

HB 455, HD1

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 13 2017
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

HOUSE BILL NO. 455 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 455 HD1, which proposes to prohibit the department from charging agricultural producers for the costs of food safety certification activities conducted by the department. The department has concerns with this bill, for it may have unintended consequences.

This bill prohibits the department from charging an agricultural producer for the department's cost of conducting any and all food safety certification activities under title 11, HRS. This includes all fee-for-service activities performed by the department, which are related to food safety certification, and related activities **under cooperative agreements with the USDA**. The department performs USDA Good Agricultural Practices audits, in which a portion of the fees collected by the department are paid back to the USDA for audits performed. In addition, the Department performs fee-for-service USDA shell egg resident grading activities which include plant sanitation and wash water and sanitizer monitoring, all of which are related to food safety. This bill will jeopardize our existing cooperative agreements and long standing relationship with the USDA.



If this bill moves forward, the department will need additional funding to offset the fees owed to the USDA for fee-for-service food safety related activities.

Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the bill is related to the Meat Inspection Program, which the department ended in 1995 and relinquished the program back to the USDA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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March 13, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 455, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 224
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports the intent of HB 455, HD1, which prohibits the Department of Agriculture from charging agricultural producers for the costs of food safety certification activities conducted by the department.

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.

Foodborne illnesses can be serious and we should seek ways to reduce the risk. This bill will provide that assistance to our farmers for the costs they will incur to become food safety compliant.

The many criteria associated with FSMA to be compliant should not be an impediment for safe food. Hawaii cannot afford to further lose farmers as we strive to increase local food production. We want to incentivize our farmers' ability to continue their operations and provide Hawaii with abundant safe food.

Hawaii Farm Bureau appreciates any effort which will assist farmers with expenses to become compliant with the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 3:25 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB455 on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM*

HB455

Submitted on: 3/10/2017

Testimony for AEN on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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