

# SB 2077

## LATE

### Testimony

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE MAUI FOOD INNOVATION CENTER.
Report Title:	Maui Food Innovation Center; University of Hawaii Maui College; Capital Improvement Project; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Appropriates funds for the completion of the Maui food innovation center capital improvement project, for renovation and equipment for a value-added food production and business incubation facility located in the former campus cafeteria kitchen of the University of Hawaii Maui college.
Companion:	<a href="#">HB1996</a>
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HRE, WAM
Introducer(s):	BAKER, ENGLISH, IGE, KEITH-AGARAN, NISHIHARA, Galuteria, Kidani, Tokuda



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 6, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SB 2077  
RELATING TO THE MAUI FOOD INNOVATION CENTER  
Room 414  
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Choy, Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committees:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

Hawaii Farm Bureau **strongly supports SB 2077** that authorized the issuance of general obligation bonds for the completion of the Maui Food Innovation Center.

As expenses rise, increases in farm revenues are critical to the continued viability of farms and ranches. One way is to turn waste to value added products. Currently off-grade and excess production due to market conditions is wasted, usually plowed under due to lack of markets. Converting them into value-added products will not only increase farm revenue but also provide new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self sufficiency and sustainability.

These facilities can assist in the replacement imported fresh produce as well as canned and frozen food products. The funding of facilities on Galbraith lands is currently under consideration by the Legislature. Similar facilities are needed on neighbor islands reducing the need for transportation of fresh bulk produce coupled with requisite shipping costs and the burning of fossil fuels. These facilities represent the manifestation of local food security for our island state, and will keep dollars and jobs in our local economy.

**Please support SB 2077**