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March 28, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

TESTIMONY ON SCR 175/SR 119
ENCOURAGING THE STATE TO BUILD A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE KINGDOM OF
THE NETHERLANDS AND COLLABORATE ON SIMILAR, SHARED CHALLENGES
AND GOALS

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SCR 175/SR 119, which encourages Hawai'i to build a partnership with the Kingdom of the Netherlands and collaborate on similar, shared challenges and goals.

Although the Netherlands is a relatively small country, it is a major innovative player when it comes to agriculture. Due to the country's size, farmers have always needed to be creative when it comes to using their resources to the fullest. The agriculture sector plays a critical role in the Netherlands where half the country's land is used for agriculture and accounts for 10% of the Dutch economy and employment.

Fueled by world-class research institutes, research universities, and public-private partnerships between science, industry, and government, the Netherlands is a world leader in agrifood innovation. As a powerhouse for food, the Netherlands is the second largest exporter of agricultural products in the world, second only to the U.S.

Nearly two decades ago, the Dutch committed to sustainable agriculture by following the approach "**produce twice as much food using half of the resources.**" making the Netherlands a world leader in the future of farming. The Dutch are working on innovative ways to increase food production, through thousands of agriculture projects across the globe, and throughout farms across the Netherlands.

As we set agriculture policies for Hawai'i, provide infrastructure support, and innovate for the industry, we need to learn from and duplicate successful systems. Partnering with the Kingdom of the Netherlands allows Hawai'i's agricultural industry to learn from the Netherlands' agricultural success. Hawai'i farmers can benefit from the Netherlands' use of using precision farming and storage technology to produce top yields with minimal inputs and how the use of automation, robotization, and AI can improve the way we produce food.

HFB supports building a partnership with the Kingdom of the Netherlands to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, technology, innovation, and best practices and ultimately improve the economic vitality of Hawai'i's agriculture sector.

Thank you for your support of Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers.