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February 3, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY ON SB 623
RELATING TO THE AQUACULTURE

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 623, which requires the Department of Agriculture to implement an Aquaculture Development Program and to provide an appropriation for the program.

HFB agrees that a fully functioning State aquaculture program will help encourage production of more local seafood and will increase jobs and reduce reliance on imported seafood. We support that goal, and we believe that it also comports well with the State's food self-sufficiency initiative and Governor Ige's goal to double local food production by 2020.

HFB recalls the benefits to the Hawaii aquaculture industry of the previous program and hopes that a review of that effort will be conducted and used to help establish the new program. Aquaculture industry members are eager to participate and assist in the planning and development of the program to ensure its success.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 1:22 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB623 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM*

SB623

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

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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LATE

February 1, 2017

Senator Mike Gabbard
Hawaii State Capital
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Gabbard,

I am writing today to **STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 623**. Having fished commercially for over 40 years, from the Antarctic to the Bering Sea and having been involved with fisheries management at the State, Federal and International level for the last 25 years, the writing is on the wall and fish farming and sound fisheries management is our only hope for the future.

We are a fish farm on the Big Island and knowing that the State hopes to increase local production in AG we wanted to support this initiative. Last year Hawaii produced 100,000 lbs of Tilapia Statewide and this year we will harvest 3-4 Million pounds of Tilapia and the growth potential, without ANY impact to the environment, is tremendous. The fish offal is also being used for the protein to produce a local cattle feed. So it's a full utilization, systems wide approach and SB 623 will contribute to these efforts.

The Big Island alone could see 100 million dollars in revenue a year from fish farms and we're hoping that SB 623 will be the road map to make that happen.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Endreson", is written in a cursive style.

Bob Endreson
808-225-3571