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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

FEBRUARY 22, 2017
2:01 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 329

HOUSE BILL NO. 775 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 775 HD 1, which proposes to repeal the requirement that the department must grant permission prior to the removal of eggs from any dock or landing, and the requirement of issuing a certificate by the department attesting that the eggs in a shipment are properly marked before the eggs are offered for sale. The department strongly supports this bill.

The department recognizes the importance of the requirement that imported eggs being individually marked as to origin to differentiate it from locally produced eggs in order to protect our fragile local egg industry. Currently, the department issues over 150 certificates each month for shipments of imported eggs. The proposed amendments will not affect the department's authority and ability to enforce mislabeled or unmarked imported eggs as to origin.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Eggs Hawaii, Inc.

TESTIMONY

HOUSE BILL NO. 775 HOUSE DRAFT 1

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

I am writing to you in support of House Bill 775 Draft 1.

My name is Debra Shimabukuro and I am the President of Eggs Hawaii Inc. We are a subsidiary of the Hawaiian Egg Company (dba: Mikilua Poultry Farm) which is the largest local egg producer in the State. Eggs Hawaii Inc is a USDA processing plant and also a wholesale distributor for locally produced and mainland eggs.

To ensure quality, condition and that the individual eggs are properly stamped with "US" for origin designation, all of the mainland eggs that our company distributes is USDA certified. Our administrative staff and the mainland egg supplier must submit the appropriate paperwork and certificates to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture for all incoming mainland eggs. Requiring the Department to issue certificates before these eggs can be sold or offered for sale is redundant.

It is vital that we protect our locally produced eggs from individuals who would attempt to pass off the unmarked mainland eggs as "Island". We strongly believe that the Hawaii Department of Agriculture will still be able to enforce and protect our local egg industry without the issuance of certificates. This bill would also make available more of the Departments resources which could then be channeled out to increase the monitoring of the egg industry within the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



February 20, 2017

TO: Chair McKelvey and Members of the Consumer Protection Committee

FM: Chad Buck, CEO, Hawaii Foodservice Alliance LLC

RE: WRITTEN TESTIMONY - HOUSE BILL NO. 775 HOUSE DRAFT 1

I am writing in SUPPORT of House Bill 775, Draft 1.

We are a distributor of local and mainland eggs to the grocers, retailers and clubs located on Oahu, Maui, the Big Island, and Kauai.

To ensure quality, grading standards and that each individual egg is stamped according to Hawaii law with a "US" for Origin Designation, all of the eggs that we distribute from the mainland are USDA Certified. Our administrative staff AND the Mainland Egg Suppliers are required to submit the appropriate paperwork and certificates to the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture for ALL incoming mainland eggs.

The current requirement for the Department of Agriculture to issue another, separate certification before these eggs can be sold, once received in Hawaii, is a duplication of work.

We believe that the Department of Agriculture could better protect Hawaii's agriculture by using their time and resources on inspections and tasks that are not a duplication of work.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to testify on this bill.

Hawaii Foodservice Alliance LLC - 2720 Waiwai Loop, Honolulu, HI 96819

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:02 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: christopherjames87@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB775 on Feb 22, 2017 14:01PM

LATE

HB775

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for CPC on Feb 22, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Peterson	Petersons' Upland Farm LLC	Comments Only	No

Comments: Chairperson McKelvey and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce: Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 775. Petersons' Upland Farm supports the intent of HB 775 but has some comments. We understand the need for the Department of Agriculture to have flexibility and have the ability to better manage their time and resources. However, we feel that the bill needs to explicitly state that eggs that are grown and imported from the mainland must have a US stamp on each individual egg and be verified before sale. Additionally, there have been new big-name mainland egg farms who have bought land and are going to start farms here in Hawaii. It is essential that there is clear language in the bill so there is no unintended loophole for these farms to sell their mainland eggs under their locally produced brand. The poultry industry in Hawaii has been suffering for many years due to different factors such as: high feed costs, increased safety regulations, and the lack of a poultry processing facility in the state. In the 1980's there were 21 commercial egg farms in the state. Today, we only have four remaining commercial egg farms. The stamp on imported eggs is essential for consumers to be able to easily differentiate local and mainland eggs. This will help to support the egg industry here in Hawaii. Petersons' Upland farm respectfully requests amendments made to the bill to ensure these protections for our local farms. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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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