

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2009
9:00 A.M.
ROOM 312

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 113
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 91
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONSULT WITH OTHER
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO OPTIMIZE THE USE OF
THE KAMUELA VACUUM COOLING PLANT

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Concurrent Resolution No. 113 and House Resolution No. 91. The purpose of these resolutions is to have the Department of Agriculture develop a plan to optimize the use of the Kamuela vacuum cooling plant. The department recognizes the importance of the facility, however, we cannot support this resolution as it sets an unfunded mandate for the department.

Funding for a plan such as this is generally funded via CIP bond or general funds as it can involve engineering evaluation and study. The department does not have the resources, either financial or personnel, to pursue this plan as an unfunded mandate. CIP funds to hire an independent consultant would need to be appropriated to complete this request and that is not advisable given the current economic climate. In addition, staff is focusing on the implementation and completion of pipeline improvements to the farm lots which we anticipate will take the next twelve months.