

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
Governor



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

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

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
MARCH 14, 2013  
Room 312  
A.M.**

**SENATE BILL NO. 564 SD 2  
RELATING TO HAWAII-GROWN PRODUCE**

Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 564 SD 2. The purpose of this measure is to establish a working group within the Department of Agriculture to develop the parameters of and implement a demonstration model in which a state facility utilizes locally-grown produce for consumption and provide general funds to the Department for this purpose. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure.

The Department believes in the potential of government agencies to greatly increase the amount of locally-grown fruits and vegetables that are procured within the state. In particular, the Department is looking to work with the Department of Public Safety to increase the procurement of locally grown produce by our state prisons.

The Department has participated in a number of task forces and working groups surrounding the topic of increased procurement of locally grown produce by state agencies and that reported to the legislature, including: a report to the 2012 Legislature resulting from House Concurrent Resolution 167 (2011) and a report to the 2010 Legislature per Senate Concurrent Resolution 121 (2009). As a result of these



discussions, the development of Senate Bill 991 was introduced to exempt the purchase of fresh meats and produce from the Hawaii Public Procurement Code, the content of which is in HB508 which the House has passed to the Senate. This appears to be the best way forward.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony on this measure.



## **Hawaii Agriculture Research Center**

*Administration: P.O. Box 100, Kunia, HI 96759*

*Ph: 808-621-1350/Fax: 808-621-1359*

*www.harc-hspa.com*

### **TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE and WATER & LAND**

**SENATE BILL 586, SD1**

**RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BUILDING PERMITS**

**Thursday, March 14, 2013**

Chair Wooley, Chair Evans and Members of the Committees:

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC). I am testifying today on behalf of the center, our research and support staff, and our members and clients.

**HARC strongly supports Senate Bill 586, SD1 Relating to Agricultural Building Permits.**

While some of the positions of public agencies are understandable, there is an apparent lack of understanding of the difference that exists between agricultural buildings and residential or commercial buildings.

Farm states have a very different regulatory approach to farm infrastructure needs; our state has only one approach and that is to subject all buildings to urban standards. If the state expects the agricultural sector to grow to provide more of the food stuffs for its citizenry, it needs to begin to recognize the different needs of its farmers. It is bad enough that it is very difficult to get a long-term lease to operate a farm in the first place, but to have to meet infrastructure standards designed for urbanized areas makes having a sustainable business next to impossible.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Hawaii's agricultural needs. Please approve this measure.



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE AND COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

SENATE BILL 586, SD1

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE BUILDING PERMITS

PRESENTED TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

MARCH 2013

CHAIRPERSONS WOOLEY and EVANS and Members of the Committees:

**STRONG SUPPORT.**

My name is Loren Mochida, Director of Agricultural Operations at W. H. Shipman, Limited in Keaau on the Big Island. We are a local kamaaina-family owned land management company that is engaged in Agriculture and Commercial/Industrial development and leasing. We currently lease lands to over 130 individually growers at W.H. Shipman, Ltd.

W. H. Shipman, Ltd., and their growers provide strong support to SB 586, SD1, Relating to Agriculture Building Permits. This Act will exempt nonresidential agriculture and aquaculture buildings and structures, and their appurtenances, located on commercial farms and ranches from building permit requirements other than electric and wastewater regulations, to support Hawaii's farmers and ranchers.

The existing building codes and permitting processes are not efficiently tailored to meet the needs of commercial agriculture and aquaculture industries and adds substantial costs to establish or expand farming and ranching activities. A search of CONUS statutes and codes has determined that at least 32 states currently have agricultural building exemptions.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 586, SD1.

**onishi1-Jerry**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2013 7:22 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** tracy.emills@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB564 on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM

**SB564**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tracy E Mills	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, Please make this Ammendment to SB564: Amendment: Please use this language on Page 1 Line (9) "Recognize that chemical inputs are a large part of the cost of food production; the working group shall work with local farmers to research methods for agriculture that increases soil fertility without the use of imported chemicals." Thank you for your time. 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**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2013 6:27 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** susan@chefteton.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB564 on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM

**SB564**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
susan campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Amendment: Please use this language on Page 1 Line (9) Recognize the fact that chemical inputs are a large part of the cost of food production; the working group shall work with local farmers to research methods for agriculture that increases soil fertility without the use of imported chemicals.

