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Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 31, 2016
9:05 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2657 HD2 SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2657 HD2 SD1. 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 priorities established in the Department's executive budget.

The department recognizes the challenges farmers face in meeting the requirements of the FSMA. Providing farmers with financial support will help farmers continue to 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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March 31, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2657, HD2, SD1
RELATING TO FOOD AGRICULTURE

Room 211
9:05 AM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, 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, HD2, SD1, which provides cost reimbursements 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.

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Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

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March 29, 2016

TO: Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Stacy Helm Crivello
Councilmember 

DATE: March 31, 2016

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF HB 2657 H.D. 2, S.D. 1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to amend the Molokai Diversified Agricultural Revolving Loan Program established by Act 387, SLH 1988, to provide cost reimbursements to Molokai farmers and ranchers to reimburse costs of mandated food safety compliance audits and other related costs. It also appropriates funds to the Maui Office of Economic Development to review and approve applications for the loan program.

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

1. Act 387 SLH 1988 appropriated monies to Maui County to establish a revolving loan program to stimulate business development to provide financing opportunities for small business development and growth in diversified agriculture on Molokai.
2. Molokai continues to struggle to improve our economy. Our small businesses and diversified agriculture are crucial to our survivability and increased mandated costs such as those imposed by the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act severely impact our farmers and ranchers.
3. Amending the revolving loan program to one of cost-reimbursement will greatly assist our Molokai ranchers and farmers with the costs associated with the Food Safety Modernization Act's mandated requirements and positively impact our economy as Act 387 intended.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: franny234@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2657 on Mar 31, 2016 09:05AM
Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 3:05:24 PM

HB2657

Submitted on: 3/29/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 31, 2016 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Franny Brewer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Ohia makes up more than 50% of our forest biomass. It is the most important tree in our forests, and a key to our productive watersheds. The loss of this tree is unthinkable. There is no other priority in Hawaii more pressing than this. I strongly support this measure to find ways to save our ohia.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: james.b.friday@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2657 on Mar 31, 2016 09:05AM
Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 7:28:34 AM

HB2657

Submitted on: 3/30/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 31, 2016 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James B Friday	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing to testify in favor of HB 2657 HD1 SD1 appropriating \$600,000 to develop ways to control Rapid Ohia Death. I am the extension specialist in forestry with the University of Hawaii Cooperative Extension Service in Hilo, although this testimony is my personal opinion and not the University's. I have been working on Rapid Ohia Death since 2013 and have seen the devastation it is causing to the Big Island's forests. For someone who loves the native forest, such as myself, it is heartbreaking to see thousands of acres of dead trees spreading across the landscape. Since we identified the pathogen in 2014, we have assembled team of pathologists, entomologists, ecologists, and foresters to understand the disease, how it moves, and how we can manage it to protect our remaining forests on Hawaii Island and stop the movement of the fungus to other island. We have had outstanding initial support from state and federal sources and from local private foundations, but we need to be able to continue our work. An appropriation of \$600,000 would go long way to helping sustain these efforts and be much appreciated. Mahalo for your care for our forests and our islands.

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