Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1742.

The Board of Agriculture (BOA) is charged with establishing broad operating policies for the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), and is an executive board consisting of ten members—one from each of the counties of Hawai‘i, Maui, Kaua‘i; three at-large members; the Chair of HDOA; the Chair of the Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources; the Director of the Hawai‘i Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism; and the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. The BOA also exercises specific authority in such areas as granting permission for the importation of certain animal and plant species which, by regulation requires such action.

As each of the islands of the State has different natural resources, having a representative from each major island instead of a representative from each county the BOA will be better equipped to address each island’s unique agricultural issues.

We support HB 1742, but defer to the HDOA as to their priorities.