

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 26, 2015
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

**SENATE BILL NO. 1060 SD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LOANS**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 1060 SD 1. The Department strongly supports this bill.

This bill will create a low interest loan program to assist the livestock and poultry industry to renovate their existing structures or construct new infrastructure to ensure they are bio-secure and meet new Federal requirements. The improved bio-secure infrastructures will result in a safer food supply and prevent the spread of livestock and zoonotic diseases amongst wild animals, the herd and humans while helping to ensure that fresh eggs, beef and pork remain available to Hawaii's citizens.

Livestock operations nationwide are facing increasing federal regulations for livestock infrastructure to improve biosecurity. The recent discovery of the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus on Oahu demonstrates the need for increased bio-security measures. The discovery of the virus resulted in a quarantine order by the Department and while it does not pose a risk for humans, it causes significant sickness in swine and high mortality for piglets. Increased bio-security measures while reducing the risk for disease transmission will not always result in greater profitability for farmers that need to install the systems or upgrade their facilities. Having access to affordable capital is vital



for farmers to make the necessary improvements while remaining solvent and sustainable for the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 26, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 1060, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LOANS

Room 211
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB 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.

HFB is in support of SB 1060, SD1 which allows for agricultural loans to be administered for livestock biosecurity projects.

Hawaii's livestock industry faces numerous challenges. One of the most significant challenges is ensuring their livestock facilities are bio-secure compliant with federal regulations. The federal regulations are required to ensure a safe food supply by protecting livestock operations from the introduction of pests, diseases, and pathogens and from the spread of diseases and pathogens to other farms and ranches.

Hawaii's livestock industry is already struggling with the high cost of their operations. The cost of compliance with increased federal regulations could jeopardize their viability. Low interest loans under the Agricultural Loan Program to assist the livestock industry is critical to insure the sustainability of Hawaii's livestock industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB1060

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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 SB 1060, SD1, which allows for agricultural loans to be administered for livestock biosecurity projects. (SD1)

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov