

LATE TESTIMONY

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business

H.B. 667, Relating to Food Safety

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Acting Director of Health

February 15, 2011
8:00 a.m.

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the intent of this bill.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** Minor fiscal implication that involves time and effort to help develop the plan.
- 3 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill proposes that the department cooperate with DBEDT and DOA in
- 4 developing a detailed action plan to simplify and consolidate permitting and licensing requirements for
- 5 food establishments. The department's sanitation branch is willing to participate and cooperate in any
- 6 discussions that would lead to simplifying the permitting and licensing requirements for any newly
- 7 proposed or extensively remodeled food establishments that may necessitate new permits. However,
- 8 any action plan developed should not interfere with the department's proposed web-based inspection
- 9 system that is prepared to go out to bid in the very near future.
- 10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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February 15, 2011

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair and Representative Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business

Support of HB 667, Relating to Food Safety. (Permitting and Licensing requirements for the production and processing of food by food production and processing facilities to comply with food safety requirements.)

Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. in CR 312

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**, which proposes that certain State departments work together to develop a plan to simplify and consolidate permitting and licensing requirements for food processing facilities in order to comply with food safety requirements.

HB 667. This bill proposes to require the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to work in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and Department of Health, to develop a detailed plan of action to simplify and consolidate permitting and licensing requirements for the production and processing of food by food production and processing facilities to comply with food safety requirements. HB 667 provides that DBEDT may consult with any other state or federal agency it deems appropriate to develop the plan. DBEDT shall submit its report to the legislature, including any necessary proposed legislation no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2012.

LURF's Position. Food safety is important for the safe sale, distribution and consumption of locally grown produce in Hawaii and this bill will result in a detailed plan of action and proposals for necessary legislation to simplify the permitting and licensing requirements for the processing of food by food production and processing facilities to comply with food safety requirements. Based on the above, we respectfully urge your **favorable consideration of HB 667.**

The opportunity to present our testimony regarding this matter is greatly appreciated.



LATE TESTIMONY

Hawaii Farm Bureau
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

February 15, 2011

Room 312

8 am

HB 667

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Farm Bureau, on behalf of our commercial farm and ranch families and organizations across the State, respectfully offers the following comments regarding HB 667, requiring that DBEDT, with the cooperation of DOH and DOA, develop a detailed plan of action to simplify and consolidate permitting and licensing requirements for the production and processing of food by food production and processing facilities to comply with food safety requirements.

HFBBF is unsure about the exact purpose of this measure. If the intent is to recommend new policies or promulgate new regulations concerning food safety at the farm level, we believe this would be premature, as Congress has just passed the Food Safety Modernization Act that the FDA is expecting to implement over the next few years. Any new State regulation may be duplicative or confounding of this effort.

It is our understanding that the State Department of Health (DOH) is the lead agency and has the authority and expertise to regulate issues involving food safety. In fact, our organization participates as a member of the DOH Advisory Council for Food Protection Practices, a body that consists of dedicated members of the various relevant agencies and stakeholders that meets regularly to disseminate new information and discuss best methods to address food safety concerns. The DOH Sanitation Branch should continue to be the policy-making body on any new food safety regulations since they have the requisite expertise to apply any new federal requirements to the unique considerations of the Islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.