

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

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NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, February 05, 2009  
TIME: 10:30AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 312  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

<u>HB 1682</u> Status	RELATING TO STATE ENTERPRISE ZONES. Extends EZ tax credits and exemptions, for businesses engaged in the manufacturing of tangible personal property or in the producing or processing of agricultural products, for an additional seven years. Allows the receipts, sales, and employees of a business's establishments in all enterprise zones located within the same county to count towards qualification requirements.	EBM/AGR, EEP, FIN
<u>HB 1228</u> Status	RELATING TO STATE ENTERPRISE ZONES. Allows agricultural producers, manufacturers and wholesalers to renew their eligibility into the enterprise zone program for an additional 7 years. Allows for the receipts, sales, and employees of a business's establishments in all enterprise zones located within the same county to count towards qualification into the enterprise program. Clarifies that limited liability companies are included as qualified businesses.	EBM/AGR, FIN
<u>HB 940</u> Status	RELATING TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY. Requires the department of business, economic development, and tourism to consult with the high technology development corporation to plan for the establishment of the high technology park on the site of the animal quarantine station in Halawa on Oahu. Identifies site. Makes appropriation.	EBM/AGR, FIN
<u>HB 988</u> Status	RELATING TO PROCUREMENT. Allows for persons desiring a Hawaii product preference when	EBM/AGR, JUD, FIN



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## HAWAII FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

2343 ROSE STREET  
HONOLULU, HI 96819

LATE TESTIMONY

Committee on Agriculture

Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs

Hearing Date & Time: Thursday, 2-05-09 @ 10:30am in House conference room 312

### **HB 988; Relating to Procurement, Hawaii Products Preference**

Chairman Tsuji & McKelvey; Members of the Committee(s),

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation is the largest general agriculture organization in the State of Hawaii with over 1600 members Statewide and we "**Strongly Support HB 988**". Our members and Hawaii's agriculture producers are directly affected by Procurement process & Exemptions # 5, 7, & 9 in exhibit "A".

Hawaii's geographic isolation is a natural barrier for island farmers in a global economy; this bill seeks to bring fairness to Hawaii's Agricultural producers by clarifying the Procurement process, removing the exemptions and give Hawaii's producers a preference in the States purchases.

In past years the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation as well as many of our members have favored the exemptions from the procurement process due to the higher cost of production of locally grown products. Their fear was that inclusion in the procurement process would not allow entities to buy products that were priced beyond the allowed limits.

Recently, it has come to our attention that the reverse is true. Hawaii's agricultural industry may be prevented from utilizing preferential purchase programs within the procurement code due to the exemptions. In addition, new programs such as the Farm to School program may not be utilized due to the exemption status, our Keiki deserve the freshest products available.

Availability of locally grown agricultural products is important to an island State. Everyone has experienced concern as grocery shelves empty during crisis such as strikes and other catastrophic disasters stopping planes and ships from coming to our ports. This supply of locally grown products can only happen due to consistent production which in turn is dependent upon purchase policies by consumers. The State government is a significant consumer and can play an important role in setting a policy example of consumer behavior.

During these uncertain times, there is much concern about self sufficiency and sustainability. Agriculture as one of the industries that provides our day to day needs ... specifically food must be recognized for its production of this very basic necessity. .

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in this matter. We hope that by adopting HB 988 the procurement code can play its rightful role as a critical player in enhancing agricultural viability in Hawaii

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Okimoto, President  
Hawaii Farm Bureau