



LATE

ISLAND PRINCESS

To the Hawaii State House Committee on Health

March 20, 2012

Re: SB 2332
Greetings,

My name is David Schell. I am the General Manager of Island Princess Macadamia Nut Company in Kea'au on the Big Island.

I am writing to urge you to reject SB2332 when it comes before the committee for consideration.

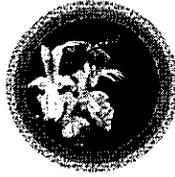
Like many crops, macadamia is dependent on pollinators. The recent arrival of varroa mite and the subsequent explosion in resident populations of the opportunistic small hive beetle have had a devastating impact on local bee keepers – most of whom make their living by selling honey. The expense and additional manpower requirements now necessary to maintain healthy, productive hives has skyrocketed and we have already seen the failure of many small beekeeping concerns. Added to the nearly complete collapse of the feral honeybee population, adequate pollination of some of the state's most valuable crops is now in jeopardy.

SB 2332 could not come at a more inappropriate time for this industry. I would argue – even if there were a shred of evidence that this regulation is necessary – that the industry could not stand yet another onerous burden as this. As it is, though, these regulations will not enhance the experience of the consumer and might even have exactly the opposite effect since, as law, they will almost assuredly mean fewer unique and exotic types of honey will be available on the market.

Now, more than ever, the people of Hawaii should be doing everything in their power to encourage and facilitate a sustainable beekeeping industry. The proposed regulatory statutes are unjustifiable and this committee should roundly reject this bill.

Thank you for your time.

16-261 Shipman Road, P.O. Box 340, Keaau HI 96749
Phone(808)966-7451 Fax(808)966-8507



LATE

Maui Natural Bee, LLC

HCR 182, between Kaupo & Kipahulu, Hana, Maui 96713
March 18, 2012 bees@maui.net (808)249-0032

Re: SB2332 SD2 Agriculture Products; Honey, Request for Support.

Friends,

Maui Natural Bee is an Apiary in the most remote part of East Maui, between Kaupo and Kipahulu. We raise honeybees and fruit trees, and we extract and bottle pure, raw Christmasberry and Kiawe honey from the wild forests around us. Our honeybees are amongst the most healthy in the world.

We are completely off the grid, with independent infrastructure supplying water and power and communications.

Last year, the State Department of Health, Maui branch, prohibited us (and several smaller apiaries) from selling our honey in stores. Up till that moment, we were able to sell every drop of honey we produce in local stores at premium prices for local Maui consumption. The Maui DOH inspectors' current interpretation of the existing rules leads them to enforce that extraction of honey from hives must now be done in a certified kitchen or facility. In practice, honey extraction can only be done safely in proximity to the hives, to avoid contamination of hives with parasites or danger of attraction of bees to a commercial facility. However, it is impossible to obtain DOH certification of a kitchen or facility under this interpretation without municipal water. No water is ever added to honey, or is used in the process of extraction, but this has stopped us from selling our honey. We are sitting on last year's harvest, with more honey in our hives. Without a change in this situation, we will have to destroy our hives and close down our business.

We request your support for passage of **SB2332 SD2**, as amended at DOH request, which adjusts the existing **§328-79 Home-based agricultural producer of honey; exemption**. This will allow us and other operations like ours in remote areas to extract and sell honey, and it will encourage the proliferation of healthy honeybees in areas where they are less subject to parasites, disease and pesticides.

With Aloha,

Jonathan Starr

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 2:47 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: cpd@dfarm.us
Subject: Testimony for SB2332 on 3/20/2012 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for HLT 3/20/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2332

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cary Dizon
Organization: Big Island Beekeepers Association
E-mail: cpd@dfarm.us
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the House Health Committee and Rep. Tsuji,

Below is my testimony on SB2332, Regarding Agriculture, that I also submitted online:

I am the past-president of the Big Island Beekeepers Association (BIBA) and a home-based honey producer. I oppose this measure. There is already a Home-based Honey Producer law on the books that is perfectly adequate in the extent of regulation for this type of production. The proposed regulation of home-based "produced" honey contained in SB23323 is unnecessarily punitive and fails to recognize that honey is a product unlike "processed" foods like jam or jelly. In fact, natural "raw" honey is not "processed" at all; it is extracted. In this regard it is a whole food much like whole fruits and vegetables.

In its raw form, honey is an antiseptic. Its high concentration of sugars kills microbes. As such, it has been used for wound treatments for millennia and is known to be better for sore throats (especially in the case of children) than any over-the-counter product. Put pure, natural Hawaiian honey in a jar and you sterilize the jar.

Small, home-based producers like myself take great pride in the purity of our product. The notion that some home based honey producers may extract in an area without access to county water has become excuse to require all home-based honey producers to comply with intentionally hostile and unnecessary labeling and training restrictions, restrictions that do not apply to products brought in from out-of-state. To suggest that home-based honey may be "hazardous to your health" equates honey, that may relieve your cold symptoms, with a cancer causing agent like cigarettes. This simply doesn't make sense.

The current home-based honey law has been the only bright spot in recent years for small honey producers like myself. It has provided the capital we need to purchase supplies and equipment to keep our bees alive. To take this away and replace it with an openly hostile piece of legislation is a favor we don't need.

Please don't pass this bill.

-Cary Dizon
cpd@dfarm.us
(808) 966-7421
P.O. Box 603

Kurtistown, HI 96760

bibahawaiibeas.org

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 3:12 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: oneislandslc@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2332 on 3/20/2012 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for HLT 3/20/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2332

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marcy Montgomery
Organization: One Island
E-mail: oneislandslc@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Please support the ability of small honey producers to continue their business operations without unnecessary regulated requirements and associated costs. Small local honey producers provide an invaluable resource to our local food system - healthy, natural honey that is LOCAL LOCAL LOCAL!

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 3:24 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: oluolu@maui.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2332 on 3/20/2012 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for HLT 3/20/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2332

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Helen Nielsen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: oluolu@maui.net
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

morikawa2 - Grant

From: Danielle Bass on behalf of Rep. Ryan Yamane
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 2:48 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: FW: *****SPAM***** Re: SB2332

L A T E

From: francis.takahashi@hawaiiantel.net [<mailto:francis.takahashi@hawaiiantel.net>]

Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 2:26 PM

To: Rep. Ryan Yamane; Rep. Daynette Morikawa; Rep. Della Belatti; Rep. John Mizuno; Rep. Jessica Wooley; Rep. Faye Hanohano; Rep. Jo Jordan; Rep. Corinne Ching; Rep. Chris Kalani Lee; Rep. Kymberly Pine; Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji

Subject: *****SPAM***** Re: SB2332

Dear Representatives:

As beekeepers on the island of Kauai, we are appalled by the new regulations and restrictions as dictated by SB2332. It is obvious that the committee members know very little about the properties of honey and honey production. Most of the restrictions and requirements are totally unnecessary. We strongly urge the committee to do further research on the properties of honey and honey production before even considering the passage of this bill.

Francis & Joyce Takahashi

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 5:21 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jim@sims.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2332 on 3/20/2012 9:00:00 AM

L A T E

Testimony for HLT 3/20/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2332

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jim Sims
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jim@sims.net
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

It is impossible to comment on this bill in entirety since the PDF files only display the first page.

However, as a small beekeeper I have been made aware of the gist of the bill and agree with the first page of the comments posted - the testing required will place an undue burden on the state *and* the small beekeepers.

How about a simpler approach? Require beekeepers to use county water for all processing. Yes, not as convenient as using your cistern water, but far cheaper and easier than repeated testing - on all concerned.

Thanks for your consideration.