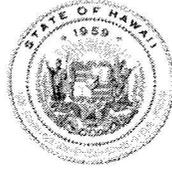


**LINDA LINGLE**  
Governor



**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 COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2009  
9:30 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 721  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 721. The purpose of this bill is to establish in the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, a task force to assess the overall structure, including vertical integration from farm to market, of the agricultural industry in the State, encompassing all types of agricultural operations, agricultural products, and distribution systems.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) supports the intent of this bill. While valuable information might be gathered through this task force, we defer to the University of Hawaii as to whether they have the resources to adequately staff this task force for all its administrative, technical, professional and clerical needs.

LINDA LINGLE  
Governor



ALFREDO A. LEE  
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF ALFREDO LEE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Friday, January 30, 2009  
9:30 a.m.

Conference Room 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 721  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 721. The State of Hawaii Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports the intent of this bill.

While we recognize that valuable information might be gathered and revealed through such a task force, we defer to the University of Hawaii as to whether they have adequate staff and resources to carry out the requirements of HB 721.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture  
January 30, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

By

Virgina S. Hinshaw, Chancellor  
and

Andrew G. Hashimoto

Dean and Director

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 721 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Wooley, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Hashimoto, and I serve as Dean and Director of the UH Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR).

HB 721 proposes to establish in the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, a task force to assess the overall structure, including vertical integration from farm to market, of the agricultural industry in the State, encompassing all types of agricultural operations, agricultural products and distribution systems.

The task force's primary task is to assess how agricultural entities and agribusinesses in the State are organized and how they relate to each other, including an investigation into all stages of development, production, processing, marketing and distribution.

While we support the intent of the bill, we are concerned about the extensive breadth of the study which encompasses many aspects of agriculture that are not sufficiently represented by the entities named on the task force. We note that agriculture in Hawai'i is highly diversified, and one task force to address this diversity is unrealistic.

We also note a need for a geographical representation of task force members, and we are concerned that the requirement that UH shall provide all administrative, professional, technical, and clerical support required by this task force, without additional funding, will require resources that we do not have.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
64-957 Mamalahoa Highway Ste2  
Kamuela, Hawaii  
96743**

**House Committee on Agriculture  
Testimony in support of House Bill 721**

**Chairman Tsuji and Members of the Committee:**

My name is John Brooks and I am supplying this written testimony in support of House Bill 663 on behalf of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 130+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 1 Million acres of land in Hawaii, 25% of the State's total land mass.

As we have all watched the demise of many segments of the Hawaii livestock industry in recent years, including poultry, dairy and the struggling hog industry, Law and policy makers have been asking the beef cattle industry what we need to be sustainable.

As the industry has reevaluated itself and the future, we have determined that one of our primary weakness has been our lack of suitable infrastructure. This shortage ranges from antiquated or non-existent slaughter and processing facilities to a lack of infrastructure at our ports that would assist us in the shipment of live cattle and products between the islands.

The industry supports the intent of this bill and looks forward to working with UH-CTHAR and others interested parties as listed. We would ask that the committee look to add representatives from the poultry, swine and dairy industries to the working group.

We also ask that funding for this project will be made available, as we would not want to negatively impact other important CTHAR work by taking funding from other projects to make this happen.

Thank You

John R. Brooks II

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