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Government Affairs Report
2015 Hawaii Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

July 21, 2015

Hawaii Farm Bureau is pleased with the level of success gained in 2015 on behalf of our members and the entire agricultural community. We develop our package collaboratively calling upon member participation from all corners of the State. We've developed a scoring system by which we prioritize our initiatives. We work hard to communicate effectively with our members, our partners and lawmakers. We strive to be as open and inclusive as possible, while remaining nimble and managing our resources for maximum efficiency.

HFB introduced a total of 15 priority measures this session, all of which earned a public hearing. At the end of the 2015 legislative session, two-thirds of HFB initiatives have met with success. We are pleased that of the Farm Bureau initiatives introduced, HFB has effectively lobbied and received passage of seven measures, with three additional measures receiving post-session commitment from State Department heads to implement them.

HFB's Government Affairs Committee, comprised of leaders located throughout the state, began the 2015 Legislative Session by screening 2,894 pieces of legislation. This is typical. Of those measures, HFB tracked 269 bills (133 Senate bills and 136 House bills); all requiring review and strategy development. We further prioritized, lobbied and testified in writing and in person.

While we are pleased, we recognize we can't do it alone. We rely on many forms of support from our many partners. We thank each of you for your numerous contributions and look forward to strengthening the agricultural sector in Hawaii now and for generations to come.

HFB initiatives that passed the 2015 Legislature:

**Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (#2 HFB Priority) - Act 084
SB 1299 HD 1 CD 1.**

Appropriates moneys for the Hawaii association of conservation districts to assist with its staffing and operating costs. \$350,000 for HACD.

CTAHR Agricultural Extension Service (#4 HFB Priority) - Act 105

HB 850 HD 1 SD 2 CD 1. Appropriates moneys for critical positions in UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service. \$350,000 for 4 full-time extension agents.

Food Safety and Modernization Act (#5 HFB Priority)

HFB Grant in Aid. Requested funding for research into alternative methods of satisfying the requirements of FSMA. HFB Grant received \$350,000.



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Invasive Species (#6 HFB Priority)

HB 500 HD 1 SD 1 CD 1 - State Budget. Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with UH CTAHR, to research and develop methods for the prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid (MFC). \$250,000 has been placed into DOA's budget to address MFC.

Invasive Species (#8 HFB Priority) - Act 152

HB 482 HD 2 SD 1 CD 1. Establishes a full-time temporary program manager position in DOA for the CBB Pesticide Subsidy Program.

Agriculture Workforce Development (#11 HFB Priority)

HB 500 HD 1 SD 1 CD 1 - State Budget. Establishes a K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency. \$450,000 has been placed into the DLIR's budget.

Land Exchange (#14 HFB Priority)

HB 500 HD 1 SD 1 CD 1 - State Budget. Appropriates funds to investigate the possibility of acquiring lands owned by Dole Food Company, Inc. \$500,000 has been placed into Agribusiness Development Corporation budget for this measure.

Other important measures that have passed the 2015 Legislature:

Peekauai Ditch Irrigation - Act 154

HB 1332 HD 1 SD 1 CD 1. Appropriates moneys for maintenance and improvements to the Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System. \$10,000 for maintenance and improvements.

Good Agricultural Practices Program - Act 153

HB 573 SD 1 CD 1. Establishes the Hawaii good agricultural practices program to develop and support good agricultural practices for Hawaii farms growing agricultural food products. Appropriates \$300,000 for 2016.

Barrel Tax - Act 185

SB 359 SD 1 HD 1 CD 1. Increases the amount of the environmental response, energy, and food security tax collections to be deposited into the environmental response revolving fund, energy security special fund, and agricultural development and food security special fund. 15 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited into the Agricultural Development and Food Security Special Fund.

Agricultural Loans - Act 155

SB 1060 SD 2 HD 1 CD 1. Allows for agricultural loans to be administered for livestock biosecurity projects.



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Farm to School Program - Act 218

SB 376 SD 2 HD 1 CD 1. Established a Hawaii farm to School Program and a Farm to School Coordinator. Appropriates \$75,000 for 2016 for one full time position.

