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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 24, 2017
12:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO.1475 HD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1475 HD2, which amends Section 205-2(d)(15) to allow farmers' markets and food hubs as "agricultural-based commercial operations" on all State Agricultural District lands. Definitions of both activities are provided. The bill also amends "agricultural-based commercial operations" by specifying that they be headquartered and registered in Hawaii and that the value-added products sold at these operations contain at least 50 percent Hawaii grown content. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure and offers an amendment.

Establishing "farmers' markets" and "food hubs" as permissible uses throughout the Agricultural District will, in concept, allow further marketing opportunities for farmer to sell the products they grow. At the same time, it should be clear that the products sold be limited to agricultural products grown by Hawaii farmers. The Department of Agriculture offers the following amendment regarding farmers' markets:

(page 7, line 6-9; new language underscored and bold)

"(D) A farmers' market, which is an outdoor market where **limited to farmers ~~sell~~ selling** agricultural products grown in



Hawaii and value-added products containing at least fifty per cent Hawaii grown content; and"

The counties are already experiencing difficulty in developing regulatory language to allow the other uses permitted in Section 205-2(d)(15) such as "retail activities in an enclosed structure" and "retail food establishments". The counties need to carefully balance these uses and the additional activities proposed in this measure with their responsibility to protect and promote their agriculturally-zoned lands for agricultural production.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lieutenant Governor

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director

MARY ALICE EVANS
Deputy Director



LAND USE COMMISSION
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
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Statement of
Daniel E. Orodenker
Executive Officer
Land Use Commission
Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday February 24, 2017
12:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB 1475 HD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee on Finance:

The Land Use Commission (LUC) has the following comments on this measure, which seeks to amend section 205-2(d)(15), Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) to add farmers markets and food hubs on State Agricultural District lands under the umbrella of "agricultural-based commercial operations" as a permissible use.

We believe the language in sections 205-2(d)(7) and (15); and 205-4.5(a)(9) and (10), HRS, already allows for the types of uses associated with food stands and food hubs. Farmers markets can vary in size, location, duration, and the scope of impacts they may create. Farmers markets can be allowed under a State Special Permit processed by the counties (for uses on 15 acres or less) and by the LUC (for uses over 15 acres). The Special Permit process allows the potential impacts of the proposed activity to be adequately assessed and addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



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February 24, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1475, HD2
RELATING TO RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Room 308
12:30 PM

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

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports the intent of HB 1475, HD2, which would broaden the allowable uses of lands in agricultural districts under Section 205-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes to include farmers' markets and food hubs.

Food hubs, farm stands, and other retail sales opportunities can be significant revenue enhancing opportunities for our farmers and ranchers and thereby increase the viability of their businesses. We support those opportunities while also realizing that there may be more potential for abuse if the amended language is not sufficiently clear.

HFB respectfully requests continuing dialogue on this measure to resolve any concerns and to provide Hawaii's growers with broader opportunities to ensure their long-term success.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 2:04 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: edgarespero@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1475 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM*

HB1475

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edgar Espero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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