

Arlina Agbayani

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 9:54 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: raechele.a.joyo@hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony for HB2410 on 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB2410_AGR_01-29-10_AGR.pdf

Testimony for AGR/EBM 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM HB2410 ✓

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sandra Kunimoto
Organization: HDOA
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: raechele.a.joyo@hawaii.gov
Submitted on: 1/28/2010

Comments:

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 Fax: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC
REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS
FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2010
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2410
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Tsuji and McKelvey, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 2410. The purpose of this bill is to request the UHM-CTAHR to establish an agriculture working group to assess agricultural issues in the State to improve the agricultural industry. We defer to UHM-CTAHR as to their ability at this time to direct their limited resources to this effort.

If UHM-CTAHR is agreeable, HDOA is willing to assist in providing available information on different aspects of agricultural production of various commodities grown in the state to ensure a successful outcome in this effort.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented before the
Joint House Committees on Agriculture
and
Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
January 29, 2010, at 9:00 a.m.
by
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
and
Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean and Director
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2410 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Tsuji and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wooley and Choy, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Andrew Hashimoto, and I serve as Dean and Director of the UH Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I am presenting testimony on behalf of Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM).

HB 448 proposes to establish an agriculture working group to assess agricultural issues in the State to improve the agricultural industry, specifically to establish an agriculture working group to assess the vertical integration of the food industry in the State. The head of the working group is named as the Dean and Director of CTAHR, and the bill names five other participants, including the chairperson the Board of Agriculture or representative, the Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation or designee, a representative of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation, an agricultural economist, and any other representative from the agricultural industry, to be selected by a majority of the working group.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of the bill to assist and improve the agricultural industry, but opposes the bill because it provides no resources for data collection, analyses, and recommendations. All of the participants named in the bill are likewise financially strapped and understaffed, and cannot fulfill the intent of this bill without additional resources. We estimate that the cost for this effort would be \$50,000.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Arlina Agbayani

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 4:02 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mnakahata@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2410 on 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB2410_ag_wkg_grp_Agr_ebm.pdf

Testimony for AGR/EBM 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM HB2410

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Mae Nakahata for Luella Costales
Organization: HFBB
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 2410: RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Tsuji, Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committees:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of our farmer and ranch families and organizations support HB2410, establishing a working group to assess agricultural issues in the State to improve the agricultural industry.

One of Hawaii agriculture's major shortcoming is the lack of value added processing. Most farmers on the mainland have value added products that can be produced from off grade or surplus products. This provides an additional revenue source that helps increase farm/ranch viability.

A major reason has been the small size of our farms. Value added production often involves major capital investments beyond the reach of our smaller farmers. This effort to identify processing opportunities comes at a critical time when farmers need the additional revenue that could be achieved.

To achieve true vertical integration as suggested, it is important that representatives of the food manufacturers and retail market be part of the planning process. It is only with their true buy-in that this vision can be realized.

HFBBF is also concerned that this is an unfunded mandate. We recognize the importance of the issue but most of the organizations identified are already struggling with budget cuts and reductions in staff. A pragmatic discussion of how the intent of this measure can be achieved along with identification of resources needed should occur as part of the decision making process.

HFBBF strongly urges your support of the measure after consideration of the concerns expressed in this testimony. It is a worthwhile project that will contribute to increasing the viability of Hawaii's agriculture.

HFBBF appreciates to provide our opinion on this matter. If there are any questions, please contact Luella Costales at 848-2074.

Thank you.

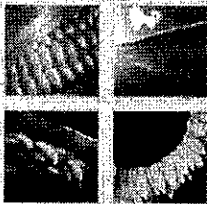
Arlina Agbayani

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 9:14 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: admin@hciaonline.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2410 on 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB2410_AgricultureEconRevitBusandMilAffairs_HseAGR.pdf

Testimony for AGR/EBM 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM HB2410 ✓

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 2410, Relating to Agricultural
The House Committee on Agriculture and
Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs
Friday, January 29, 2010
Room 312, 9:00 am

Position: Support.

Aloha Chairs Tsuji and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wooley and Choy, and members of the Committees:

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 appreciates the support of the state legislature to ensure the viability of the agricultural industry and contribute to our state's food security by establishing an agricultural working group.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

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Arlina Agbayani

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 3:28 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: alan.takemoto@monsanto.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2410 on 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB 2410 Ag Working Group testimony.doc

Testimony for AGR/EBM 1/29/2010 9:00:00 AM HB2410 ✓

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, Suite 101k
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

January 29, 2009

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS, &
MILITARY AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON
HB 2410
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Chair Tsuji and McKelvey and committee members:

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

We support HB 2410 which establishes an agriculture working group to assess agricultural issues in the State to improve the agricultural industry.

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.

Hawaii's economy has changed drastically by the effects of the global economy that is taking place today and into the future. Along with these statewide changes are the changes that are occurring within our local agricultural industry. We need to make sure that government services at all levels are meeting the changing needs of our farm businesses in Hawaii. We hope that this working group will assist us in making sure that government services are meeting the needs of a modern Hawaii agricultural industry.

We do believe that the Hawaii Farm Bureau should take the lead in this working group as they are not only the advocates for the farming community but also acts as a liaison with many of the government agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.