

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

KEN H. KAKESAKO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014
9:00 A.M.
Room 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2178, HD2 SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Ige and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2178, HD2 SD1. This bill would provide funds to reimburse qualified producers of milk, pork, eggs, poultry, beef, lamb, goats, and seafood and for qualified feed developers. The Department supports the intent of this bill but would request that funds be set aside to allow for the implementation of this program.

The Department realizes that a feed subsidy is only a short term solution. We are working towards the longer term solution of growing our own feed to reduce our reliance on imported feed and ultimately reduce costs to our livestock producers. To that end, we believe that a subsidy for feed developers could increase the number of companies interested in creating a locally sourced livestock feed. Furthermore, we are continuing our partnership with the Oceanic Institute to build a livestock feed mill on



Hawaii Island that will move us closer to realizing the goal of a locally sourced livestock feed.

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



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March 25, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2178, HD2, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Room 211
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFBF 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 is in strong support of HB 2178, HD2, SD1 which provides funds to allow qualified beef cattle, dairy, hog, poultry, goat, sheep, fish, and crustacean farms to apply for funds for their farms' feed expenses. It also establishes a program to provide grants for livestock feed developers.

Hawaii's livestock industry faces numerous challenges. One of their biggest challenges is the rising cost of feed for livestock production. These costs have been a contributing factor to the decline of the state's livestock industry.

In 2007, there were 5 dairies and 6 egg farms in Hawaii. Since then, 3 of those dairies and 4 off those egg farms have gone out of business. The remaining egg farms and another dairy are currently threatened with closure, due to rising production costs, primarily the cost of feed.

HB 2178, HD2, SD1 will help keep fresh, locally produced milk, eggs, beef, pork, poultry, sheep, lamb, fish and crustaceans available to the residents of Hawaii and will help to revitalize our dwindling livestock industry. A decrease or absence of livestock production increases the State's reliance on the importation of food and threatens the State's food security.

Please support HB 2178, HD2, SD1.

Thank you!



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Tuesday, March 25, 2014 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2178 HD 2 SD 1, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani 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 2178 HD 2 SD 1, which provides grants to qualified feed developers via the Department of Agriculture's Livestock Revitalization Program. Feed costs for livestock production in Hawai'i can comprise 70 percent of production cost, and our concern is that we need to keep our livestock producers in business. We anticipate through grass-fed initiatives and feed research, that the agricultural sector will be able to affordably produce its own feed within a few years. We cannot afford to lose our people – our ranchers, aquaculture and poultry farmers. While the industry works to create more homegrown feed, the subsidy is needed to help sustain the industry.

Furthermore, after conducting an analysis on the provisions for this bill, we believe it will help feed development research by Hawai'i Pacific University, the University of Hawai'i and other universities, as well as for businesses that raise animals that are currently under development.

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

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