

**HB 2657,
HD2**

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

March 16, 2016
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

HOUSE BILL NO. 2657 HD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2657 HD2. 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 as long as it does not impact 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 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 16, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2657, HD2
RELATING TO FOOD AGRICULTURE

Room 224
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, 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, 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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March 14, 2016

TO: Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture

FROM: Stacy Helm Crivello
Councilmember 

DATE: March 16, 2016

SUBJECT: **HB 2657 H.D. 2, 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 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 following the closures of the Dole Company and Del Monte's operations. Molokai's unemployment rate was 14% at the time and the funding was intended to provide financial support for economic development and growth on Molokai.
2. 28 years later, Molokai again faces the highest unemployment rate in the state. Support for small business including diversified agriculture to improve our economy is crucial, however 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 impacts their survivability.
3. The cost-reimbursement program allows for the reimbursement of our Molokai farmers and ranchers for the expenses incurred due to the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act and State food safety laws, positively impacting Molokai and its economy.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2657 on Mar 16, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, March 14, 2016 5:01:41 PM

HB2657

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for WLA on Mar 16, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dylan Armstrong | 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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