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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**FEBRUARY 24, 2017
1:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 624 SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 624 SD1, which proposes to develop a strategic plan that identifies benchmarks for increased food production in Hawaii and increased exports of food crops and value-added products from Hawaii. The Department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget and offers comments.

The Department recognizes the importance of metrics in determining local food production in the State. Strategic planning will allow the State to identify attainable goals for the State as it moves into a diversified agricultural economy. The Department would also like to note that strategic planning is complex and often controversial, therefore the Department asks for resources to allow for planning as the Department lacks the expertise to do this work.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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February 24, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 624, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211
1:30 pm

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 624, SD1, which requires the board of agriculture, in cooperation with the office of the governor, to develop a strategic plan to double local food production and exports by 2020 and to submit a report to the legislature prior to the regular session of 2018.

The Governor challenged agriculture to double food production by 2020 to meet the public's desire for greater self-sufficiency. Through various measures, there is an effort to encourage interest in and expansion of farming. However, for many reasons, this is not easy an easy task.

Land, water, labor, infrastructure, transportation, invasive species, marketing, FSMA, regulations, R&D are just some of the issues that need to be addressed if we want to increase the viability of our farmers and ranchers while increasing Hawaii's agricultural capacity.

Many studies to identify actions to increase Hawaii's food security have been conducted over the years. However, actual systematic implementation steps have been erratic. As the Governor proposed doubling food production by 2020, the development of a strategic plan is critical in order to achieve this goal.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this important subject.