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Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 1, 2015
2:30 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 308

**SENATE BILL NO. 1060 SD 2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LOANS**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 1060 SD 2. The Department strongly supports this bill.

This bill will create a low interest loan program to assist the livestock and poultry industry to renovate their existing structures or construct new infrastructure to ensure they are bio-secure and meet new Federal requirements. The improved bio-secure infrastructures will result in a safer food supply and prevent the spread of livestock and zoonotic diseases amongst wild animals, the herd and humans while helping to ensure that fresh eggs, beef and pork remain available to Hawaii's citizens.

Livestock operations nationwide are facing increasing federal regulations for livestock infrastructure to improve biosecurity. The recent discovery of the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus on Oahu demonstrates the need for increased bio-security measures. The discovery of the virus resulted in a quarantine order by the Department and while it does not pose a risk for humans, it causes significant sickness in swine and high mortality for piglets. Increased bio-security measures while reducing the risk for disease transmission will not always result in greater profitability for farmers that need to install the systems or upgrade their facilities. Having access to affordable capital is vital



for farmers to make the necessary improvements while remaining solvent and sustainable for the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 12:58 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1060 on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM

SB1060

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS SB 1060, SD2, RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LOANS, which allows for agricultural loans to be administered for livestock biosecurity projects. (SB 1060, SD2)

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April 1, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 1060 SD 2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LOANS

Room 308
2:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB is in support of SB 1060 SD 2 which allows for agricultural loans to be administered for livestock biosecurity projects.

Hawaii's livestock industry faces numerous challenges. One of the most significant challenges is ensuring their livestock facilities are bio-secure compliant with federal regulations. The federal regulations are required to ensure a safe food supply by protecting livestock operations from the introduction of pests, diseases, and pathogens and from the spread of diseases and pathogens to other farms and ranches.

Hawaii's livestock industry is already struggling with the high cost of their operations. The cost of compliance with increased federal regulations could jeopardize their viability. Low interest loans under the Agricultural Loan Program to assist the livestock industry is critical to insure the sustainability of Hawaii's livestock industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.