



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

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March 13, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY ON SB 2512, SD2  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

Room 325  
9:00 AM

Chair Coffman, Vice Chair Kawakami, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF strongly supports with amendments, SB 2512, SD2 a measure renaming the Hawaii Economic Development Task Force.

As an organization opposed to new taxes, HFBF took an unusual step a few years ago in supporting the environmental response, energy, and food security tax. It was a desperate move by the industry to secure stable funding for failing infrastructure across the state. Over time, the original intent of the measure has been deflected to address shortfalls in the General Fund. As part of the greater community we understand the need for continuation of critical services and understand the diversion of funds to meet these needs. Some of these critical needs are in the agricultural sector, such as inspectors protecting not only Hawaii's agriculture from invasive species but protecting the environment that we live it. The last few years have witnessed major impacts such as the gall wasps destroying landscape trees across the state and insects threatening our bees and bee industry.

Many of these traditional general fund services have been put on special funds including the Environmental Response, Energy and Food Security Tax. Prior versions of the bill sought to increase allocation of funds to agriculture to meet new needs. This reallocation would go towards the monies originally intended for agricultural purposes.

We respectfully request a review of critical agricultural funding items currently in consideration and those that are dependent upon this tax. If needed we respectfully request restoration of language authorizing the reallocation to ensure that the implementation of these critical measures are possible.

We respectfully request your strong support of this measure along with consideration of reallocation of funds.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

**kawakami1 - Marissa**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 9:24 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** pbdocberry@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2512 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2512

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Paul Berry  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [pbdocberry@gmail.com](mailto:pbdocberry@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/10/2012

**Comments:**

Please vote YES on SB2512. With dwindling overseas sources energy available, and 92% of our food imported, we urgently need far more locally produced energy and food. This bill should be a top legislative priority.

Paul Berry