

### State of Hawaii

#### **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

1428 South King Street

## TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

# BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2014 9:40 A.M. AUDITORIUM

## HOUSE BILL NO. 2009 RELATING TO MILK CONTROL

Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2009, which proposes to establish a minimum reserve requirement in the Milk Control Special Fund. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports this bill.

It is in the best interest of the people of Hawaii that the State maintains its own local food supplies and not on the dependence and mercy of mainland and foreign imports. The milk industry is of significant importance to the economy of the state and must be safeguarded and protected in the public interest.

Establishment of a minimum reserve requirement in the milk special fund will ensure that reserves are available for conducting audits and to cover contingency costs to administer the Milk Control Act. Such reserves will ensure the viability and protection of our fragile dairy industry and to safeguard the supply of fresh, locally produced milk.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

