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February 3, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 1060  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LOANS

Room 414  
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, 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** 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.