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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Thursday, February 5, 2015
2:45 P.M.

**SENATE BILL NO. 1040
RELATING TO FARMERS' MARKETS**

Chairperson Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1040, relating to farmers' markets. The bill proposes to require that all agricultural products sold at farmers' markets are displayed with a sign or label declaring the products' geographic origin. The Department provides the following comments.

The bill requires that all agricultural products sold in a farmers' market be displayed with a label or sign that contains a contiguous identity statement which includes the product description, identification and geographic origin. A geographic origin is defined as a geographic region or regions in which the agricultural product was grown, collected or raised, and shall include the country of origin, if the product was produced outside the United States, or the state of origin if the product was produced in the United States. The bill, as written, is confusing. As an example, if a hog originated outside the United States; held, and then slaughtered in Hawaii. Would this bill allow the meat product (pork) to be labeled with the foreign country of origin, or with "Waianae, Hawaii"? This contradicts the federal Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) program requirements.

Farmers' market vendors will have a difficult time obtaining the proper geographic region identification from their supplier, unless the supplier is required to



identify the geographic region on the invoice or individual product. This bill lacks traceability, and lacks the access to pertinent information regarding the geographic origin of the product.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.