



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

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HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 991, SD1
RELATING TO PROCURMENT

Room 211
9:00 AM

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, 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 provides the following comments and suggestions to SB 991, SD1 seeking to amend the Hawaii Procurement Code relative to agricultural products.

The suggested change will bring the Procurement Code to where it was before HFBF modified the language resulting in the current code. The changes were suggested because our farmers and ranchers were having a difficult time entering into state contracts. As we modified the code it was clear that education at all levels, not just our farmers and ranchers but at the procurement offices was needed. While HFBF attempted to move in this direction the training was never accomplished.

Something needs to be done. We respectfully request that the proposed measure be amended to include 1) clear metrics that can determine the success of the procurement code with the exemption and 2) a sunset date which will force reevaluation of this section and to address change if farmers and ranchers still are not within the system.

HFBF respectfully requests your support with amendments needed to fulfill the State's vision for increased self sufficiency and sustainability. HFBF is willing to work with your staff to craft the necessary language for SD1. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

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