

HB2009 Testimony

Establishes a \$300,000 minimum reserve requirement in the Milk Control Special Fund to cover contingency costs in the administration of the State's Milk Control Act. Specifically includes audits as a contingency cost. Effective July 1, 2014.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

KEN H. KAKESAKO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1428 South King Street

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014
2:45 P.M.
ROOM 229**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2009
RELATING TO MILK CONTROL**

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2009, which proposes to establish a minimum reserve requirement in the Milk Control Special Fund. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports this bill.

It is in the best interest of the people of Hawaii that the State maintains its own local food supplies and not on the dependence and mercy of mainland and foreign imports. The milk industry is of significant importance to the economy of the state and must be safeguarded and protected in the public interest.

Establishment of a minimum reserve requirement in the milk special fund will ensure that reserves are available for conducting audits and to cover contingency costs to administer the Milk Control Act. Such reserves will ensure the viability and protection of our fragile dairy industry and to safeguard the supply of fresh, locally produced milk.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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March 11, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2009
RELATING TO THE MILK CONTROL

Room 229
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,832 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports HB 2009 which seeks to establish a minimum reserve requirement in the Milk Control Special Fund to cover contingency costs in the administration of the State's Milk Control Act.

Hawaii's livestock industry faces numerous challenges. In 2007, there were 5 dairies in Hawaii. Since then, 3 of those dairies have gone out of business. We need to do everything within our power to encourage those remaining dairy operations to stay in business. The need for fresh milk in Hawaii is vital; not only self-sufficiency, but also for food security.

HFB supports HB 2009 which will help support Hawaii's fragile dairy industry.

Please support HB 2009.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – 2:45 p.m. – Room 229

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2009, Relating to the Milk Control

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am general partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally grown food, increase renewable energy, and reduce/recycle waste. Ulupono invests in projects that have the potential to create large-scale, innovative change.

Ulupono strongly supports HB 2009, which establishes a \$300,000 minimum reserve requirement in the Milk Control Special Fund to cover contingency costs in the administration of the State's Milk Control Act. Ulupono is investing \$17.5M in a grass-fed dairy farm on Kaua'i to help revitalize the state's milk industry. We would want to ensure that the processing of regulatory checks is conducted in an adequate and timely matter. This bill will help to reduce overall risk for dairy operations in Hawai'i and help to revitalize milk production in the state.

We believe that working together we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner

Email: communications@ulupono.com

