

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

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 24, 2017
12:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 455 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 455 HD1, which proposes to prohibit the department from charging agricultural producers for the costs of food safety certification activities conducted by the department. The department has concerns with this bill, for it may have unintended consequences.

This bill prohibits the department from charging an agricultural producer for the department's cost of conducting any and all food safety certification activities under title 11, HRS. This includes all fee-for-service activities performed by the department, which are related to food safety certification, and related activities **under cooperative agreements with the USDA**. The department performs USDA Good Agricultural Practices audits, in which a portion of the fees collected by the department are paid back to the USDA for audits performed. In addition, the Department performs fee-for-service USDA shell egg resident grading activities which include plant sanitation and wash water and sanitizer monitoring, all of which are related to food safety. This bill will jeopardize our existing cooperative agreements and long standing relationship with the USDA.



Page 2

Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the bill is related to the Meat Inspection Program, which the department ended in 1995 and relinquished the program back to the USDA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.