

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
APRIL 7, 2011
9:30 A.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 667 HD 1, SD 1
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Chairperson Ige and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 667 relating to food safety. The bill creates a food safety and security program within the department of agriculture, makes appropriation, and requires the department to adopt rules regarding the production, processing, and distribution of food products or agricultural commodities in order to meet state and federal food safety standards. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of the proposed bill, however, the bill, as written, appears to confuse food safety with biosecurity. If the bill is truly intended for food safety, we respectfully offer the following amendments to the bill as it pertains to food safety:

1. Amend section 2 under §141- Objectives; duties
 - (b) In order to meet the objectives subsection (a), the department shall:
 - (1) Establish operate or participate in establishing port facilities including temperature controls where appropriate in which agricultural commodities can be sampled, tested, inspected, quarantined, fumigated, disinfected, destroyed or otherwise treated for disease;



- (2) Perform all inspections, sampling, testing, and certifications of agricultural commodities in an efficient, effective, and expeditious manner; [~~and~~]
- (3) Develop and implement programs to educate and develop for the agricultural industry to meet state and federal laws, rules and regulations[-]; and
- (4) Collect and analyze food safety and security data and present annual summary corrective action reports and trends based on established standards and performance objectives.

2. Amend section 3 to include:

- (6) The production, processing and distribution of food products or agricultural commodities in order to meet state and federal food safety standards, which include but not limited to:
 - (a) Temperature and cleanliness procedures and controls for the transportation of produce and other perishable food products;
 - (b) Establishment and implement product traceability requirements;
 - (c) Ability to investigate and apply appropriate technology designed to detect biological, chemical and other contaminants throughout the food supply chain and to provide preliminary alerts in an effort to reduce dependence on visual inspection as a means of food safety and security control;
 - (d) Establishment of risk assessment standards and procedures for the purposes of reducing dependence on visual inspection and for improving control over specific commodities and suppliers;
 - (e) Collection and analysis of food safety and security data and preparation of annual summary corrective

action reports and trends based on established
standards and performance objectives

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawaii Farm Bureau

F E D E R A T I O N

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

April 7, 2011

9:30 am

Conference room 211

HB 667 HD1 SD1: RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF) is the largest non-profit general agriculture organization in Hawaii, representing approximately 1,600 farm and ranch family members statewide. We **strongly support, with one significant amendment**, HB 667 HD1 SD1, that will provide the mechanism for the development of Good Agricultural Practices that are basic to addressing food safety issues.

Three cases of rat lungworm disease on the Big Island that caused comas and life-threatening symptoms in 2009 were directly linked to locally grown vegetables. It was a warning call about the need to develop awareness of food safety issues and to educate and implement good agricultural practices that will result in the production of safe food in Hawaii. The State is striving for increased self sufficiency and encouraging the public to buy local. These efforts will fail if our food products are found to be unsafe.

HB 667 HD1 SD1 provides the mechanism for the Department of Agriculture to work with farmers and ranchers to develop “Good Agricultural Practices (GAPS)” that are product and location appropriate, and assure food safety.

Many Hawaii farmers are extremely concerned about potentially onerous requirements stemming from the newly passed federal Food Safety Modernization Act. That law recognizes GAPS and the proposed bill provides the mechanism to help Hawaii farmers comply with the new regulations without unreasonable burden.

Food safety involves not just the farmer but the entire supply chain. As the regulating body tasked with ensuring food security for Hawaii, HDOA is the logical entity to develop this program. HDOA also oversees product handling at ports and harbors; critical parts of the supply chain.

HFBF recognizes that there are serious State budgetary constraints this year. **We therefore recommend that the funding section of the bill be deleted, but the statutory authority be delegated to the HDOA so that as funding opportunities arise, timely progress on this important matter can proceed.**

The Farm Bureau respectfully requests your support in passing this measure, deleting Section 4 relating to funding and changing the effective date of the measure to the passage of the Act.

Thank you for your continued support of agriculture.

Feb. 25

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Waimalu Valley Ranch

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<http://waimaluvallynews.blogspot.com>



YEE-HAW!!

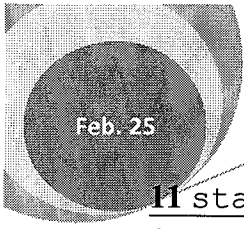
HB 667, HD1, SD1

RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY.

Creates the food safety and security program within the department of agriculture. Makes an appropriation for the food safety and security program. Requires the department of agriculture to adopt rules regarding the production, processing, and distribution of food products or agricultural commodities in order to meet state and federal food safety standards. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

I Support this bill. Lets not forget that there we are in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and with the radiation spewing out from Japan, that Hawaii is affected by this fallout. We can not undermine the fact that Hawaii is exposed to this radiation in the air, water, and soil. Thus, we need to be monitoring the radiation levels and have the correct and appropriate instruments including a working Geiger monitor. This "working and functional" Geiger monitor should be included in the monitoring our food and safety of our foods. Reports should be given and the radioactive levels should be publicized. In doing so, we will prevent our Hawaii people, including children from getting sick, cancer, and disease.

-(6) The production, processing, and distribution of food products or agricultural commodities in order to meet



RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

It state and federal food safety standards including monitoring
it's radioactivity and publishing safe and unsafe levels.

LETS NOT FORGET THE RADIATION, AND INCLUDE MONITORING OF
RADIATION IN OUR FOOD SUPPLY.

Sincerely,

Ms. Angela Kaaihue

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 8:30 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: akaai2674@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB667 on 4/7/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/7/2011 9:30:00 AM HB667

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Waimalu Valley Ranch
Organization: Waimalu Valley Ranch
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: akaai2674@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/7/2011

Comments: