

SB 239



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February 8, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE ON ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON SB 239
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 224
1:15 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Riviere and Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

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 239, which would establish a two-year agricultural theft pilot project in the county of Hawaii.

Agricultural theft and vandalism are persistent problems facing agriculture. Weather, drought, pests, weeds, disease, activists, unstable markets, transportation and labor issues, and a changing climate all contribute to uncertainty for farmers and ranchers. Few businesses face such challenges, yet we are charged with producing food, fiber, fuel and flowers for the 99% of non-farmers. Add in the constant threat and impacts of trespass, theft and vandalism, and it's a wonder farms and ranches remain viable.

In working with our members, HDOA, and law enforcement, we have collectively concluded that a dedicated enforcement officer housed in the county prosecutor's office would be a giant step forward in minimizing agricultural crimes and enhancing public safety. Too often a farmer or rancher has sweated, worried, and worked to the bone to produce a crop, only to wake up one morning to find that an opportunistic criminal has helped himself to the harvest. Farmers and ranchers are fed up with this activity and frankly, deserve better. We understand that law enforcement resources are often prioritized for public health and safety. Is the health, safety and livelihood of a farmer and his family any less important? We think not.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 10:37 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: dale@hicattle.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB239 on Feb 8, 2017 13:15PM*

SB239

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for AEN/PSM on Feb 8, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:49 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: alan@prloffice.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB239 on Feb 8, 2017 13:15PM*

SB239

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for AEN/PSM on Feb 8, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 5:35 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: gordines@kauaiflowers.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB239 on Feb 8, 2017 13:15PM*

SB239

Submitted on: 1/28/2017

Testimony for AEN/PSM on Feb 8, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

LATE

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
& PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 8, 2017
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 239
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairpersons Gabbard and Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 239 which proposes to establish a two-year agricultural theft pilot project to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism in the county of Hawaii. The department supports this bill, provided it does not impact the department's priorities submitted in the Executive Budget.

Agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism have been a constant problem for farmers and ranchers on the island of Hawaii, increasing the cost of production and preventing farming operations to be successful. The vast farming land area on the island of Hawaii and limited law enforcement officers make it difficult to capture perpetrators.

If the intent of this bill is for a two-year project, the department respectfully requests that the department be allowed to submit a report of the findings and recommendations to the legislature by December 31, 2019.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 6:42 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: crystalkpaul@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB239 on Feb 8, 2017 13:15PM*



SB239

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for AEN/PSM on Feb 8, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Kia Paul	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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