Measures that failed the 2015 Legislative Session:

Right to Farm

HB 849 & SB 986. Amends Hawaii's Right to Farm Act to ensure that counties cannot enact laws, ordinances, or resolutions to limit the rights of farmers and ranchers to engage in agricultural practices.

Irrigation

HB 502 & SB 584. Authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds to finance capital improvements to various irrigation systems statewide.

Biosecurity

HB 871. Requires DOA to establish or participate in private-public partnerships to enhance the biosecurity program and quarantine inspection process.

Livestock Feed Development

HB 508 & SB 382. Establishes within the livestock revitalization program a grant program for qualified feed developers.

Alternative Energy

HB 824 & SB 1198. Authorizes the Hawaii green infrastructure authority to reserve a portion of the Hawaii green infrastructure fund to be used exclusively for the issuance of bonds to qualified agricultural enterprises.

Endangered Species Task Force

HCR 47. Requesting the Department of Agriculture to convene a task force to document and collect data identifying economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and endangered species.

Agriculture Theft

HB 823. 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.

Farmers' Markets

HB 1338 & SB 592. Exempts non-potentially hazardous value added products from department of health permitting or inspection.



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DOA Pesticide Capacity

HB 504. Establishes an environmental toxicologist position and pesticide extension specialist. Creates Pesticide Disposal program.

Pesticide Buffer Zones

HB 1514 & SB 800. Establishes disclosure requirements for outdoor applications of pesticides in proximity to schools, childcare facilities, and certain commercial agricultural entities. Establishes pesticide buffer zones for sensitive areas and penalties.

Genetic Labelling

SB 131. Establishes labeling requirements for any food or raw agricultural commodity sold in the State that contains a genetically engineered material, or was produced with a genetically engineered material and establishes violations.

Pesticides

SB 793. Establishes mandatory notice, reporting, and use requirements when pesticides are applied outdoors near sensitive areas.

Pesticides

SB 801. Establishes notice, reporting, and use requirements for any entity or person that uses pesticides under certain circumstances.

Genetic Engineering

SB 885. Mandates the department of agriculture to take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent, or minimize the adverse effects of biotechnology and genetic engineering.

HFB initiatives introduced listed in priority order:

Right to Farm

HB 849 & SB 986. Amends Hawaii's Right to Farm Act to ensure that counties cannot enact laws, ordinances, or resolutions to limit the rights of farmers and ranchers to engage in agricultural practices.

Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts

HB 822. Appropriates moneys for the Hawaii association of conservation districts to assist with its staffing and operating costs.

Irrigation

HB 502 & SB 584. Authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds to finance capital improvements to various irrigation systems statewide.



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CTAHR Agricultural Extension Service

HB 850 & SB 314. Appropriates moneys for critical positions in UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service.

Food Safety and Modernization Act

HFB Grant in Aid. Requested funding for research into alternative methods of satisfying the requirement of FSMA.

Invasive Species

HB 507. Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with UH CTAHR, to research and develop methods for the prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid.

Biosecurity

HB 871. Requires DOA to establish or participate in private-public partnerships to enhance the biosecurity program and quarantine inspection process.

Invasive Species

HB 482 & SB 598. Establishes a full-time temporary program manager position in DOA for the CBB Pesticide Subsidy Program.

Livestock Feed Development

HB 508 & SB 382. Establishes within the livestock revitalization program a grant program for qualified feed developers.

Alternative Energy

HB 824 & SB 1198. Authorizes the Hawaii green infrastructure authority to reserve a portion of the Hawaii green infrastructure fund to be used exclusively for the issuance of bonds to qualified agricultural enterprises.

Agriculture Workforce Development

HB 853. Establishes a K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative in DLIR to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

Endangered Species Task Force

HCR 47. Requesting the Department of Agriculture to convene a task force to document and collect data identifying economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and endangered species.

Agriculture Theft

HB 823. 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.



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Land Exchange

SB1374. Appropriates funds to investigate the possibility of acquiring lands owned by Dole Food Company, Inc.

Farmers' Markets

HB 1338 & SB 592. Exempts non-potentially hazardous value added products from department of health permitting or inspection.