

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
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RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND
ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AND BUSINESS**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2011

TIME 11:20 AM

CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 124

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 108

**REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ENSURE THAT THE CHIEF
PROCUREMENT OFFICERS COMPLY WITH THE HAWAII PUBLIC PROCUREMENT
CODE PREFERENCES FOR HAWAII PRODUCTS TO PROMOTE GROWTH OF THE
STATE'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY AND THEREBY ASSURE FOOD SECURITY
FOR HAWAII'S CITIZENS**

Chairpersons Tsuji and McKelvey and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Concurrent Resolution No. 124 and House Resolution No. 108. The resolution requests that the Governor ensure that the Chief Procurement Officers comply with the Hawaii Public Procurement Code Preferences for Hawaii products to promote the growth of the state agriculture industry and assure food security for Hawaii's citizens.

The Department of Agriculture (DOA) supports this resolution and believes the Chief Procurement Officers are in compliance with the procurement code preferences for Hawaii products.

The Department is a strong supporter of the "Buy Local" concept. The concern is with the provisions of ACT175, SLH2009, that removed the exemption for fresh produce, along with another fresh commodity, meat, from Chapter 103D, Hawaii Public Procurement Code, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which impact the Chief Procurement Officers' ability to purchase fresh meats and produce locally.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these resolutions.