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Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS**

March 19, 2015
9:30 A.M.

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 212
and
HOUSE RESOLUTION 147**

Chairpersons Tsuji, Kawakami, and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 212 and House Resolution 147 requesting federal and state agencies to consult with Hawaii's small farmers, producers and affected parties on offsetting costs associated with the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The department supports these resolutions.

The majority of Hawaii's farmers are considered small scale and the department understands the financial disadvantages of small scale farming. Although the Tester amendment exempts small scale farming operations from many of the FSMA requirements, farmers will still be required to maintain records for traceback purposes.

The department will participate with the federal and state agencies to discuss possible financial opportunities that can assist small farmers in meeting the FSMA requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:15 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR212 on Mar 19, 2015 09:30AM

HCR212

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Mar 19, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS HCR 212, relating to the FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT, which requests Federal and State agencies to consult with Hawaii small scale farmers. Hawaii small scale producers, and affected parties on the offsetting of costs associated with the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (HCR 212/HR 147)

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March 19, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

TESTIMONY ON HCR 212/HR 147
REQUESTING FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES TO CONSULT WITH HAWAII SMALL
SCALE FARMERS, HAWAII SMALL SCALE PRODUCERS, AND AFFECTED PARTIES ON
THE OFFSETTING OF COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT.

Room 312
9:30 PM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Chair Kawakami, Vice Chair Onishi, Vice Chair Kong and Members of the Committees:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFBB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports this measure exploring the needs and preparing the Hawaii farmer to be compliant with the requirements of the Food Safety and Modernization Act. We support this measure for the following reasons:

- The threats posed by FSMA to Hawaii's local agriculture are significant. Buyers are increasingly hesitant to purchase from producers who cannot demonstrate adherence to increasingly strict food safety precautions. FSMA is about to become the law of the land.
- Hawaii is unique in that the majority of farms are small scale and are unable to absorb the additional cost of compliance with emerging FSMA rules and regulations. Many commercial farms on the mainland are in the hundreds of acres that can spread the cost of food safety compliance across a larger production base. FSMA will erode Hawaii's competitiveness when compared to our mainland counterparts.
- Hawaii also differs from the mainland in that Hawaii's workforce is not dependant on migrant labor that moves from farm to farm, unfamiliar with practices associated with each

production system, yet Hawaii does not gain an advantage with respect to the federal rules.

- Exemptions are not necessarily in the best interest of the farmer or public. If there is a food borne illness the full burden of the law will fall on the farmer if they are found to be at fault. Education, preventive measures, and managing the cost of compliance are important for all farmers regardless of size or growing practice.

The proposed Food Safety and Modernization Act rules are currently being reviewed within the context of thousands of comments received from across the country. Many of the concerns raised in Hawaii such as testing of irrigation water are shared on the mainland.

FSMA also provides a mechanism for State variances if the state is able to justify the variance and demonstrate that the intent of FSMA is being implemented. We believe there will be opportunities with Hawaii-specific practices, including co-op development that will benefit smaller producers. There are also various USDA (NRCS to ARS) programs that may be applied. Exploring these opportunities will fall within the scope of the discussion among the named agencies. Hawaii Farm Bureau applauds the foresight and proactivity of the intruders of this measure and their recognition of the plight of Hawaii's fragile agricultural economy in shadow of looming FMSA regulations.

Hawaii Farm Bureau respectfully requests to be a named agency in the resolution.

onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 10:01 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR212 on Mar 19, 2015 09:30AM

HCR212

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Mar 19, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
penny levin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a small farmer, I strongly support this resolution.

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 1:14 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR212 on Mar 19, 2015 09:30AM



HCR212

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Mar 19, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

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