



LATE

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March 12, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND TECHNOLOGY

TESTIMONY ON HB 2174, HD1
RELATING TO RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Room 414
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 2174, HD1, which creates the high-growth grant program and special fund within DBEDT.

The strength of Hawaii's economy is dependent upon a diversity in commerce that are resilient to economic downturns and aggressive in creating new opportunities for growth. This program complements other programs in DBEDT to accomplish such a goal.

A major weakness in agriculture is our lack of value added production. Our over dependence on sale of fresh goods makes us especially vulnerable to weather and pest outbreaks while strict quarantine measures and transportation costs of heavy goods make exports difficult. This measure creates incentives for value added manufacturing. Farmers like to farm. They are not experts in value added production. Partnerships with the manufacturing sector could help us in this area.

For example, beef. Maui has a new product called Maui Crisps. It is a popular "omiyage" gift. The owner had difficulty meeting demand and recently expanded his operations. This provides a value added product to our cattle industry, is portable and light -- perfect for suitcase exports and is shelf stable, not requiring refrigeration. Products like this can pull agricultural expansion supportive of our State's policy for increased agricultural production.

HFB respectfully requests your **strong support of HB 2174, HD1**, complementing DBEDT programs to grow Hawaii's economy and improve its' resilience during economic downturns.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our input on this measure.

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HB-2174-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 10:55:44 AM

Testimony for ETT on 3/12/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments: