

HB 891, HD1

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

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Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**MARCH 13 2017
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 891 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 891 HD1, 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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March 13, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 891, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 224
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, 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 **strongly supports HB 891, HD1**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to develop an implementation plan to increase local food production.

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.

Increased food production requires all types of agriculture. We have seen invasive species hitchhiking on ornamentals cause havoc on local vegetables. Increasing our local floriculture industry is equally important to expanded food production.

Vermont has a program called Farm to Plate – a comprehensive strategy to increase agriculture in the State. It started in 2009 with authorizing legislation and has provided a report to the Legislature annually, showing a gradual increase in agricultural production and how it is growing Vermont's economy. Some changes will be needed but a working model is available.

HFB respectfully **requests your strong support of this measure**. A roadmap providing a common goal to improve Hawaii's agriculture is needed.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: AEN Testimony
Cc: dale@hicattle.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB891 on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM*

HB891

Submitted on: 3/10/2017

Testimony for AEN on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

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HB891

Submitted on: 3/10/2017

Testimony for AEN on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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