

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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LATE

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE
AND PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

March 18, 2016
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

HOUSE BILL NO. 1996 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairpersons Gabbard and Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1996 HD1. The bill proposes to establish a two-year pilot project to investigate and prosecute agricultural theft and vandalism. The bill will dedicate an enforcement officer specifically to prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism incidences in the county of Hawaii; identify best practices for prevention and provide recommendations for a statewide program to address agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism. The department supports this bill provided that it does not impact the priorities submitted in the department's executive budget.

Agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism have been a constant problem for farmers on the island of Hawaii, increasing the cost of production and preventing farming operations to be successful. The vast farming land area on the island of Hawaii and limited law enforcement officers make it difficult to capture perpetrators.

If the intent of this bill is for a two-year project, the department respectfully requests that the department be allowed to submit a report of the findings and recommendations to the legislature by December 31, 2018.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

