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PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
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TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 11, 2019
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

HOUSE BILL NO. 1562 HD1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OPERATING BUDGET

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 1562 HD1. This bill appropriates funds for operating expenses of the Department of Agriculture. The Department supports this bill and offers comments.

The budget items contained in the bill represent the Department's needs that are above the current base budget. These additions would address matters such as the implementation of the biosecurity program, supplementing the agricultural loan revolving fund, providing funds for food safety grants, and addressing the repair and maintenance backlog. We ask the committee to consider the Department's operating requests attached here.

We realize the budget will undergo further iterations before reaching its final form and look forward to working with the committees to craft a budget that is amenable to all of those involved.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FB 20-21 OPERATING BUDGET REQUESTS

Prog ID	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
AGR 101	General fund supplement for the Agricultural Loan Revolving fund	A			7,500,000	5,000,000
AGR 122	Positions for implementation of Biosecurity Plan	A	4.00		103,908	207,816
AGR 132	Increase FTE for Quarantine Animal Caretakers and Establish Livestock Inspector Position	A	2.50		88,860	106,998
AGR 132	Position for aquaculture disease control	A	1.00		26,478	52,956
AGR 141	Transfer 2.50 FTE from Revolving Funds to General Funds	A	2.50		121,698	121,698
AGR 141	Funds for Litigation Settlement	A			1,600,000	
AGR 151	Funds for Food Safety Grants	A			500,000	500,000
AGR 171	Establish Economic Development Specialist Position	A	1.00		29,808	59,616
AGR 171	Funds for Agricultural Surveys	A			240,000	240,000
AGR 171	Funds for EDP Maintenance-Contract Maintenance System	A			20,000	20,000
AGR 192	Full Year Funding for Program Specialist Position for Farm to State Program	A	1.00		73,316	73,316
AGR 192	Funds for Repairs and Maintenance	A			75,000	75,000



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HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 1562, HD1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Room 224
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

Hawaii Farm Bureau **strongly supports HB 1562, HD1**, which appropriates funds for operating expenses of the department of agriculture.

The success of the agriculture industry is dependent on the resources provided to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. The department provides resources to agriculture loans, grants, and certification programs, just the name a few. This bill would enable the department to continue its efforts in supporting and growing the agriculture industry.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.