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February 10, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HB 312
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloe, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 312, which replaces representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau recognizes the desire to update the membership of the advisory committee on pesticides, given that both the sugar and pineapple industry acreage and crop values have dropped significantly.

We understand that this measure would substitute those industry representatives with members of two other agricultural industries; coffee and diversified agriculture, that each account for a substantial farm production value provided to the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and thank you for your continued support of Hawai'i's agricultural community.



House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB312

Friday, February 10th, 2023 10:00 a.m. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) I am submitting testimony in support of HB312, which replaces representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries.

HAPA supports the inclusion of representatives from the coffee and diversified agriculture sectors and removal of sugar and pineapple representatives on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, given the changes in agricultural landscape over the past few decades.

The sugar and pineapple industries have largely departed from the islands and have been replaced by diversified agriculture across the board. At the time of the advisory committee's establishment, the sugar and pineapple industries were major stakeholders in the State's agricultural sector. In 1980, Hawaii was home to fourteen sugar and four pineapple plantations that covered more than 300,000 acres. In 2017, these two crops accounted for less than 5,000 acres. According to a 2017 U.S. Department of Agriculture report, diversified agriculture accounted for over \$84 million in production while the coffee industry provided the State over \$43 million.

The advisory committee on pesticides has the important role of assisting the DOA with the development of the rules and how agriculture will be conducted in the islands. This role is important and needs to be properly represented by the current farming community.

Please support HB312.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Madeline Ross
Kohala, Hawai'i

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Chantal Chung
Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

Brynn Foster
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki
Kauai

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB312.**

This bill will replace representatives from the sugar and pineapple industries with representatives of the coffee and diversified agriculture industries. This change is essential to ensure that the state is receiving unfiltered and unbiased advice on pesticide use.

Our agriculture industry in this state is incredibly diverse, with farms and farmers cultivating crops of all varieties. It is our belief that the representatives overseeing the use of pesticides should also be far reaching to ensure all voices are heard, not just those from a couple traditional monoculture crops which have long dominated Hawaii's agricultural landscape. Furthermore, this bill will provide an avenue for small, diversified farms to be given a seat at the table when it comes to policy making and ensuring regulations related to pesticides are being properly enforced. We strongly support House Bill 312 and urge the legislature to take immediate action.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

HB-312

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:10:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

HB-312

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 5:18:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Witcover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support replacing representatives from the sugar and pineapple industry with those from the coffee and diversified agriculture industries.