HB 2145 HD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL TOURISM

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Tourism & Culture

February 24, 2006

by

Dr. Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai‘i at Manoa
Testimony for
House Bill 2145 HD 2

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL TOURISM

Presented before the
House Committee on Tourism and Culture

The Twenty-third Legislature
State of Hawai‘i
February 24, 2006

by

Dr. Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai‘i at Manoa

I am pleased to contribute the expertise of the College of Tropical Agriculture and
Human Resources (CTAHR) to provide input to the decision-making process on House
Bill 2145 HD 2.

I am in support of HB 2145 HD 2. This bill allows agricultural tourism conducted on an
existing working farm or an existing farming operation, provided that the agricultural
tourism activity is accessory and secondary to the principal agricultural use and does not
interfere with surrounding farm operations.

I strongly support agri-tourism as an avenue for farmers and ranchers to diversify their
operations. As Hawaii is known as a vacation destination, we should also be taking
advantage of the many visitors coming to Hawaii looking for Hawaiian agricultural
experiences.

However, there is concern that some counties do not currently have the ability to enforce
existing land use ordinances in agricultural areas. Abuses in agricultural districts have
existed for many years with little enforcement by the counties. Therefore, I am in support
of the amendment to the bill which now requires, rather than allows, counties to establish
ordinances regulating agri-tourism.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.