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### **Government Affairs Update**

March 11, 2015

Aloha Friends,

The 2015 legislative session has passed an important milestone where surviving legislation has crossed from the House of Representatives to the Senate and vice versa.

We began the legislative session by examining 1,379 Senate bills and 1,515 House bills that were introduced by the State Legislature for the 2015 Session. Of those measures, HFB began tracking 269 bills (133 Senate bills and 136 House bills); all requiring review and strategy development. At crossover, the list is down to 68 pieces of legislation. We classify HFB's legislative position into three general categories: support, oppose, and watch, each of which have varying degrees.

While lobbying for legislation we support, we also oppose legislation that might be damaging to our members and the agricultural sector. Supporting and opposing legislation involves testifying, both in writing and in person, and partnering with other organizations, stakeholders and lawmakers.

As a grass-roots organization; the largest and most influential of its kind in the state, we are only as strong as our members. Remember that HFBF is an affiliate of American Farm Bureau, with member ranks exceeding 6 million families. It's important for you to keep abreast of helpful and harmful legislation and offer your individual support or opposition when needed.

HFB hosts weekly conference calls to discuss the actions of the committee, to define and refine positions, strategy and testimonies. Each HFBF county has designated a representative to serve on the committee. Each of these are encouraged to participate along with representatives from partner organizations, staff and contractors.

HFB introduced 13 bills this session, all of which have had a public legislative hearing. We have reached the halfway mark in the legislative session and realize that there is still a lot of work to be done. The Hawaii Farm Bureau is truly thankful for its supportive membership as the organization continues to have an important impact upon legislators at the Hawaii State Capitol. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact the HFB Director of Government Affairs Micah Munekata at 848-2074 or [micah@hfbf.org](mailto:micah@hfbf.org).

Mahalo,

Randy Cabral  
Government Affairs Committee Chair & HFB Vice President

**These are the HFB initiatives that have crossed over:**

**Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts**

**HB 822, HD 1.** Appropriates moneys for the Hawaii association of conservation districts to assist with its staffing and operating costs.

**CTAHR Agricultural Extension Service**

**HB 850, HD 1 & SB 314.** Appropriates moneys for critical positions in UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service.

**Invasive Species**

**HB 507, HD 1.** 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, HD 1.** Requires DOA to establish or participate in private-public partnerships to enhance the biosecurity program and quarantine inspection process.

**Livestock Feed Development**

**HB 508, HD 1 & SB 382, SD 1.** Establishes within the livestock revitalization program a grant program for qualified feed developers.

**Agriculture Workforce Development**

**HB 853, HD 1.** Establishes a K-12 Agriculture Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative in DLIR to conduct trainings for teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

**Agriculture Theft**

**HB 823, HD 1.** 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.

**Land Exchange**

**SB1374, SD 2.** Appropriates funds to investigate the possibility of acquiring lands owned by Dole Food Company, Inc.

**The following are HFB initiatives that failed to crossover:**

**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.

**Invasive Species**

**HB 1053.** Appropriates funds for the pesticide subsidy program to eradicate the coffee berry borer.

### **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.

### **Farmers' Markets**

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

### **The following are other important initiatives that have crossed over:**

#### **Invasive species**

**HB 437, HD 1 & SB 544.** Authorizes appropriations for the Hawaii Invasive Species Council.

#### **Invasive Species**

**HB 482, HD 1.** Establishes a full-time temporary program manager position in DOA for the Pesticide Subsidy Program

#### **Agriculture Rates**

**HB 501.** Directs public utilities to establish discounted utility rates for agricultural activities.

#### **Drought**

**HB 503, HD1.** Appropriates funds for county drought mitigation projects and measures.

#### **Good Agricultural Practices Program**

**HB 573.** Establishes the Hawaii good agricultural practices program to develop and support good agricultural practices for Hawaii farms growing agricultural food products.

#### **4-H and FFA**

**HB 995.** Appropriates unspecified sums to the Future Farmers of America program and the 4-H program to educate and support youth in agriculture careers.

#### **LIFE program**

**HB 1039.** Appropriates moneys to the Local and Immigrant Farmer Education Program of the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension Service to support the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry.

#### **Invasive Species**

**HB 1040, HD 1.** Appropriates moneys to the HISC to contract with UHERO to establish an economic model formula to establish the impact and cost of mitigating the most significant invasive species in the State. Directs LRB, in coordination with HISC, to update its 2002 study to reflect costs and impact of mitigation efforts.

#### **Important Agricultural Land**

**HB 1042.** Appropriates funds for grants-in-aid to the counties for assistance with identifying and mapping important agricultural lands.

#### **Barrel Tax**

**SB 359.** 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.

### **Hawaii One Program**

**SB 512, SD 1.** Establishes the Hawaii one plan steering committee and funds the Hawaii one program to provide conservation plans online.

### **Pesticide Disclosure**

**SB 1037, SD 2.** Establishes a mandatory disclosure program for pesticide use by all persons or entities.

### **Agricultural Loans**

**SB 1060, SD 1.** Allows for agricultural loans to be administered for livestock biosecurity projects.

### **The following are other measures that have failed to cross over:**

#### **DOA Pesticide Capacity**

**HB 504, HD 1.** Establishes an environmental toxicologist position and pesticide extension specialist. Creates Pesticide Disposal program.

#### **Pesticide Buffer Zones**

**HB 1514, HD 1 & 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, SD 1.** Establishes mandatory notice, reporting, and use requirements when pesticides are applied outdoors near sensitive areas.

#### **Pesticides**

**SB 801, SD 1.** 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.