

**LINDA LINGLE**  
Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

**SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DUANE K. OKAMOTO**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2010  
4:00 P.M.  
ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2291, HD1  
RELATING TO MEASUREMENT STANDARDS**

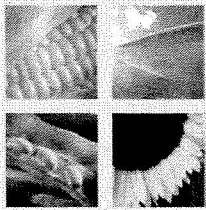
Chairperson Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2291, HD1 relating to the establishment of a measurement standards special fund. The Department of Agriculture offers comments.

In April 2009, the Quality Assurance Division's Measurement Standards branch raised all licensing fees. This was the first time in 28 years that the fees had been raised. At the time, it was anticipated that the branch would still receive general funds but that in 2013, a special fund would be established and fees raised again with the intention of eventually covering the personnel and operating costs of implementing chapter 486, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and central services and departmental administrative expense assessments of section 36-27 and section 36-30, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

If the branch is to be completely special funded now, the current fee schedule will not generate revenues sufficient to cover expenditures and assessments and will fall short by approximately \$125,000. In order to break even and cover the personnel costs of just the post RIF staff of six and the program's operating expenses and assessments, fees will have to be raised by about 40%.

In addition, since this would be a new special fund with no balance, it would need to be seeded with approximately \$500,000 in general funds in the first year.



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# Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

*Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii*

Testimony By: Alicia Maluafiti  
HB 2291 HD1 – Relating to Measurements Standards  
The House Committee on Finance  
Monday, February 22, 2010  
Room 308, 4:00 p.m.

## Position: Support

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association. HCIA is a nonprofit trade association representing the agricultural seed industry in Hawaii. Now the state's largest agricultural commodity, the seed industry contributes to the economic health and diversity of the islands by providing high quality jobs in rural communities, keeping important agricultural lands in agricultural use, and serving as responsible stewards of Hawaii's natural resources.

HCIA believes that HB 2291HD 1 is another important and necessary attempt to mitigate further cutbacks to the Dept. of Agriculture as a result of Hawaii's fiscal crisis and the department's reliance on the general fund to support department positions. We support any effort to restore the Dept. of Agriculture positions, minimize the adverse impact of the budget crisis on their department, and ensure the DOA's ability to support, promote and enhance Hawaii's agriculture and aquaculture industries.

However, when considering any increase or imposition of fees to ensure the fiscal sustainability of the department, HCIA encourages a reasonable, balanced and equitable methodology that is inclusive of the broader agricultural industry.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

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