

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
Governor



**RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**  
Thursday, February 7, 2012  
Room 312  
9:15 a.m.

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1184  
RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 1184. This bill creates a new chapter in the Hawaii Revised Statutes, requiring the Department of Agriculture to develop a food sustainability standard to increase agricultural self sufficiency. The food sustainability standard requires the State to double the amount of food grown in Hawaii in 2015 by the year 2025. Compliance with this standard is to be a consideration in any decision that may impact the State's capacity to achieve the standard. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure and has already been pursuing efforts in this regard.

The food sustainability standard as proposed in this measure requires the collection and compilation of in-shipment data, a function formerly found within the Marketing Analysis and News Branch that was abolished during the 2009 reduction-in-force program. This in-shipment data, used in conjunction with local production data, gave us reliable estimates of the proportion of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables sold in the local market. These baseline metrics are needed in order to measure and determine what doubling the amount of food grown in Hawaii entails. As such, the Department has secured a grant from Ulupono Initiative to develop food security



baseline metrics and is already in the process of issuing a Request for Proposal to fulfill those grant requirements.

We thank you for this opportunity to present our testimony.

**onishi1-Jerry**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 04, 2013 9:29 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** mjellings@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1184 on Feb 7, 2013 09:15AM

**HB1184**

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 7, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carl P Jellings Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Comments: Honorable House Of Representative's Million's of meals are served daily here in Hawaii, Most often Not even the server can answer where the food item came from especially fish, for example The name Mahi mahi for most exemplifies fresh island Hawaii caught fish. Many more species are flown in today from as far away as Asia, But the menu reads mahimahi, as a local fisher You can taste right off this fish was not caught here in Our Hawaiian waters nor is it fresh. I write this because many people who spend the extra dollars to eat healthy are unaware and are guessing what quality food they are consuming. I humbly request this Legislative Body to amend SB558 and to include Fish within SB558. For fairness in pricing, quality, and shelf life. Carl P Jellings Sr Waianae, Hi.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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February 5, 2013

Representative Jessica Wooley, Chair  
Representative Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture

**Testimony in Strong Opposition to HB 1184, Relating to Food Self-Sufficiency  
(Requires the development of a food sustainability standard to promote local food  
production to help diversify the local economy.)**

**Thursday, February 7, 2013, 9:15 a.m., in Conference Room 312**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to provide its comments, concerns and strong opposition to **HB 1184**, on behalf of its members, who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii. This bill is based on a 2012 House bill, which did not involve any discussions, assistance and input from the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation or agricultural landowners; and which had a hidden agenda and ulterior motives to impose a moratorium on land use approvals. Thus, this bill conveys the need for collaboration amongst diverse sectors of the community - business, government, and agricultural stakeholders - and the importance for them to work together cooperatively to improve food sustainability and the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry.

**HB 1184.** This bill purportedly requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to develop a food sustainability standard (FSS) to promote local food production to help diversify the local economy. However, LURF believes that if HB 1184 was truly intended to promote local food production, the bill would necessarily address key related issues such as the cost of land; water availability; labor costs and availability; transportation costs; invasive species; and marketing, all of which must be taken into consideration in order to establish realistic food production and sustainability standards.

It is interesting to note that the actual, original, and sole intent of similar bills previously introduced, was to stop further reclassification of agricultural lands by setting an

unrealistic standard for local food production, and then “punishing” landowners when that standard was not met by the State through the imposition of unfair and arbitrary moratoriums on land use reclassification of agricultural land.

While the current bill does not include any “punishment provisions,” it nevertheless appears to be infused with the underlying intent of the prior bills, as it ignores the DOA’s ongoing research and development of food production metrics; requires the DOA to accept an arbitrary state food production standard; disregards the potential occurrence of natural disasters and other incidents beyond human control including droughts, floods and hurricanes, which would affect food production; and is completely oblivious to the fact that DOA’s 2008 statistics show that agricultural exports comprised approximately eighty-five percent (85%) of Hawaii’s farm and livestock sales (sugar cane, macadamia nuts, coffee, seed crops, floriculture, nursery products, cattle and calves), while local consumption amounted only to approximately fifteen percent (15%) of sales.

