



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

**LATE**

February 28, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2075**  
RELATING TO THE SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Room 211  
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 2075**, which appropriates funds for three positions and operating expenses of the sustainable and organic agriculture program administered by the UH college of tropical agriculture and human resources.

HFB believes that Hawaii's organic sector of our agricultural industry has great potential and opportunity to expand in Hawaii. Having a stronger organic industry will not only help the overall agricultural industry, but it will also lead to reducing imported organic products and invasive species that are commonly found on the importation of organic fruits and produce.

For nearly a century, CTAHR has helped develop and improve agricultural technologies pertinent to organic growers. This includes intensive cover crop research, promoting the importance of locally grown produce, developing biological and cultural methods for controlling pests without chemicals, and the use of biological nitrogen fixation to significantly increase production of high protein foods while at the same time reducing the need for commercially produced fertilizers.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.