

TESTIMONY
HB 242, HD1

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND HIGHER EDUCATION
MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2009
3:45 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

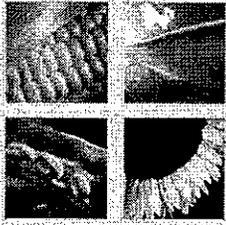
**HOUSE BILL NO. 242, H.D. 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Hee and Tokuda and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 242, H.D. 1. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds, matched dollar-for-dollar by federal funds, in cash, or by in-kind donations by private sector for the planning, repair, and modification of agricultural facilities at the former Del Monte operation on Oahu and at Maui Community College, in fiscal year 2009-2010 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for the fiscal year 2010-2011. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture opposes this bill.

HDOA recognizes the importance of value-added processing as a component that can utilize lesser grade produce and add income to a farming operation. It also diversifies the products that can be offered to consumers and provides products that may be more easily exported than fresh goods. We greatly appreciate your committees' interest in assisting our agricultural producers to obtain higher returns for their products and, thereby, achieve greater financial stability.

Agriculture has many needs and in better economic times, HDOA would support this bill, however, as planning and modification of value-added facilities is contingent upon uncertain or in-kind match of funds, we respectfully recommend that this bill be reintroduced at a time when the state can better afford its implementation and there is a higher degree of certainty that matching funds will be available.



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony By: Alicia Maluafiti
HB 242hd1, Relating to Agriculture
Sen WTL/HRE Committees
Monday, March 23, 2009
Room 229, 3:45 pm

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Position: Strong Support

Chairs Hee and Tokuda, and Members of the Sen WTL/HRE Committees:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association. 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 strongly supports this measure and appreciates the request for general obligation bonds for the planning, repair and modification of the Del Monte and Maui Community College facilities for value-added agricultural production. To paraphrase Richard Ha at the HFBBF State of Agriculture briefing, "farmers will farm if they are making money." The added-value processing facilities provide a needed venue for off-grade produce and also increases the range of products that are bonafide made in Hawaii products, such as guava jam/jellies, pineapple juice, etc.

Your support of this measure is strongly urged. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

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Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON

WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

AND

HIGHER EDUCATION

HOUSE BILL 242, HD1

Relating to Agriculture

March 23, 2009

Chairs Hee and Tokuda and Members of the Committees:

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC). I am testifying today on behalf of the center and our research and support staff.

HARC supports House Bill 242 HD1 which proposes to support the expansion of value-added agricultural operations at the abandoned Del Monte facilities and at the Maui Community College.

The Del Monte facilities provide an excellent and rare chance to utilize plantation infrastructure to enable the smaller entities now emerging in the diversification of agriculture with value-added opportunities.

The University of Hawaii, at the request of the 2008 legislature, provided a well-thought out document demonstrating the potential of the site. Funding to develop those opportunities, and to design and renovate the existing facility for multiple users provides urgently needed support for diversified agriculture. This site could well be an example or model for other agribusiness clusters throughout the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Hawaii's agricultural needs.

Personal Testimony Presented before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
and
Senate Committee on Higher Education
March 23, 2009 at 3:45 p.m.
by
Andrew G. Hashimoto

HB 242. HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Hee and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Tokuda and Sakamoto, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Andrew Hashimoto, and I am a Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am pleased to provide personal testimony on HB 242, HD1. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii or CTAHR.

HB 242, HD1 appropriates funds, matched dollar-for-dollar by federal funds, in cash, or by in-kind donations by the private sector, for the planning, repair, and modification of agricultural facilities for the expansion of value-added agricultural operations at the former Del Monte operation on Oahu and at Maui Community College.

I support the intent of this bill as a step towards upgrading the state's capability for manufacturing value-added products. Although a number of small scale incubator kitchens and small food manufacturing industries exists today, Hawaii needs to move to the next level by having medium to large capacity food manufacturing capabilities available in the state. Currently, local producers must contract with firms on the mainland and in foreign countries to have their products manufactured. The proposed facility will fulfill a vital need toward making our agricultural industry sustainable and will help toward addressing food security issues as well.

Agriculture has been for many years and continues to be an important component of Hawaii's economy, environment and lifestyle. Recently, we have been subjected to increasing reports and concerns about Hawai'i's food supply being vulnerable to external factors beyond our control because we produce locally only 10% to 15% of what we consume. It is therefore imperative that we make every effort to reduce our vulnerability by increasing local food production.

A report submitted by CTAHR to this year's Legislature, in response to HCR 357, HD1, 2008 Legislature, reviewed the feasibility of constructing a multi-purpose, multi-user processing facility in the former Del Monte pineapple facilities in Kunia, and recommended that the State renovate two buildings at that site.

Although CTAHR's report did not include a feasibility study of facilities at Maui Community College or any other facilities for the same purpose, I agree with the intent to assist agricultural producers with the means to expand their products and markets.

Appropriating planning funds to address many of the issues involved and to conduct a more in-depth study, and the appropriation of design and construction funds required, are logically the next steps.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on
Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
And
Higher Education

March 23, 2009 at 3:45 p.m.

John Morton

Vice President for Community Colleges, University of Hawai'i

HB 242, HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Hee and Tokuda, Vice Chair Sakamoto, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill 242, HD1. The University of Hawai'i supports consideration of this renovation project for UH-Maui Community College (UH-MCC), provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget. The University of Hawai'i's CIP priorities have been presented to the Legislature.

This bill is intended to support the diversification of Hawai'i's agriculture industry. Specifically, UH-MCC's Maui Culinary Academy (MCA) has developed products that have added value to sugar, pineapple, and grape products grown on Maui. Currently, our MCA is working with the Maui Cattle Company to develop products for non-prime cuts of beef. The MCA is committed to designing value-added products in collaboration with the Maui Nui agricultural community. The college, MCA, the Farm Bureau and other agricultural interests envision the restoration of the former kitchen in Pilina (the Student Life Center) into a research, design, and development facility for value-added agriculture related products. It is also envisioned that the area adjacent to the kitchen would offer a presentation and sampling area.

Additionally new and experimental products would be offered through the MCA Food Court on the campus to determine product marketability and consumer interest. Furthermore, the planning, repair and restoration of this Pilina facility would complement the entrepreneurship opportunities recently made available by the relocated Maui Swap Meet on to the campus.

While House Bill 242, HD1, would help to support agricultural development in Maui County, this renovation project at UH-MCC can only be supported if it does not replace or adversely impact on the CIP priorities already approved by the Board of Regents.

TESTIMONY
HB 242, HD1
(END)