**LURF’s Position.** Over the years, LURF has consistently and strongly supported agriculture, agriculture development, the IAL law, and water for agriculture. While LURF also supports food security and food self-sufficiency, it is seriously concerned with HB 1184, for the following reasons:

1. **Questionable intent and purpose of HB 1184.** Contrary to what would necessarily be considered appropriate for, and required as part of the proposed bill given the significance of its subject matter, HB 1184 does **not** include support for any agricultural programs; does **not** address any issues which would increase local food production; and does **not** involve a collaboration of agricultural stakeholders to support the effort to increase local food production. Thus, the underlying purpose and desired outcome of HB 1184 is questionable, and appears only to be to direct the DOA to collect data (which has been, and will continue to be ignored), then to create an arbitrary, unrealistic FSS which cannot be met by the State in order that in the future, opponents of land use reclassifications and zone changes may potentially use such information either to oppose such land use approvals, or to lobby for legislation imposing sanctions against landowners based on the State’s failure to meet the arbitrary FSS.
2. **Must trust the experts on food production, security and sustainability.** LURF questions the informational and factual basis upon which HB 1184 attempts to establish the proposed arbitrary FSS set out in the bill; and whether the original drafters of this bill are knowledgeable and experienced in agricultural production.
  - a. **HB 1184 ignores the DOA’s metrics research and data collected regarding food production, and sets an arbitrary FSS.** This bill is premised on the unreasonable belief that increased agricultural production can be attained simply by setting an arbitrary standard. The DOA, however, understands that successful and viable agriculture is very complex and involves many issues, including agricultural infrastructure, labor, biosecurity, food safety, market development, research and development, agricultural lands, water and water treatment, pest management, and food safety – all of which are not addressed by this measure.
  - b. **The DOA should retain its authority to establish its own food production and sustainability metrics or standards.** The DOA and its experts in agricultural food production should not be forced by this bill to accept an arbitrary FSS mandated to be

achieved by 2025, of “at least double the amount grown in 2015.” LURF understands that the DOA has already been, and is currently working on developing metrics to determine the current levels of agriculture within the State. The DOA should be allowed to complete these metrics as a necessary step prior to determining if and when any food sustainability standard or other sustainability standards should be established. Variables which should necessarily be considered as part of the establishment of said standards include: land costs; water availability; labor costs and availability; transportation costs; invasive species; marketing costs; and the long term economic viability of farms, ranches, and other agricultural facilities and programs.

- c. **HB 1184 is exclusionary; usurps DOA’s authority; ignores DOA’s expertise relating to food production; and is divisive.** The drafting of this bill did not include the participation of the DOA, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, large agricultural landowners, or other agricultural stakeholders. This collaborative effort is crucial, especially because of the possibility that those same landowners could possibly face obstacles, or future penalties or sanctions if the FSS is not met. It disregards DOA’s ongoing work on food production metrics; requires DOT to collect data, just so that it can be ignored; and forces DOA to accept an arbitrary FSS of “at least double the amount grown in 2015” by 2025. Any failure to meet this arbitrary FSS will result in blame, finger-pointing, and likely the proponent’s original intent of this bill – the unreasonable and unjustified punishment of landowners.
- d. **LURF would be in support of DOA’s collection, compilation, analysis and presentation of in-shipment data.** LURF would encourage and support the DOA’s collection, compilation, analysis and presentation of data and other information relating to imports and exports to support the establishment of an appropriate FSS, however, is unable to defend the creation of an arbitrary standard by unknown authorities based on unsubstantiated data.

**3. DOA staff must be retained to implement programs related to this measure.**

LURF supports the hiring of necessary DOA positions and funding for DOA staff necessary to collect, compile and analyze in-shipment data; to work collaboratively with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa to develop a system to gather and analyze relevant data; to prepare DOA metrics relating to the levels of agriculture in the State; and to present findings to the community. LURF respectfully recommends that the DOA, the State Administration, and the Legislature explore funding alternatives necessary for programs implemented pursuant to this bill.

It is LURF’s position that in lieu of imposing an arbitrary FSS, alternative legislation which would better address issues relating to increasing local food production should be considered and enacted. Such legislation would ideally authorize the creation of an agricultural development and/or food security program within the DOA, through which the DOA would develop and fund new and existing programs and facilities to promote the development of agriculture and food security within the State. Such a measure would emphasize cooperation and cohesive industry strategies and planning; a holistic approach from farm to market; and active participation from all of the stakeholders in the agricultural industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments, concerns and **opposition** regarding this measure.

**onishi1-Jerry**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2013 10:06 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1184 on Feb 7, 2013 09:15AM\*

**HB1184**

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 7, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**onishi1-Jerry**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2013 10:17 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** oahurandy@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1184 on Feb 7, 2013 09:15AM

**HB1184**

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 7, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii needs to increase local food production. This is an excellent first step in achieving a doubling of current production. Please move this bill forward. Mahalo.

