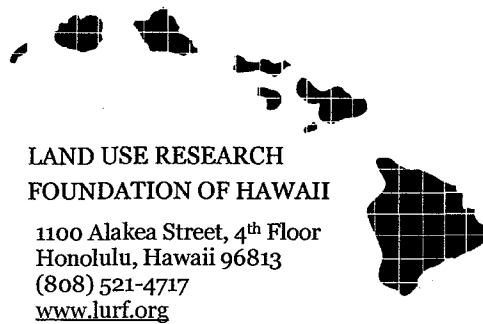


**HB 667**

**HD1, SD1**



LAND USE RESEARCH  
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April 7, 2011

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair and Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**Support of HB 667, HD 1, SD 1, Relating to Food Safety.** (Agriculture; 4Ag Hawaii;  
Education; Grant; Appropriation)

**Thursday, April 7, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. in CR 211**

My name is Dave Arakawa, and I am the Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF), 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 **supports HB 667, HD 1, SD 1**, which creates the food safety and security program within the State Department of Agriculture (DOA). The bill also makes an appropriation out of State general revenues for the food safety and security program for fiscal year 2011-2012.

**HB 667, HD 1, SD 1.** This bill proposes to establish a food safety and security program within the DOA that shall provide training, certification and support to the agricultural industry, and interface with other government agencies to meet food safety and security regulations and requirements.

**LURF's Position.** Food safety is vital for the safe and secure production, processing, sale, distribution, importation and consumption of food products and agricultural commodities in Hawaii. This bill will result in the development and establishment of a food safety and security program which is required to help the State's agricultural industry meet food safety objectives and standards, and effectively comply with applicable governmental rules, regulations and guidelines relating to food safety and security.

LURF understands that such a program is necessary on a local level in order that the State may, amongst other things, ensure that local food safety regulations and certifications conform to the recently enacted Federal Food Safety Modernization Act (pursuant to which the Food and Drug Administration has been empowered to develop and strengthen nation-wide food safety standards and rules), and that State agencies have already initiated work on standards in cooperation with a number of Hawaii's farms, distributors and retailers.

Based on the above, LURF supports **HB 667, HD 1, SD 1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.