



**LATE**

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1982**

Authorizing the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Big Island Dairy.

March 15, 2016

To: Chair Gabbard  
Vice Chair Nishihara  
Senator Dela Cruz  
Senator Rivere  
Senator Ruderman  
Senator Shimabukuro  
Senator Thielen  
Senator Wakai  
Senator Slom

Fm: Chad Buck  
President  
Hawaii Foodservice Alliance LLC

Re: **SUPPORT** of HB1982 Authorizing the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Big Island Dairy.

Dear Chairman Gabbard and Committee Members,

As a business owner responsible for importing over 1.5 million gallons of mainland milk in to Hawaii annually, I am in full support of HB1982 authorizing the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Big Island Dairy for the following reasons:

- Big Island Dairy has invested over \$20,000,000 to build a state of the art dairy in Hawaii and has proven that they are committed to making dairy sustainable in Hawaii for Hawaii.
- A dairy owned processing and bottling facility will provide the most efficient way of provide finished local dairy products for Hawaii consumers.
- Currently, there is only one bottling company in the state that controls 100% of the bottling market. A dairy owned processing and bottling facility will increase competition for milk from dairy farmers providing much needed competition in this market segment. Not only will Big Island Dairy be able to bottle their own local milk, they will be able to assist and bottle milk from other dairy farms in the state.
- Enabling local dairy farmers to support each other and integrate vertical operations where the dairy farms can milk, process, and package their own products for distribution is the first step towards food sustainability and food security for Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration.