

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



DENISE ALBANO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF DENISE ALBANO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH

**JANUARY 31, 2019
11:00A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 329**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 869
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Creagan, Chairperson Mizuno, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 869, which enacts produce safety rules in accordance with the federal Food and Drug Administration Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption. The Department supports the intent of this bill.

The department has been in discussions with the Department of Health, who partners with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inquiring on their interest of performing the FSMA audits on behalf of the FDA. The Department of Health expressed no interest on performing on-farm audits and has no objections to having the Department of Agriculture conducting the audits. We are still awaiting the FDA to offer an agreement/contract and funding with the Department of Agriculture.

The department is requesting the following amendment to section 2, page 18, line 8 to 10:

“§145-I Rulemaking authority. The board of agriculture [~~shall~~] may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 necessary to carry out the purposes of this part.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HB-869

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 1:47:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tim F Merriman	Heartfelt Kona Coffee	Oppose	No

Comments:

We are semi-retired Kona coffee farmers in Captain Cook, producing hundreds of pounds annually of high quality Kona coffee. We pick it and process it ourselves, except for dry milling and roasting and sell online as estate coffee. The income from this is vital for we live on Social Security as our main financial support and it is not adequate to our monthly expenses. We are also members of KCFA who keeps us informed of legislation affecting our business as coffee farmers and sellers.

We oppose HB869 and believe it will add to the costs of producing and delivering coffee to consumers lawfully. We don't believe the additional certification is necessary or fair to small farmers. We urge you to not approve this bill.

Sincerely

Tim Merriman

KCFA member and estate coffee grower and seller

HB-869

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:50:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-869

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 8:05:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Wilp	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill. It would put us out of business. Please note Kona Coffee Farmers Association's compelling testimony.