

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

LATE

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
& PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 8, 2017
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 239
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairpersons Gabbard and Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 239 which proposes to establish a two-year agricultural theft pilot project to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the county of Hawaii. The department supports this bill, provided it does not impact the department's priorities submitted in the Executive Budget.

Agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism have been a constant problem for farmers and ranchers on the island of Hawaii, increasing the cost of production and preventing farming operations to be successful. The vast farming land area on the island of Hawaii and limited law enforcement officers make it difficult to capture perpetrators.

If the intent of this bill is for a two-year project, the department respectfully requests that the department be allowed to submit a report of the findings and recommendations to the legislature by December 31, 2019.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 6:42 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: crystalkpaul@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB239 on Feb 8, 2017 13:15PM*



SB239

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for AEN/PSM on Feb 8, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Kia Paul	Individual	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 12:20 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB239 on Feb 8, 2017 13:15PM*

LATE

SB239

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for AEN/PSM on Feb 8, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



**HCIA 2016 - 2018
Board of Directors**

President
Alan Takemoto

Vice-President
Joshua Uyehara

Secretary
Dawn Bicoy

Treasurer
Laurie Yoshida

Directors-at-Large
Adolf Helm
Richard McCormack
Dan Clegg

President Emeritus
Kirby Kester

Executive Director
Bennette Misalucha

OUR MISSION

HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices and build a healthy economy.

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**IN SUPPORT OF SB 239
Agricultural Theft Pilot Project**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

Wednesday, February 8, 2017
1:15 p.m., Conference Room 224

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Nishihara, Vice-Chairs Riviere and Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) is a Hawaii based non-profit organization promoting agricultural bio tech to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy state economy.

HCIA is in **support of SB 239**. We recognize that there are many challenges that confront today's farmers: weather, pests, soil conditions, among many. Unfortunately, for some, there is also the issue of agricultural theft and vandalism. It is a serious ongoing problem with reports of thefts of crops, machinery and tools, animals and the vandalism of property, fences and gates or equipment.

We have seen these instances particularly on Hawaii Island. We assert that there needs to be additional focus on this crime since the perpetuation of these acts have increased the cost of production and stymied agriculture.

The proposed pilot program will be a step in the right direction of seeing justice appropriately served. We humbly ask for your support of SB 239.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Bennette Misalucha
Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association