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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 15, 2017
8:40 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 490
RELATING TO FOOD PRODUCTION

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 490, which establishes and appropriates funding for the Food Production Goals Task Force. The department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

Developing a strategic plan for increased food production will be beneficial to the State in moving toward food sustainability. This bill asks a variety of task force members to weigh in on policy regarding local food production. This may require the use of an experienced third party facilitator as strategic planning such as this is often controversial and complex.

The Department would like to note that the Farm to School program is currently working with both private and public sector stakeholders to increase local food in Hawaii's schools. A systematic pilot project approach is currently underway and most of this bill asks for a task force on issues that are currently being addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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February 15, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 490
RELATING TO FOOD PRODUCTION

Room 312
8:40 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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 has serious concerns to HB 490, establishing a Food Production Goals Task Force.

Many studies have been conducted (e.g. Increased Food Security and Food Self Sufficiency Strategy, Oct 2012, DEBEDT and HDOA) that suggest strategies for increased food production.

Those of us in production agriculture are well aware that successful food production exists within a bigger sphere of diverse agricultural production. Floriculture and nurseries are important to food production. Simply focusing on food as articulated in the goals is simplistic and will not achieve the expectant goals.

HDOA is working with USDA NASS to collect statistical data that are needed for metrics. Extensive studies to implement this process is not needed.

HFB requests the Committee's recognition of past studies and the scope of what is needed to advance ag during your deliberations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:34 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB490 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

HB490

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Simon Russell | Hawaii Farmers Union United | Support | No |

Comments:

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