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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**MARCH 28, 2018
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2556 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thanks for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2556 SD1 HD1. This bill establishes a special fund within the department of agriculture to deposit and expend funds necessary for the operation of the industrial hemp pilot program. The Department strongly supports this bill.

In running the industrial hemp program, the Department will collect application fees, license fees, inspection fees, and fines. The Department hopes that the industrial hemp program eventually becomes self-sustaining, and towards that end finds it to be prudent to deposit money generated by the program into a fund dedicated to the program and its expenses. A special fund would allow program expenditures to be limited to and made according to the funds generated by the program, and not rely on general funds. This will help the Department assess and adjust the appropriateness of fees necessary for the program to be self-sustaining should the program become permanent.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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March 28, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2556, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 308
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 2556, SD1, HD1, which establishes an Industrial Hemp Special Fund within the Department of Agriculture to deposit fees and expend funds necessary for the Industrial Hemp Pilot Program.

There is significant interest in growing industrial hemp for various end products in Hawaii. The development of such a program, including the current regulatory requirements to implement the program by the Department will require funds. This measure will assist with this need.

We respectfully request your support of this measure for the development of an alternative crop for Hawaii.

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