

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024
1:46 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO.
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2936. This bill appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture for the planning and construction of a new inspection, quarantine, and incineration facility on the island of Maui. The Department of Agriculture (HDOA) supports the intent of this bill and provides comments.

To ensure Maui is protected from additional invasive species entry through the tremendous amounts of material needed, a quarantine area where containers can be inspected, treated and held is needed.

Planning and design funds will be needed to ensure a modular unit is large enough fulfill the needs of the stated scope of work and ensure a biochar facility could be colocated at that site. \$10,000,000 will be enough to get this work started, through depending on size additional construction funds will be required.

Since there is a dollar for dollar county match requirement and the funding is allocated to the Agribusiness Development Corporation we defer to their testimony.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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February 14, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

TESTIMONY ON SB 2936
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:46 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and DeCoite, Vice-Chairs Ricahrds and Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

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 SB 2936, which appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture for the planning and construction of a new inspection, quarantine, and incineration facility on the island of Maui.

There have been many bills introduced this year addressing invasive species. Many address invasive species but are not part of a comprehensive effort to manage the core problem. Years ago the Legislature created the mechanism of a comprehensive Biosecurity Plan and significant progress was made in implementing the key measures of the plan. We have drifted away from that effort. This measure, however, addresses a key component of the comprehensive Biosecurity Plan. Previous efforts required treatment of all nursery stock that may contain invasive pests. This sounded like a very logical step, however, if associated programs to reduce pest infestations on lands adjacent to farms, and at ports and harbors along with appropriate treatment facilities are not available, this will be a cost-prohibitive program for farmers.

The proposed modular quarantine facility is vital to controlling the spread of harmful and invasive pests as Lahaina rebuilds production. We urge the legislature to become familiar with the Hawaii Biosecurity Plan and to support its timely and complete implementation.

We thank you for your strong support of this measure.