



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Tourism
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs

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by

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House Bill 2145 HD 2 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL TOURISM

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Nishihara, Chair Kokubun, Vice Chair Hooser, Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committees:

The purpose of the bill is to allow 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. The bill requires counties to regulate agricultural tourism by ordinance.

I support HB 2145 HD2. I strongly support agri-tourism as an avenue for farmers and ranchers to diversify their operations. As Hawai'i is known as a vacation destination, we should also be taking advantage of the many visitors coming to Hawai'i looking for Hawaiian agricultural experiences.

Abuses in agricultural districts have existed for many years with little enforcement by the counties. I support that HB 2145 HD2 requires, rather than allows, counties to establish ordinances regulating agri-tourism.

For these reasons, I support HB 2145 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.