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Acting Chairperson
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TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

FEBRUARY 15, 2019
10:15 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 651 SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 651 SD1. This measure amends the eligibility criteria for applicants seeking non-agricultural park leases from the Department of Agriculture by allowing a person, whether individual, agricultural cooperative, agricultural association, partnership, or corporation incorporated primarily for agricultural production purposes, to qualify if: (a) the purpose of the lease is to construct and operate a facility requiring more than \$500,000 in construction costs and equipment purchases; (b) the agricultural or aquacultural use is based on high, advanced, or innovative technology that requires substantial initial capital funding; (c) a majority of the operational decision making authority regarding crop selection and pricing remains with persons who are bona fide farmers who have resided in the State for at least three years, or five years for permanent status aliens; (d) the operations are primarily for productions of food crops or product that contribute to the replacement of similar food crops or products that are imported; and (e) the Board of Agriculture finds that it is in the best interests of the State and is consistent with its mission and priorities. We support this bill with the following comment.

The Department recommends amending line 9 of page 6 of the measure to read as follows: "...crop or product selection and pricing is held by persons who..." for



purposes of consistency with the remainder of the amendments to HRS Section 166E-8(b).

The Department recognizes that recent developments in agriculture indicate a growing reliance on technological advances and methods that require substantial resources to build and maintain infrastructure for such innovative agricultural models. Most local farmers do not have such resources readily available to them and need to associate with others outside of the State and agricultural industry who can provide such investment capital. Other local farmer-investor arrangements that provide financial viability of high technology-based agriculture and aquaculture could also be encouraged with relaxation of use restrictions, tax credits, or other incentives, to meet this growing need.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this measure.



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February 15, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 651, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211
10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director 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.

Hawaii Farm Bureau **supports SB 651, SD1**, which gives the Board of Agriculture authority to decide on a case-by-case basis which entities qualify for a non-agricultural park lease. Establishes certain conditions and qualifications that must be met for the Board to deem an entity eligible for a lease.

HFB believes this measure will address this existing investment constraint for farmers on non-agricultural park lands. The intent of this measure is to encourage investment in agricultural production technologies.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

SB-651-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2019 1:56:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/15/2019 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments: