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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND AGRICULTURE**

March 30, 2015  
1:40 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 184  
and  
SENATE RESOLUTION 119**

Chairpersons Shimabukuro and Ruderman and Members of the Committees:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 184 and Senate Resolution 119 requesting federal and state agencies to consult with Hawaii's small farmers, producers and affected parties on offsetting costs associated with the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The Department of Agriculture supports these resolutions.

The majority of Hawaii's farmers are considered small scale and the Department understands the financial disadvantages of small-scale farming. Although the Tester amendment exempts small scale farming operations from many of the FSMA requirements, farmers will still be required to maintain records for traceback purposes.

The Department will participate with the federal and State agencies to discuss possible financial opportunities that can assist small farmers in meeting the FSMA requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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March 30, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON SCR 184/SR 119  
REQUESTING FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES TO CONSULT WITH HAWAII SMALL  
SCALE FARMERS, HAWAII SMALL SCALE PRODUCERS, AND AFFECTED PARTIES ON  
THE OFFSETTING OF COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT.

Room 224  
1:40 PM

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFBB 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.

**Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports this measure** exploring the needs and preparing the Hawaii farmer to be compliant with the requirements of the Food Safety and Modernization Act. We support this measure for the following reasons:

- The threats posed by FSMA to Hawaii's local agriculture are significant. Buyers are increasingly hesitant to purchase from producers who cannot demonstrate adherence to increasingly strict food safety precautions. FSMA is about to become the law of the land.
- Hawaii is unique in that the majority of farms are small scale and are unable to absorb the additional cost of compliance with emerging FSMA rules and regulations. Many commercial farms on the mainland are in the hundreds of acres that can spread the cost of food safety compliance across a larger production base. FSMA will erode Hawaii's competitiveness when compared to our mainland counterparts.
- Hawaii also differs from the mainland in that Hawaii's workforce is not dependant on migrant labor that moves from farm to farm, unfamiliar with practices associated with each production system, yet Hawaii does not gain an advantage with respect to the federal rules.

- Exemptions are not necessarily in the best interest of the farmer or public. If there is a food borne illness the full burden of the law will fall on the farmer if they are found to be at fault. Education, preventive measures, and managing the cost of compliance are important for all farmers regardless of size or growing practice.

The proposed Food Safety and Modernization Act rules are currently being reviewed within the context of thousands of comments received from across the country. Many of the concerns raised in Hawaii such as testing of irrigation water are shared on the mainland.

FSMA also provides a mechanism for State variances if the state is able to justify the variance and demonstrate that the intent of FSMA is being implemented. We believe there will be opportunities with Hawaii-specific practices, including co-op development that will benefit smaller producers. There are also various USDA (NRCS to ARS) programs that may be applied. Exploring these opportunities will fall within the scope of the discussion among the named agencies. Hawaii Farm Bureau applauds the foresight and proactivity of the intruders of this measure and their recognition of the plight of Hawaii's fragile agricultural economy in shadow of looming FMSA regulations.

Hawaii Farm Bureau respectfully requests to be a named agency in the resolution.

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**Cc:** [darakawa@lurf.org](mailto:darakawa@lurf.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR184 on Mar 30, 2015 13:40PM  
**Date:** Sunday, March 29, 2015 1:14:43 PM

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**SCR184**

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

Testimony for AGL/HWN on Mar 30, 2015 13:40PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS the intent of SCR 184, which requests Federal and State Agencies consult with Hawaii small scale farmers, Hawaii small scale producers, and affected parties on the offsetting of costs associated with the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act. (SCR 184)

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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