



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of  
**LUIS P. SALAVERIA**  
**Director**

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Thursday, February 16, 2017  
9:00a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

in consideration of  
**HB 1559, HD1**  
**RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY.**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of HB 1559, HD1 which appropriates funds to address the FDA's industry guidance on the use of color additives in sea salt products so long as it does not displace Administration priorities.

DBEDT has not previously worked with the FDA on such a complex issue, and will require it to seek professional and knowledgeable assistance. Therefore, funding in the sum of \$150,000, as specified in the bill is necessary to undertake this task.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**MOLOKAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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February 15, 2017

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2017

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 16, 2017  
9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**Support for HB 1559, HD1 RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY. Appropriates funds to DBEDT in each of fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 to address the FDA's industry guidance on the use of color additives in sea salt products.**

Honorable HEALTH Committee Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Committee Members:

As a representative organization of the neighbor-island of Molokai with dozens of members who employ hundreds of our neighbors, friends and families, we are respectfully submitting testimony in Favor of HB 1559, HD1.

As you may well know, on Molokai we have some well known and highly regarded salt producers that manufacture Hawaiian Sea Salt containing the two additives in question. Together these producers contribute greatly to our local economy and provide an important export to markets all across the globe.

Molokai already suffers from some of the highest costs of doing business in the State and If these traditional Hawaii additives are restricted from being used it could add to that burden causing significant hardship for our salt producers, their customers, their employees and families.

This measure would help provide the administrative and financial resources necessary to add these items to the FDA's list of approved ingredients for sea salt and bring stability to the industry on both Molokai and Statewide.

For these reasons and more we humbly ask you to Support HB 1559, HD1 and pass it through your committee.

Sincerely,

Robert Stephenson, President & CEO



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Health  
Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 9:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL 1559 HD1 RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 1559, which appropriates funds to DBEDT in each of fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 to address the FDA's industry guidance on the use of color additives in sea salt products.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,600+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Hawaiian sea salt is a well-known and popular product of Hawaii that is sold and used by both local residents and people abroad. Recent FDA guidelines regarding red and black Hawaiian sea salt have had such impact, financially, on Hawaiian sea salt distributors due to the cost of testing that they are required to bear.

Currently, additives used to color red Hawaiian salt -- red alae or Hawaiian red volcanic clay -- and black Hawaiian salt -- a pharmaceutical quality activated charcoal -- are not officially on the list of FDA-approved color additives. The FDA is willing to consider approving these additives, but they must pass systematic application submission and related testing by third party consultants, which can cost around \$50,000 or more, and take 6 months to a year for complete processing and approval by the FDA.

Having DBEDT's involvement in testing color additives for Hawaiian sea salt products, as is being proposed in this bill, will relieve local small businesses from bearing the burden of the testing costs and allow them to continue to focus on growing their business and creating a thriving market for Hawaiian sea salt products globally.

For these reasons, we support HB 1559. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**LATE**

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Conference Room 329, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL 1559 HD1 RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Food Manufacturers Association ("HFMA") **supports** HB 1559, which appropriates funds to DBEDT in each of fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 to address the FDA's industry guidance on the use of color additives in sea salt products.

HFMA is a non-profit organization that serves as a conduit for resources, tools and expertise to benefit existing and start-up companies in the state's \$900 million food manufacturing industry. Established in 1977, HFMA is the only statewide food manufacturing association in the United States, representing approximately 130 companies and industry stakeholders. HFMA advocates on behalf of the local manufacturing community and works to increase public awareness of Hawaii's unique, locally made food and beverage products.

Hawaiian sea salt is a well-known and popular product of Hawaii that is sold and used by both local residents and people abroad. Recent FDA guidelines regarding red and black Hawaiian sea salts have had such impact, financially, on Hawaiian sea salt distributors due to the cost of testing that they are required to bear.

Currently, additives used to color red Hawaiian salt -- red alae -- and black Hawaiian salt -- a pharmaceutical quality activated charcoal -- are not officially on the list of FDA-approved color additives. The FDA is willing to consider approving these additives, but they must pass systematic application submission and related testing by third party consultants, which can cost around \$50,000 or more, and take 6 months to a year for complete processing and approval by the FDA.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.