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Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 26, 2015
1:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 1177
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Luke 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.

Currently, the Grants.gov website lists 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.

finance8-Melanie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 9:16 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1177 on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM

HB1177

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

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.

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February 26, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1177
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 308
1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, 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.

FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 11:05 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1177 on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM*

HB1177

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Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

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finance1-Kim

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
 Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 10:01 PM
 To: FINTestimony
 Cc: leimomikekina@gmail.com
 Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1177 on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM*

HB1177

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments:

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