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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH**

February 12, 2015  
3:40 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 414

**SENATE BILL NO. 588  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Ruderman and Green and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 588, which proposes to permit the acquisition of raw milk and raw milk products by consumers if certain conditions are met. The Department has comments and defers to the Department of Health.

The Department of Agriculture questions the appropriateness of placing this measure in Chapter 157, HRS, which pertains to milk control. The intent of Chapter 157 is to maintain stability and fairness within the state's dairy industry and marketplace. Stability and fairness within the industry is maintained by laws and administrative rules which include, but not limited to the establishment of milk sheds, determination and adjustment of total and individual milk quotas, establishment of minimum price paid to milk producers by the processor, ensuring that proper payments are made to producers by the processor, collection of license fees based on the value of milk produced by dairies, and determination of the distribution, use, and packaging of milk within milk sheds. The proposed measure does not relate to parameters of milk control. The Department of Agriculture does not regulate the consumption or quality standards of raw milk. Additionally, the department does not mandate herd health standards in the production of raw milk or raw milk products.



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Subsections of the proposed measure deals with regulatory and compliance issues such as registering farms with the Department of Health, placement of a warning label statement identifying the milk as being unpasteurized, determining if milk and herd health standards are being met, indicating types of laboratory analysis used to determine those standards, and documenting the results. All of these items are currently addressed by the Department of Health in the regulation of pasteurized milk.

Despite advances in animal health, milking hygiene, and processing technology, milk born disease outbreaks continue to occur. Since milk is derived from animals, it carries an inherent risk of being contaminated with pathogens from its source (cattle, goats, sheep, and the farm environment). A key factor in the prevention of milk borne disease is the avoidance of raw milk consumption. The consumption of raw milk and raw milk products is a public health and milk safety issue. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture respectfully defers to the Hawaii Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.