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Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 1, 2016
1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 2657 HD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2657 HD1. This bill proposes to provide loans from the Maui County Revolving Loan to reimburse costs to Molokai farmers for audits and other expenses to meet the requirements of the United States Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The department supports this bill provided that it does not impact the department's priorities submitted in the executive budget and defers to the County of Maui.

The department recognizes the challenges farmers face in meeting the requirements of the FSMA. Providing farmers with financial support will help farmers continue produce safe food for our local consumers and the agricultural industry on Molokai.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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February 29, 2016

TO: Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Stacy Helm Crivello
Councilmember 

DATE: March 01, 2016

SUBJECT: **HB 2657 H.D. 1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to provide cost reimbursement from the Maui County Loan Program to Molokai farmers and ranchers to reimburse costs of mandated food safety compliance audits and other related costs. It further appropriates monies to the County of Maui Office of Economic Development to review and approve applications for the program.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Act 387 Sessions Laws of Hawaii (1988) appropriated monies to the County of Maui for an agricultural loan program to assist the residents of Molokai after the closures of Dole and Del Monte's operations. With an unemployment rate of 14% at the time, the funding was intended to provide financial support for economic development and growth on Molokai.
2. Molokai again faces the highest unemployment rate in the state. Getting our economy back on track is our priority and contingent on the growth of small business, including diversified agriculture. The high costs facing our farmers and ranchers to comply with federal and state requirements like the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act are extremely daunting and impact their survivability. The cost-reimbursement program will bring much needed assistance to our Molokai farmers facing these mandated costs.
3. The proposed amendment to section 3(b) of Act 387 changes the revolving loan program to a cost-reimbursement program. Section 3(a) refers to loans to farmers and ranchers on Molokai to meet the costs to comply with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. I urge the committee to make sections 3(a) and 3(b) consistent as a cost reimbursement program.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.



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March 1, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2657, HD1
RELATING TO FOOD AGRICULTURE

Room 308
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 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.

HFB strongly supports HB 2582, HD1, which provides loans from the Maui County Revolving Loan Program to Molokai farmers and ranchers to reimburse costs of mandated food safety compliance audits and other related costs.

HFB appreciates the support by the legislature in our past efforts to help Hawaii's farmers achieve compliance with the FDA Food Safety and Modernization Act. As the actual rule has been rolled out by FDA the immensity of the task is becoming evident. The final details are still not clear as the agency themselves have finished articulating the details of the measure but training sessions have been delayed. However, basic requirements about water treatment and refrigeration are clear. This will mean changes on many of our farms. Cooperative efforts will be important to ensure affordability. The Department will play a key role in not only facilitating training with the University and other partners but also identifying implementation measures needed. The Department and Counties all have ag parks so their responsibility also extends to their roles as managers of agricultural operations.

HFB respectfully requests your support in moving this measure forward to ensure that our Molokai farmers are able to meet compliance deadlines and remain competitive in the marketplace.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2016 11:57 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2657 on Mar 1, 2016 13:00PM*

HB2657

Submitted on: 2/27/2016

Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2016 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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