



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org



February 13, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 1313
RELATING TO HAWAII FOOD RESILIENCY

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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports the intent of SB 1313, which makes various appropriations to implement the recommendations of the *"Increased Food Security and Food Self-sufficiency Strategy"* by establishing a strategy and goals for increased food security and self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

Food security, food self-sufficiency and growing agriculture are popular concepts seen in many of the measures before the legislature this year. This Legislative Session, there have been many bills introduced that support of Hawaii's Agricultural Industry. This year, HFB has introduced a package of measures addressing the real needs of our farmers and ranchers all associated with increasing farm and ranch viability.

While we do see food resiliency as a priority, we support all forms of agriculture. This measure clearly would place emphasis on food and may leave non-food enterprises neglected. Are biofuels, flowers, nursery crops, fiber (including hemp) and forestry less of a priority? These enterprises contribute beauty, energy sustainability, soil remediation, tourism, watershed protection-all high priorities to the state. We would like to see Hawaii Food Resiliency Initiative focus on all agriculture rather than just food.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.