

Arlina Agbayani

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 4:06 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mnakahata@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2290 on 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB2290 Ag inspection and certification fund Agr.pdf

Testimony for AGR 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM HB2290

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Mae Nakahata for Luella Costales
Organization: HFBF
Address:
Phone: 808 2819716
E-mail: mnakahata@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/28/2010

Comments:
Testifier will be Luella Costales



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Neighbor Islands: 1-800-482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921; e-mail: info@hfbf.org

TESTIMONY

HB 2290 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of our farmer and ranch families and organizations support HB 2290 establishing a special fund for agricultural inspection and certification.

Hawaii has been severely impacted by the reduction in services by PQ and Commodities. Farmers and ranchers along with some in the business community have experienced the impacts. A major impact to agriculture has been the inspection and certification of goods for sale and export. While many programs involved fees, there was also subsidization of costs from general funds.

The industry has recognized the dire state of the State Budget. It is willing to evolve to a true fee for services structure and this measure provides the means to move in this direction. Passage of this measure is critical since many of the products are exported, bringing new monies into the State resulting in tax dollars important to increasing dollars in the General Fund.

HFBF strongly requests your support of this measure to ensure sale of agricultural products and exports can continue on a timely basis. If there are any questions, please contact Luella Costales at 848 2074. Thank you

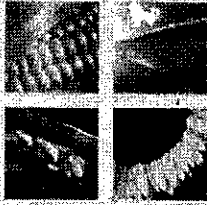
Arlina Agbayani

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 9:24 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: admin@hciaonline.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2290 on 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB2290_Agriculture_HseAGR.pdf

Testimony for AGR 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM HB2290 /

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Alicia Maluafiti
Organization: Hawaii Crop Improvement Association
Address: 91-1012 Kahi'uka Street Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Phone: (808) 224-3648
E-mail: admin@hciaonline.com
Submitted on: 1/27/2010

Comments:



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Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony By: Alicia Maluafiti
HB 2290, Relating to Agriculture
The House Committee on Agriculture
Friday, January 29, 2010
Room 312, 9:00 am

Position: Support

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Wooley and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association. HCIA is a nonprofit trade association representing the agricultural seed industry in Hawaii. Now the state's largest agricultural commodity, the seed industry contributes to the economic health and diversity of the islands by providing high quality jobs in rural communities, keeping important agricultural lands in agricultural use, and serving as responsible stewards of Hawaii's natural resources.

HCIA believes that HB 2290 is an important and necessary attempt to mitigate further cutbacks to the Dept. of Agriculture as a result of Hawaii's fiscal crisis and the department's reliance on the general fund to support the ag inspector positions. We support any effort to restore the Dept. of Agriculture positions, minimize the adverse impact of the budget crisis on their department, and ensure the DOA's ability to support, promote and enhance Hawaii's agriculture and aquaculture industries.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

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Arlina Agbayani

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 11:59 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kamiyak002@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2290 on 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM HB2290 ✓

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Ken Kamiya
Organization: Hawaii Papaya Industry Association
Address: 190 Kamehameha Ave Hilo, Hi
Phone: 808-969-1160
E-mail: kamiyak002@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/28/2010

Comments:

This bill is essential for the continuation of papaya export to Japan.

HAWAII PAPAYA INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 6959 / 190 KAMEHAMEHA AVENUE ROOM 1
HILO HI 96720
PH. NO. 808.969-1160 FAX NO. 808.969-1781 e-mail: papayas@aloha.net

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE
AND
ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS, AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS**

HOUSE BILL 2290

RELATING TO HAWAII AGRICULTURE

**PRESENTED TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII**

JANUARY 2010

Dear Chairman Tsuji, Chairman McKelvey & Members of the Committees:

STRONG SUPPORT.

My name is Loren Mochida, General Manager of THP in Keaau, Hawaii. THP is a processor and exporter of Hawaiian Premium papayas to CONUS and Japan and represents over 50 papaya growers. I am also a Director on the Hawaii Papaya Industry Association (HPIA) Board.

The Hawaii Papaya Industry Association (HPIA) has been exporting papayas to the U.S. Mainland, Canada, Japan and the local markets since early seventies. Hawaii was the majority leader in shipping fresh papayas into Japan with over 90% of the market share in that country. By the mid nineties, the Papaya Ring Spot virus (PRSV) devastated the largest growing papaya growing area in the Puna District. Since the late eighties, papaya production declined from an average of 50 million pounds per year to less than 30 million pounds per year in the mid-nineties.