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# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803  
808.538.6616 [hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org)

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 7, 2013, 2:45 P.M.  
(Testimony is 1 page long)

### TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1184

Aloha Chair Wooley and Members of the Committees:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with 10,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, ***strongly supports*** HB 1184. This measure creates a vision of food self-sufficiency, gives the Department of Agriculture resources to do planning and strategize new solutions, and sets metrics to ensure compliance over time.

The Hawaii State Constitution, article XI, section, is explicit about the need to “conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, [and] increase self-sufficiency.” Despite this rather clear directive, Hawai'i has moved in the wrong direction. We import approximately ninety two percent of our food. Currently, Hawaii has a fresh supply of produce for no more than ten days.

Our current strategy for increasing diversified agriculture and promoting self-sufficiency plainly isn't working. Hawai'i needs to look at new solutions.

HB 1184 sets a new vision. It creates a specific targets and requires annual reporting. A similar concept helped pump prime Hawai'i's clean energy industry. Hawai'i's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards were a key part in starting the clean energy movement. Tangible goals with metrics that define success effectively brought previously bickering parties together to solve Hawai'i's dangerous dependence on foreign oil.

This makes economic sense. Relying on DOA estimates, this concept could generate a billion dollars in new sales for our businesses, stimulate \$300 million in new household earnings, create more than 14,000 new jobs with living wages, and pump \$39 million in new tax revenues into our state coffers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair  
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Rep. Tom Brower	Rep. James Kunane Tokioka
Rep. Romy M. Cachola	Rep. Clift Tsuji
Rep. Isaac W. Choy	Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Cheape
Rep. Takashi Ohno	Rep. Gene Ward
Rep. Gregg Takayama	

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, February 07, 2013  
TIME: 9:15 A.M.  
PLACE: Conference Room 312  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi and Committee Members:

RE HB1184 RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY

I submit my **SUPPORT WITH RESERVATIONS** regarding this bill that is similar to SB681. While I applaud these initiatives to establish a food sustainability standard, ensuring a long-term commitment of resources and investment to producing a significant portion of Hawaii's food for local consumption, I find them to be short sighted as they fail to include our marine resources as an integral part of our island State's food security and self-sufficiency planning agenda.

We have a fleet of longline vessels organized under the Hawaii Longline Association (HLA), an unorganized but growing short longline fleet, and the traditional small boat fleet that brings the nearshore reef species, nearshore and offshore pelagic species and the deep sea bottomfish to market.

To exclude these important protein producers in the planning and implementation of our State's food security and self-sufficiency would be an egregious oversight. As an island State with airports at or near sea level and most commodities arriving via ships, we are most vulnerable as has been experienced in the recent past, via the devastating effects of hurricanes, tsunami and earthquakes. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Yours,

Roy N. Morioka  
Honolulu, HI 96821

Cc: Hawaii Longline Association

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair  
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Rep. Tom Brower	Rep. James Kunane Tokioka
Rep. Romy M. Cachola	Rep. Clift Tsuji
Rep. Isaac W. Choy	Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Cheape
Rep. Takashi Ohno	Rep. Gene Ward
Rep. Gregg Takayama	

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, February 07, 2013  
TIME: 9:15 A.M.  
PLACE: Conference Room 312  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi and Committee Members:

RE HB1184 RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY

I submit my **SUPPORT WITH RESERVATIONS** regarding this bill that is similar to SB681. While I commend you on these initiatives to establish a food sustainability standard, ensuring a long-term commitment of resources and investment to producing a significant portion of Hawaii's food for local consumption, I find them somewhat short of your goal, as they fail to include our marine resources as an integral part of our island State's food security and self-sufficiency planning agenda.

We have a fleet of longline vessels organized under the Hawaii Longline Association (HLA), an unorganized but growing short longline fleet, and the traditional small boat fleet that brings the nearshore reef species, nearshore and offshore pelagic species and the deep sea bottomfish to market.

To exclude these important protein producers in the planning and implementation of our State's food security and self-sufficiency would be an unfortunate oversight. As an island State with airports at or near sea level and most commodities arriving via ships, we are most vulnerable as has been experienced in the recent past, via the devastating effects of hurricanes, tsunami and earthquakes. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Yours,

William Chang  
Honolulu, HI 96789