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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 AGRICULTURE

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

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

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 891, 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. With that, it is important to note that the Board of Agriculture is not the best entity to lead this effort, but rather the Department of Agriculture should be responsible for undertaking this effort. 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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February 15, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 891
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

Hawaii Farm Bureau **strongly supports HB 891**, requiring 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, October 2012, DBEDT and HDOA) that suggest strategies for increased food production.

Increased food production requires all types of agriculture. We have seen invasive species hitchhike 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
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:48 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dale@hicattle.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB891 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

HB891

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

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

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

Comments:

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To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mamaupin@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB891 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

HB891

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Maupin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jamesjtz@aol.com
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HB891

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gordines@kauaiflowers.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB891 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

HB891

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
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 6:45 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: rkailianu57@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB891 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*



HB891

Submitted on: 2/15/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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