

SB 1151

SB 235

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

FEBRUARY 1, 2019
1:20 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 1151
RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LOANS

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill 1151. This bill increases the chairperson's authority to approve agricultural and aquacultural loans to \$100,000.00. The Department of Agriculture strongly supports this bill.

The chairperson's approval authority of \$25,000 has not been increased since it was originally authorized in 1982, approximately 37 years ago. Since that time, business costs have increased significantly, and the speed of business has increased. The higher approval authority will allow faster approval of smaller loans and enable the Department to respond faster to assist applicants during times of emergency and allow businesses to take advantage of opportunities that may require immediate funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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February 1, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 1151
RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LOANS

Room 224
1:20 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 1151, which increases the chairperson's authority to approve agricultural loans and aquacultural loans from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

We support this change as it will expedite the approval of small loans to Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. Raising the ceiling of the loan approval authority of the Chairperson parallels the ongoing increase in construction and operating costs. This increase will also allow the Board of Agriculture to focus on larger loans that are more complex. Overall, it will make the HDOA more efficient and by reducing the cost and time expended on and by Hawaii's farmers and ranchers waiting for approval for a small HDOA loan.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

SB-1151

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 12:22:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2019 1:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-1151

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 6:19:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments: