requires the Department of Taxation to implement and regulate the GET exemption, the Department of Agriculture defers to the Department of Taxation. The Department also defers to the Department of Budget and Finance regarding any fiscal impacts this bill may have.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Simon Russell
Hui 'O Mālama 'Āina
910-A E. Kuiaha Rd
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Aloha Honorable Senators,

I am writing to support SB. 817 and tax exemption for farm sales as well as purchases. I hope that this exemption is for Hawaii based companies, so we don't have a free for all here by outside companies. Lets keep our money local.

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