



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail: info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

2015 HFB Legislative Session priorities

1. Relating to Agriculture – Right to Farm

Purpose: Add language to the Right to Farm law stating that “No law, ordinance, or resolution of any unit of local government shall be enacted that abridges the right of farmers and ranchers to employ agricultural practices not prohibited by federal or state law, rules, or regulations.” Deletes reference to modern agriculture or technology and simplifies the language to support all agricultural practices.

2. Relating to Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD).

Purpose: Appropriate \$350,000 for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts.

3. Relating to Irrigation Systems

Purpose: Appropriate funds for capital improvement projects to various irrigation systems statewide. This will include but not limited to: Galbraith, Ka’u, Waimanalo, Molokai, Kekaha, Upcountry Maui Watershed, Waimea, and Hamakua.

4. Adopt UH CTAHR Extension appropriation

Purpose: Support the UH CTAHR Extension Service with eight agent positions statewide.

5. Relating to the Food Safety Modernization Act

Purpose: Request \$2 million in funding for research into alternative methods of satisfying the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act – GIA Funding. Funding to be administered by the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation. Funding will be to support 10-12 projects at approximately \$100,000-\$200,000 needed per project.

6. Relating to Invasive Species

Purpose: Appropriate \$1,000,000 in 2015 and the same sum in 2016 for continued research and mitigation of the Macadamia Felted Coccid.

7. Relating to Biosecurity

Purpose: To address the invasive species issue that directly affects Hawaii's agricultural industry. Funding would provide for the implementation of the State's Biosecurity program.

8. Relating to Invasive Species

Purpose: Seeking HDOA appropriation for the mitigation of the Coffee Berry Borer.

9. Relating to Livestock Feed Subsidy Extension and Feed Development

Purpose: Appropriate funds to the livestock revitalization program to administer and disburse funds to qualified producers of sheep, goat, cattle, dairy, hog, and poultry, fish, and crustacean farms and to qualified feed developers for the costs of feed development for sale to qualified producers.

10. Relating to Energy Costs

Purpose: Provide agricultural rates for electricity. Provide alternative energy transition for agricultural enterprises.

11. Relating to Agricultural Education

Purpose: Request for State to establish, develop and execute an agriculture vocational curriculum within Hawaii's public school system. This may come in the form of a pilot project.

12. Relating to Invasive Species

Purpose: Convene a task force involving HFBF, DOA, DLNR, UH CTAHR, and vested farmer representatives from each island to determine how to mitigate crop damage caused by feral and endangered animal species throughout the State. This measure can be addressed in a Resolution, requesting the State to convene a task force with those listed above.

13. Relating to Agriculture

Purpose: Create tougher penalties for Ag Crime/theft/trespass/counterfeit. Increase enforcement via personnel dedicated to addressing Ag crimes. This could come in the form of a pilot project.

14. Relating to Land Exchange

Purpose: Appropriates funds to investigate the possibility of exchanging state land for land owned by Dole Food Company, Inc., and for costs of executing the exchange. \$500,000 to investigate and further funding to execute the exchange.

15. Relating to Farmers' Markets

Purpose: Create a Farmers Market Vendor policy within Department of Health. This measure was introduced last year by the Senate, however it was not heard by committee.