



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 3, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 329  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 414  
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 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 SB 329**, which appropriates funds to acquire agricultural lands in Waialua, Oahu.

HFB believes that in order for agriculture to flourish in Hawaii and reach their full potential, land availability and long-term leases at affordable and predictable rates are critical. The acquisition by the state of the Waialua lands will significantly increase the available agricultural land under the State's control and will provide farmers and ranchers with long-term leases that will enhance the economic viability of Hawaii's agriculture industry.

We believe this is an opportunity to further support and expand the state's ability to provide prime agricultural lands for farmers and ranchers, which is consistent with the State's goals of increasing food self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.