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Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

**JANUARY 29, 2018  
1:15 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2073  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2073. This bill deposits Act 183, SLH 2017 funds into the food safety certification costs grant program special fund and allows the department to expend funds from this special fund. The Department strongly supports this bill.

Act 183, SLH 2017 appropriated \$500,000 for fiscal year 2017-2018 and created the food safety certification costs grant program special fund, but did not specify the deposit of the appropriation into the special fund.

In addition, the bill required the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules to carry out the purposes of the grant program. The Board of Agriculture recently granted preliminary approval of these rules and the department will need to continue with the rulemaking process until the rules are adopted. Currently, the Department anticipates that when the rules are adopted, the appropriation will lapse and the funds will not be available for the intended purpose. By placing the funds in the appropriate special fund, the Department will have ample time to expend the allotted funding from the 2017 legislative session to support local farmers and ranchers with food safety costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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January 29, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2073**  
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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFB strongly supports SB 2073**, which clarifies that the amount appropriated in Act 183, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, shall be deposited into the food safety certification costs grant program special fund and that the same amount shall be appropriated out of the special fund for fiscal year 2018-2019. This program will provide grants to farmers to assist them in paying for the costs of compliance with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act and state food safety laws.

HFB appreciates the support by the legislature in our past efforts to help Hawaii's farmers achieve compliance with the FDA Food Safety and Modernization Act. As the actual rule has been rolled out by FDA the immensity of the task is becoming evident.

Foodborne illnesses can be serious, and we should seek ways to reduce the risk. This bill will provide that assistance to our farmers for the costs they will incur to become food safety compliant.

The many criteria associated with FSMA to be compliant should not be an impediment for safe food. Hawaii cannot afford to further lose farmers as we strive to increase local food production. We want to incentivize our farmers' ability to continue their operations and provide Hawaii with abundant safe food.

Hawaii Farm Bureau respectfully requests your **strong support of SB 2073** which will assist farmers with expenses to become compliant with the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.