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Since the transgenic papayas were approved and introduced and planted in 1998, the papaya industry's production gradually increased to supply the local and few mainland markets. However, the transgenic papaya varieties were not approved by the Japan Government and were prohibited to be exported to Japan. In 2001 the government found a shipment of transgenic papayas from Hawaii and stopped all shipments at that time. The papayas were destroyed in Japan.

The Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare have since strictly monitored all incoming papaya from Hawaii. After the papaya shipments arrive in Japan, they are confined to a storage facility until the MHLW conducted a DNA or "gus gene" tests which took from 5 to 7 days. This was a very serious problem for the papaya industry due to the highly perishable papayas.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) worked with the papaya exporters to Japan and created an Identity Preservation Protocol (IPP) in 2001, to guarantee that the exported papayas were non-transgenic. With this certification from HDOA this allows all papayas into the Japan market to be distributed as soon as it arrives. These inspections are done by Agriculture Commodities Marketing Specialists (ACMS) in HDOA and they issue the IPP certification letter for all Japan shipments.

It will be awhile before the industry will be able to ship the transgenic papayas to Japan. So the IPP certificates produced by the HDOA Inspectors are very important to reduce delays of our present papaya shipment. HDOA laid off two (2) full time ACMS in Hilo. Since then the Hilo office was left with only one part time ACMS and no coverage if this person is sick or on vacation.

With this "Special Fund" for HDOA, coverage for this absent person can be used to hire one of two former qualified ACMS's when their services are required. This will prevent any interruption in exporting papayas to Japan as the industry requires an ACMS to issue IPP Certificates on all of our shipments to Japan.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2290.

Arlina Agbayani

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 3:34 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: alan.takemoto@monsanto.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2290 on 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB 2290 Ag inspection testimony.doc

Testimony for AGR 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM HB2290 /

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Alan Takemoto
Organization: Monsanto
Address:
Phone: 292-3205
E-mail: alan.takemoto@monsanto.com
Submitted on: 1/28/2010

Comments:

MONSANTO HAWAII

2104 Lauwiliwili Street
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

January 29, 2009

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON
HB 2290
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Chair Tsuji and committee members:

My name is Alan Takemoto and I am the Community Affairs Manager for Monsanto.

We support HB 2290 which establishes an agriculture inspection and certification special fund under the department of agriculture.

As the economy continues to struggle, the agricultural industry is confronted by a substantial decrease in agricultural inspection services statewide. The ability to move products in and out of the state as well as interisland is critical to our industry and our economy. With the anticipation of reduced agricultural inspections services, we appreciate all that the legislature and the HDOA has done in seeking alternatives and solutions.

As part of the farming community, we want to support every effort to making the Hawaii Department of Agriculture capable of meeting the needs of all farmers and related organizations. We hope that by establishing a special fund specifically for the services rendered, the HDOA can provide the necessary services that are required to protect Hawaii's agricultural industry.

We know there is much more to be done and we want to help in facilitating the process by which we all can be a partner during these difficult times.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Arlina Agbayani

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 11:50 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: friendthadk@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2290 on 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB 2290.docx

Testimony for AGR 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM HB2290 ✓

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Thad Kanegawa
Organization: Individual
Address: 1727-A Nakula St Wahiawa, HI
Phone: 622-2888
E-mail: friendthadk@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/28/2010

Comments:

My name is Thad Kanegawa and I am for HB 2290. As shown on the news a few years back when the major transporter of goods Matson was having labor disputes and it's workers were threatening to go on strike, we as the people of Hawaii realized exactly how much of the goods we consume are imported and not produced locally.

It is a sad fact of the state of agriculture in Hawaii and a clearer sign of how hard it is for farmers these days, but it is a realization that must be looked at and improved. With the loss of so many workers from the Department of Agriculture it is hard to say how much support local industry is getting. If local agriculture declines even more so, we as a state become that much more reliant on goods coming in from outside the state.

This is why this bill is important. The work that is done by the agriculture inspectors is to make sure that products being produced locally and products coming into the state are of quality. This helps the marketing on the side of local products as it make sure goods going out and being sold In state are of marketable quality as well as making sure products coming in are still in good shape after the long trip to get here.

Ignoring these problems and pretending like they do not matter is only going to make things worse.