



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2014
9:25 A.M.
Conference Room 211

SENATE BILL NO. 2435 SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Ige and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2435 SD1. This bill would allow for the acquisition of real property for agriculture production by the Agricultural Development and Food Security Special Fund and would increase the allocation to the fund. The Department supports the intent of this bill but believes giving preference to the acquisition of real property may come at the expense of staffing and programmatic initiatives.

There is a growing public sentiment that realizes, as an island state, Hawaii is precariously dependent on imported food and energy. The legislature responded to this movement by passing Act 73, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010. As part of that act, the Agricultural Development and Food Security Special Fund was created with the mandate to fund activities intended to increase agricultural production or processing that may lead to reduced importation of food, fodder, or feed from outside the State. The Department has moved forward with this mandate and has funded positions and programs to preserve agricultural lands, repair irrigation systems, lower the costs of farming, and raise both the supply and demand of local food.



Stipulating that monies in the special fund must be used first for the acquisition of real property would adversely affect the staffing and programmatic initiatives that are currently being funded.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2435 on Feb 19, 2014 09:25AM*
Date: Sunday, February 16, 2014 9:51:20 AM

SB2435

Submitted on: 2/16/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 19, 2014 09:25AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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