

HB1177

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Appropriates moneys to establish a grant writer position within the DOA.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

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Lt. Governor



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Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

March 24, 2015
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 414

HOUSE BILL NO. 1177
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 1177 that would establish one full-time grant writer position within the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to assist farmers and ranchers in applying for and obtaining grants offered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The HDOA supports this bill provided it does not adversely affect the priorities outlined in the Administration's budget.

This bill identifies the constraints faced by the department and the smaller farmers and ranch owners in applying for and obtaining grant funding. The constraints identified include the lack of time and technical expertise to seek and apply for grants, and if awarded, the time and organizational support to administer and understand compliance requirements specific to each grant award. A full-time grant writer position, dedicated to overcoming these constraints, could seek, apply, administer and comply with, all required actions with the potential to receive millions of dollars in awards to the HDOA to assist farmers and ranch owners.

In February, the Grants.gov website listed 32 agriculture opportunities offered by the USDA open to "all eligibilities", including state government agencies. Some grant opportunities could be "block grants" or "targeted states" programs that are awarded directly to the state departments of agriculture, but requires that the HDOA submit a proposal in order to receive the funding. A full-time grant writer would allow the HDOA the capability to apply for the grants to benefit the farmers and ranchers that lack the time and technical expertise to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the USDA.



Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1177 on Mar 24, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Monday, March 23, 2015 11:46:04 AM

HB1177

Submitted on: 3/23/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 24, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS HB 1177, which appropriates moneys to establish a grant writer position within the Department of Agriculture. (HB 1177)

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March 24, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1177
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 414
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, 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 1,932 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 1177, which appropriates moneys to establish a grant writer position within the DOA.

The decrease in direct Federal appropriations for agriculture has resulted in an increased level of dependence on grants. Many federal programs have turned into competitive grant programs.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Grant writing for USDA grants usually involves a very complex application process that can be difficult to navigate through. This often deters farmers and ranchers from applying for USDA grants. A well trained and skilled grant writer would be able to assist farmers and ranchers obtain USDA grants by assisting them with applying for and fulfilling the requirements of the grants.

Access to USDA grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Mahalo for your support.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Cc: amybrinker@mac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1177 on Mar 24, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 9:17:42 PM

HB1177

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 24, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1177 on Mar 24, 2015 14:45PM*
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HB1177

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Testimony for AGL on Mar 24, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Dierks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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