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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND JUDICARY AND
LABOR**

March 24, 2015
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 414

**HOUSE BILL NO. 823 HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL THEFT**

Chairpersons Ruderman and Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committees:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 823, HD1 relating to agricultural theft. The bill proposes to establish a two-year pilot project to investigate the effectiveness of an enforcement officer dedicated specifically on prosecuting agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism incidences in the county of Hawaii; identify best practices for prevention and provide recommendations for a statewide program to address agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism. The department supports this bill provided it does not adversely impact the priorities in the Administration's budget.

Agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism have been a constant problem for farmers on the island of Hawaii, increasing the cost of production and preventing farming operations to be successful. The vast farming land area on the Hawaii island and limited law enforcement officers make it difficult to capture perpetrators.

The department has been working with the Investigations Division of the Attorney General's office on on-going investigations of alleged illegal activities. Therefore, we request that the Attorney General's office be included in the discussion.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB823 on Mar 24, 2015 14:45PM
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HB823

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for AGL/JDL on Mar 24, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS HB 823, HD1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL THEFT, which establishes a two-year Agricultural Theft Pilot Project in the Department of Agriculture to focus on investigating and prosecuting agricultural theft or agricultural vandalism in the County of Hawaii; and appropriates funds. (HB823 HD1)

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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