



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Ninth Legislature, 2017
State of Hawaii

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Friday, March 17, 2017
1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act
HB783 HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) **SUPPORTS** House **Bill 783 HD1**.

Our industry has noticed an increase in theft targeting Agriculture and agree that steps do need to be taken to help ease the burden off farmers.

We find it unfortunate that farms are being viewed as an easy source of theft due to their size and open nature. My own farm of Green Point Nurseries has been a victim of theft, with vehicles and farm equipment and supplies being stolen. We feel the need to patrol our farms at night and worry that we will be unable to work the next day with tools and supplies gone missing, or that all of our hard work will go towards replacing the items that were stolen.

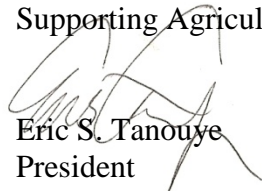
HFNA supports this bill and we hope that it will help everyone understand the theft problem that is facing agriculture, so that farmers can continue to be farmers.



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

We thank you for your consideration of HB783 HD1. If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,



Eric S. Tanouye
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:59 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB783 on Mar 17, 2017 13:30PM*

HB783

Submitted on: 3/16/2017

Testimony for AEN/PSM on Mar 17, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 2:43 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: sue.leeloy@hawaiicounty.gov
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB783 on Mar 17, 2017 13:30PM*

LATE

HB783

Submitted on: 3/17/2017

Testimony for AEN/PSM on Mar 17, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Council Woman Sue Lee Loy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR
SENATOR GLENN WAKAI, VICE CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATOR GIL RIVIERE, VICE CHAIR

DATE: Friday, March 17, 2017
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 224

HB 783 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Establishes a two-year agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project to examine the effectiveness of prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the county of Hawaii. Appropriates funds.

Chairs Nishihara & Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai & Riviere, and Members of the Respective Committees:

My name is Dale Sandlin, and I am Managing Director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 150+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports** HB 783 HD1 as this bill addresses agricultural theft and vandalism, issues felt in all agricultural industries in Hawaii.

This issue has become a major problem for ranchers across the state. Many ranchers feel the effects from the actions of trespassers. These include the cut fences, damage to infrastructure, vandalism, and theft of private property.

Ranchers often experience stretches of fence that have been cut or laid down. Up to 800 feet of fence in one stretch has been found destroyed by the actions of these trespassers. At times these pastures can contain cattle or other livestock and the trespassers actions produce an access point for the livestock to get out. This can lead to other unintended consequences including an animal loose on the roadway or onto a neighboring residential property and could lead to a threat to the animal's safety and that of the public safety.

Damages to infrastructure can also be very costly. Many ranchers utilize gravity flow water systems with flexible pipe to serve remote water troughs for their cattle. Some ranchers have discovered these flexible pipes broken by trespassers, causing great expense to fix these issues.

Our ranchers have also experienced theft of private property including gas cans, chains, spotlights, or anything that can be easily removed. Ranchers and farmers have installed large and elaborate locking systems to secure their private property and protect themselves from theft and vandalism. Also, gates have been pulled down and boulders that were placed to prevent access have been removed hours after being installed.

The penalties for trespassing carry little penalty and are difficult to prove. This pilot program should help to address these issues. We ask this committee pass this important measure and we appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony.

