



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 2, 2011

RE to Agriculture
HB 866

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Farm Bureau, on behalf of our commercial farm and ranch families and organizations across the State, supports the Department of Agriculture's ability to have access to information on location of beehives so that they can respond in a timely way to emergencies that might devastate bee colonies around the State.

Honey bee problems are problems for all of us since many local crops are pollinated by bees. If we are unable to control pests and diseases that harm our honey bees, Hawaii may suffer lower production and quality in tomatoes, melons, and cucumbers as well as coffee, avocado, macadamia nuts, and citrus.

Tens of millions of dollars in food loss are at stake. We defer to DOA to determine the best way to protect the State's bees and hope that this bill will at least foster discussion in that direction.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.