

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 COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE/ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS**

March, 14, 2013
Room 312
9:05 A.M.

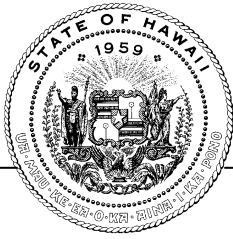
**SENATE BILL NO. 327 SD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Wooley and Tsuji and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 327 SD1. This bill proposes to amend Hawaii Revised Statutes 226-7 to make a strong and clear policy statement to support the purchase and consumption of locally grown products. This bill provides the policy framework that complements HB 508 HD 2, passed by the House, which is the implementation of this policy.

There has been a growing disconnect between people and the understanding of where their food comes from that has resulted in an increase in health problems and a decline in food security. Moving towards increasing the purchase of locally grown agricultural products will have the effect of increasing access to fresh agricultural commodities and also supporting our local agricultural industry and ensure we are moving toward a more food secure way of living. The proposed amendments to the Hawaii State Planning Act reflect the desire of the Department of Agriculture to emphasize the importance of supporting local agriculture in the movement towards greater food safety, food security, and self-sustainability.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**OFFICE OF PLANNING
STATE OF HAWAII**

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

JESSE K. SOUKI
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

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Statement of
JESSE K. SOUKI
Director, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS**

March 14, 2013

9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of
SB 327 SD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Chairs Wooley and Tsuji Vice Chairs Onishi and Ward, and Members of the House Committees on Agriculture and Economic Development and Business.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports SB 327 SD 1, which would amend the Hawaii State Plan, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 226 to support the purchase and consumption of locally grown products. Proposed amendments will affect policies for agriculture and the priority guideline for diversified agriculture and aquaculture in the Hawaii State Plan.

The report *Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy* prepared by OP in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture identifies the establishment and codification of a buy local produce and support local agriculture policy in HRS Chapter 226 as a key action item. A policy commitment regarding the consumption of locally grown products is critical to an effective campaign to increase our State's food security and food self-sufficiency for Hawaii's people, and expand markets for Hawaii's farmers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESTHER KIA'AINA
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWEISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**Thursday, March 14, 2013
9:30AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 312

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 937, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO HAWAII FOOD RESILIENCY**

Senate Bill 937, Senate Draft 2 proposes to develop a food resiliency initiative to be guided by the Hawaii Food Resiliency Task Force. The Department of Land and Natural Resources ("Department") **supports** this measure but recommends that the bill be amended to include three critical elements.

- 1) Designate someone within the Department of Agriculture with direct responsibility to implement a food resiliency program. The position needs to be fully funded with a fully funded support staff to coordinate and implement the plans.
- 2) The program needs to outline specific tasks to be accomplished. **Senate Bill 524 Senate Draft 1** is an alternative measure that could satisfy this need.
- 3) Any program and/or initiative for food resiliency must be able to measure progress through appropriate, comprehensible, specific and practical metrics, which both the farm community and the public can easily understand.

The Department **strongly supports** measures that will aggressively advance Hawaii's goal of food self-sufficiency.

Thank you.

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 7:05 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tracy.emills@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB327 on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM

SB327

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracy E Mills	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please insert Page 1 line 3: (3) Reduce costly chemical inputs by encouraging regenerative agriculture. Thank you for your time, Mahalo, Tracy Mills Haiku 808-214-6136

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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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 6:25 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: susan@chefteton.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB327 on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM

SB327

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
susan campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Amendment: Please insert Page 1 line 3: (3) Reduce costly chemical inputs by encouraging regenerative agriculture.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 1:08 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB327 on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM

SB327

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmer's Union United	Support	No

Comments: Please consider this amendment: Insert this language on Page 1 line 3: (3) Reduce costly chemical inputs by encouraging regenerative agriculture. Thanks for all you do, Simon Russell Legislative Chairman HFUU

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 7:25 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: robin.imonti@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB327 on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM*

SB327

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robin Imonti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 6:47 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB327 on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM

SB327

Submitted on: 3/11/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	The Kohala Center-HISGN	Support	No

Comments: Each step we take in the right direction creates policies that can we used for further state guidance. This is another one of those steps.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 9:10 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: JeffreyUDV@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB327 on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM

SB327

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Bronfman	The Aurora Foundation	Support	No

Comments: I support with the following Amendment: Please insert Page 1 line 3: (3) Reduce costly chemical inputs by encouraging regenerative agriculture.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 10:09 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Kumukahi77@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB327 on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM*

SB327

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

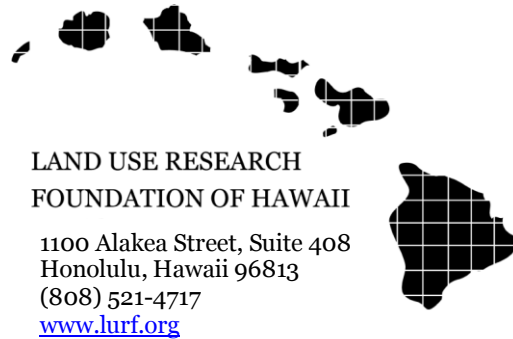
Testimony for AGR/EDB on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dea Rackley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LAND USE RESEARCH
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

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(808) 521-4717
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March 12, 2013

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

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
Representative Gene Ward, Vice Chair
House Committee on Economic Development & Business

Testimony in Support of SB 327, SD1, Relating to Agriculture (Amends the Hawaii State Planning Act objectives and policies for the economy to support the purchase and consumption of locally grown products).

Thursday, March 14, 2013, 9:00 a.m., in CR 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. LURF's mission 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 express its **support of SB 327, SD1** on behalf of its members and the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii. The 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 the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry.

SB 327, SD1. This bill amends the Hawaii State Planning Act objectives and policies for the economy to encourage and support the purchase and consumption of locally grown products.

LURF's Position. This bill is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes [HRS], Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution, "to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands." As noted in HRS Section 205-41, the intent of Act 183 (2005) was to develop agricultural incentive programs to promote agricultural viability, sustained growth of the agricultural industry, and the long-term use and protection of important agricultural lands for agricultural use.

Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be pointless without implementation of these inducements which require the cooperation and support of agricultural and business organizations, as well as government agencies, which this bill is intended to cultivate, and promote.

By recognizing the need to encourage the purchase of locally grown products and the significance of the interrelationships between private and public sectors to develop and improve the local agriculture industry; and by better identifying the objectives and address the needs of the State, this bill significantly helps the local agricultural industry and supports the promotion of economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii. As such, LURF is in **strong support of SB 327, SD1.**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of this measure.

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 7:16 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: barbc@ihug.co.nz
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB327 on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM

SB327

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barb Cuttance	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a farmer I strongly support this bill with the following amendment: Please insert Page 1 line 3: (3) Reduce costly chemical inputs by encouraging regenerative agriculture. With thanks Barb Cuttance 14/266 Papapaya Farms Road Kapoho Puna

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 3:57 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: sd3@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB327 on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM

SB327

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support with amendment Please insert Page 1 line 3: (3) Reduce costly chemical inputs by encouraging regenerative agriculture.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 3:36 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: scottspalapa@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB327 on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM

SB327

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR/EDB on Mar 14, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Jepson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Amendment: Please insert Page 1 line 3: (3) Reduce costly chemical inputs by encouraging regenerative agriculture.

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