

**HB 775, HD2**

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

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Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

**MARCH 15, 2017  
1:15 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 775 HD2  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 775 HD2, which proposes to repeal the requirements that the department must grant permission prior to the removal of eggs from any dock or landing, and issuing a certificate by the department attesting that the eggs in a shipment are properly marked before the eggs are offered for sale. The bill also proposes any violation to be considered an unfair method of competition and unfair or deceptive act or practice under Chapter 481A, HRS. The department strongly supports this bill.

The department recognizes the importance of imported eggs be individually marked egg as to origin to differentiate it from locally produced eggs in order to protect our fragile local egg industry. The department currently must utilize valuable staff resources to issue over 150 certificates each month. The proposed amendments will not affect the department's authority and ability to enforce mislabeled or unmarked imported eggs as to origin. This bill will allow the department better allocate staff resources in other activities to monitor the egg industry and will strengthen the enforcement for individuals who label unmarked mainland eggs as "Island".

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# *Eggs Hawaii, Inc.*

## TESTIMONY

### HOUSE BILL NO. 775 HOUSE DRAFT 1

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

I am writing to you in support of House Bill 775 Draft 1.

My name is Debra Shimabukuro and I am the President of Eggs Hawaii Inc. We are a subsidiary of the Hawaiian Egg Company (dba: Mikilua Poultry Farm) which is the largest local egg producer in the State. Eggs Hawaii Inc is a USDA processing plant and also a wholesale distributor for locally produced and mainland eggs.

To ensure quality, condition and that the individual eggs are properly stamped with "US" for origin designation, all of the mainland eggs that our company distributes is USDA certified. Our administrative staff and the mainland egg supplier must submit the appropriate paperwork and certificates to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture for all incoming mainland eggs. Requiring the Department to issue certificates before these eggs can be sold or offered for sale is redundant.

It is vital that we protect our locally produced eggs from individuals who would attempt to pass off the unmarked mainland eggs as "Island". We strongly believe that the Hawaii Department of Agriculture will still be able to enforce and protect our local egg industry without the issuance of certificates. This bill would also make available more of the Departments resources which could then be channeled out to increase the monitoring of the egg industry within the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.