



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture

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by

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University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1308 SD1 Relating to Loans for Agricultural and Aquaculture Purposes

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Brower, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Darren Okimoto and I am the Extension Leader for the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (UH Sea Grant). I offer written testimony in strong support of SB 1308 SD1 which among other conditions increases the amount of money for aquacultural loans to \$800,000.

UH Sea Grant through its aquaculture extension specialists and agents has worked successfully with the state's Aquaculture Development Program to promote and develop Hawai'i's growing aquaculture industry with over \$28 million in sales in 2005. The enactment of SB 1308 SD1 by the state will further aid in the development of the industry and signal Hawaii's commitment to support one of agriculture's fastest growing sectors.

I therefore strongly endorse SB1308 SD1 and seek your support in the passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1308 SD1.