



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
INTERIM DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
RICHARD LIM
Interim Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

Tuesday, February 15, 2011
8:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of
HB 667
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY.

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choi and Members of the Committee.

The Department offers the following comments regarding House Bill 667 which requires DBEDT to develop a detailed plan of action to simplify and consolidate permitting and licensing requirements for processed food production. While we support the intent of the bill, DBEDT does not have the core competency to analyze and evaluate compliance and safety issues related to food production, food health and safety, and agricultural processing. We therefore defer to being the lead on this study to a more appropriate agency or department.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



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

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AND BUSINESS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2011
8:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 667
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Chairperson McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 667 relating to food safety. The Department of Agriculture supports the proposed bill.

The bill seeks to develop a detailed plan of action to simplify and consolidate permitting and licensing requirements for the production and processing of food production and processing facilities to comply with food safety requirements.

With the recent passage and signing of the Food Safety Modernization Act, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is now empowered to develop standards and rules intended to update and strengthen food safety regulations through the entire food supply chain.

The Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the various FDA committees, University of Hawaii, the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and the tourism industry is responsible for providing food safety certification audits at the farm, packer and distribution levels. It is imperative that any State plan is aligned with the newly evolving federal requirements in order to eliminate conflicts and provide clear direction to State food supply businesses. Members of the department are involved with the development of federal food manufacturing and information technology submission standards. The



Department has also initiated electronic food traceability pilot projects in cooperation with a number of Hawaii's farms, distributors and retail outlets.

The Department is prepared to work collaboratively with the agencies identified in this measure and is prepared to assist the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism with the required actions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.