

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lt. Governor



**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC**  
**DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS**

February 6, 2015  
9:00 A.M.  
ROOM 312

**HOUSE BILL NO. 649**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

Chairpersons Tsuji, and Kawakami and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 649 which would establish a 3-year pilot program to enable new businesses to produce value-added products using fruits and vegetables deemed unsuitable to be sold as fresh. The Department supports legislation that helps farmers or adds value to Hawaii-grown products and supports the intent of this bill.

The Maui Food Technology Center (MFTC), currently in operation and newly renovated, provides a kitchen available to residents, students, new small to mid-sized food companies and entrepreneurs seeking to work with agricultural products and value-added food production including culinary arts, food science and food technology. The intent of the bill to provide a kitchen where businesses can produce value-added products using blemished crops could be served by working with the MFTC.

The State Universities of Nebraska and Oregon both operate food processing facilities with staff specializing in food safety, microbial analysis, machinery maintenance and repair, waste management, sensory analysis, and product development/labeling, which are important to a food processing facility. The pilot program proposed would likely require staff with the skills listed, equipment and other infrastructure for the facility to be operational.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS  
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Statement of  
**Luis P. Salaveria**, Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism  
before the  
**House Committees on Agriculture and  
Economic Development & Business**  
Friday, February 6, 2015  
9:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of  
**HB649**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

Chairs Tsuji and Kawakami, Vice Chairs Onishi and Kong and members of the House Committees on Agriculture and Economic Development & Business.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) appreciates the intent of HB649 that establishes a three-year blemished crop pilot program on the island of Oahu, including a state-sponsored kitchen, within DBEDT.

We note that the bill addresses agricultural waste and the conversion of agricultural produce towards value-added products. While DBEDT would be pleased to be involved and will undoubtedly provide support when needed, the Department of Agriculture would be the appropriate State agency to establish and administer the pilot program.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



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February 6, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

TESTIMONY ON HB 649  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Room 312  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Chair Kawakami, Vice Chair Onishi, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committees:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, HFB 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 supports HB 649**, which establishes a 3-year pilot program that enables new businesses to produce value-added products using fruits and vegetables deemed unsuitable to be sold as fresh.

As expenses rise, increases in farm revenues (and profits) are critical to the continued viability of farms and ranches. One way is to turn waste to value added products. Currently off-grade and excess production due to market conditions is wasted. Converting them into value-added products will not only increase farm revenue but also provide new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

If a Hawaii farmer wants to process his off-grade product into a value added product he is usually forced to send it to the mainland because Hawaii lacks value-added processing facilities. This cost of transportation to and from the mainland is often enough to discourage farmers from pursuing value-added production.

Hawaii is potentially losing millions of dollars because we lack the ability to process our own agricultural products. An agricultural processing facility here in Hawaii will provide farmers an opportunity to establish another market for their product.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

onishi3 - Timothy

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:35 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: legechair@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB649 on Feb 6, 2015 09:00AM\*

**HB649**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 6, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	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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onishi3 - Timothy

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 9:21 AM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: carl.campagna@kamakagreen.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB649 on Feb 6, 2015 09:00AM\*

**HB649**

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Feb 6, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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