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**onishi1-Jerry**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2013 1:11 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** legechair@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB564 on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM

**SB564**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmer's Union United	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha Honorable Legislators, I humbly ask that you consider adding this language in support of regenerative agriculture into the bill before you Please use this language on Page 1 Line (9): Recognize the fact that chemical inputs are a large part of the cost of food production; the working group shall work with local farmers to research methods for agriculture that increases soil fertility without the use of imported chemicals. Respectfully Submitted, Simon Russell Legislative Chairman HFUU

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**onishi1-Jerry**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2013 6:44 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** nredfeather@kohalacenter.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB564 on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM

**SB564**

Submitted on: 3/11/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Redfeather		Support	No

Comments: Coming together with interested Stakeholders, identifying interests of both state agencies and other groups, identifying challenges and barriers to local procurement is absolutely essential to taking a step forward. We must identify how we can begin to feed our children. Starting with a state institution makes perfect sense. Especially if the young people there are also participating in growing, and preparing some of the food they are eating. Creating a seed to table program, reaching out and forming relationships with our local farmers, allowing our young people to see what it takes to grow and prepare food safely, will be very empowering, and will begin to create a new phase for Hawaii's agricultural economy.

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**onishi1-Jerry**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2013 9:07 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** JeffreyUDV@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB564 on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM

**SB564**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeffrey Bronfman	Aurora Foundation	Support	No

Comments: Support with the following Amendment: Please use this language on Page 1 Line (9) Recognize the fact that chemical inputs are a large part of the cost of food production; the working group shall work with local farmers to research methods for agriculture that increases soil fertility without the use of imported chemicals.

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**Hawaii Farm Bureau**  
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272  
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org)  
[www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

March 14, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 564, SD2  
RELATING TO HAWAII-GROWN PRODUCE

Room 312  
9:30 AM

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Dean Okimoto, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,950 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF supports SB 564, SD2 which establishes a Hawaii-grown produce working group to develop a demonstration model to increase procurement of locally grown fruits and vegetables in state facilities.

HFBF strongly supports increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy and poultry products in our schools and other public institutions. This will truly be a significant step towards increasing our levels of self-sufficiency.

Many formal and informal studies have been done addressing farm to school programs and we understand the Department of Agriculture has also done some work in this area within the past year. Our farmers and ranchers have tried to work with the procurement system and can speak to the difficulties with the system. For example, supplying to a school or schools within a geographic area will be feasible while providing to the entire school system is unreasonable. Focus should now be on working with the procurement system to make it a reasonable process to the size of farmers and ranchers we have in Hawaii. Assistance to farmers on how to travel through the system should be a priority.

Thank you for this opportunity to address this important issue.

**onishi1-Jerry**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2013 7:47 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** barbc@ihug.co.nz  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB564 on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM

**SB564**

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barb Cuttance	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Being a farmer I strongly support this bill with the following changes: Please use this language on Page 1 Line (9) Recognize the fact that chemical inputs are a large part of the cost of food production; the working group shall work with local farmers to research methods for agriculture that increases soil fertility without the use of imported chemicals. Barb Cuttance 14/266 Papaya Farms Road Kapoho Puna

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March 14, 2013

9:30 a.m.

Conference Room 312

TESTIMONY TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**RE: SB 564 SD2 – Relating to Hawaii-Grown Produce**

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi and members of the committee,

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

**HAIS supports SB 564 SD2** which establishes, and makes an appropriation for, a Hawaii-grown produce working group to develop the parameters of and implement a demonstration model in which a state facility utilizes locally-grown produce for consumption.

In 2010, at the request of the Department of Agriculture (DOA), HAIS launched GROW HAWAII, a three-year effort to build capacity for the use of Hawaii-grown agricultural products in schools, and cultivate healthy food attitudes and behaviors through school garden programs.

Grow Hawaii works to connect schools with Hawaii growers, and increase the capacity of school food services to use fresh produce. We observe that further work must be done to build upon our efforts and those of our partners in the Department of Education (DOE) Office of Child Nutrition to inform food growers of opportunities and procedures to sell to schools and to encourage the development of the Hawaii agriculture industry to meet the needs of institutional buyers. Furthermore, our experience corroborates the well-established notion that, in order to increase consumer interest in healthy, local, food, these efforts should be coupled with experiences that foster a personal connection to the food system, such as garden-based education.

HAIS values the efforts on the part of the Department of Health to convene the School Garden Task Force, and wishes to see these efforts continue with collaboration from the DOE, the DOA and community stakeholders to plan, implement and evaluate a lasting farm to school program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.