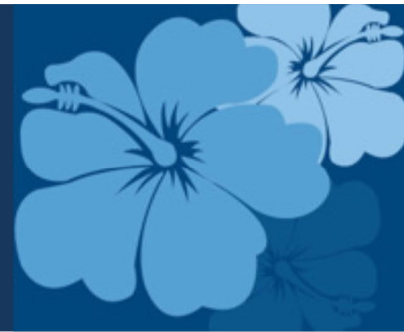


North Shore EVP

A Community Economic Vitality Partnership



February 10, 2016

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2582

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair

Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Woodson and members of the CPC Committee,

The ability to comply with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act is perhaps the biggest obstacle for small farmers wishing to diversify the marketing of their food products and HB2582 is a much needed investment that can assist all farmers in that effort. At the North Shore EVP we are working on a project that will provide small farmers in our region an opportunity to aggregate their products and participate in marketing their goods to institutional customers with full food safety certification. While the entire bill will benefit farmers across the state, we are particularly supportive of Section 141-3 that provides resources to conduct research into alternative, less burdensome methods by which Hawaii's farmers and ranchers can satisfy the requirements of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kevin M Kelly
President

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

LATE

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

February 11, 2016
5:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

HOUSE BILL NO. 2582
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Chairperson McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2582. This bill proposes to create an agricultural food safety certification program to develop and implement a certification system that will comply with the requirements of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The Department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not adversely impact the priorities in the Administration's budget.

If the intent of the bill is to have the department have capacity to address the FDA's Produce Safety Rule and Preventive Control Rule in the FSMA, it may be too premature, for the FDA has not yet defined how to implement compliance with FSMA.

There are various private companies who offer audit services for good agricultural practices (GAP). Each company has their own different audit schemes and requirements. Currently, under a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department currently conducts annual GAP audits utilizing USDA's audit matrix. The USDA is working with the FDA to receive recognition of the USDA GAP audits to meet FSMA requirements.

We will continue to assist in educating farmers with the support assistance from the legislature to continue our outreach and education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



LATE TESTIMONY

LATE



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February 11, 2016

**HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE**

**TESTIMONY ON HB2582
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY**

Room 325
5:00 pm

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Woodson, 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 strongly supports HB2582, requiring the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement an Agricultural Food Safety Certification Program that concurrently complies with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act as it applies to farmers and authorizes funds as needed.

HFB appreciates the support by the legislature in our past efforts to help Hawaii's farmers achieve compliance with the FDA Food Safety and Modernization Act. As the actual rule has been rolled out by FDA the immensity of the task is becoming evident. The final details are still not clear as the agency themselves have finished articulating the details of the measure but training sessions have been delayed. However, basic requirements about water treatment and refrigeration are clear. This will mean changes on many of our farms. Cooperative efforts will be important to ensure affordability. The Department will play a key role in not only facilitating training with the University and other partners but also identifying implementation measures needed. The Department and Counties all have ag parks so their responsibility also extends to their roles as managers of agricultural operations.

HFB respectfully requests your support in moving this measure forward to ensure that our farmers are able to meet compliance deadlines and remain competitive in the marketplace. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.