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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1676 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

HB1676

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this Bill but would like to make sure language is inserted that provides at least half of the members be Organic Farmers or Representatives of the Organic Farming community. No Biotech current or former employees on this Ag. board please. Mahalo,

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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 11, 2016
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1676
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1676 that seeks to increase the number of members on the Board of Agriculture from ten to eleven and requires this eleventh member to be a resident of the City and County of Honolulu. The Department of Agriculture is open to considering adding a member for the Board of Agriculture and offers comments.

Oahu is the principal market for agricultural products grown and sold in Hawaii. It is where the largest diversified agricultural businesses are located and the hub for air and sea cargo between the islands and overseas. That being said, of the ten members on the current Board of Agriculture, five members reside on Oahu. If an eleventh member is added and resides on Oahu, the current Board would be comprised of six members from Oahu and four from the Neighbor Islands. Every member of the current Board meets the Board membership requirement that the "majority of the members be from the agricultural community or agricultural support sector." (Section 26-16(a)(5)).

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.





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February 11, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1676
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Room 312
9:00 AM

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

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 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.

HFB supports the intent of HB 1676, which increases the number of members of the board of agriculture from ten to eleven, requiring the eleventh member to be a resident of the city and county of Honolulu.

HRS 26-16 currently requires that the Hawaii Board of Agriculture consist of ten members, one who shall be a resident of the county of Hawaii, one who shall be a resident of the county of Maui, one who shall be a resident of the county of Kauai, four at large, the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources, the director of business, economic development, and tourism, and the dean of the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources.

While the current board consists of five members that are residents of the city and county of Honolulu, and past boards have also included a resident of the city and county of Honolulu, without the requirement that the board include a member who shall be a resident of the city and county of Honolulu, it is unlikely but possible to have a board without a member that resides on Oahu.

HFB suggests that rather than increase the number of members of the board by adding an eleventh member, you designate one of the four at-large members as a resident of the city and county of Honolulu.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.