

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 S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE
AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2011

TIME 10:00 AM

CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 145

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 127

**URGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COORDINATED PLAN TO
ASSIST HOME GARDENERS WITH FORMING COMMUNITY-BASED, HOME ORGANIC
PRODUCE COOPERATIVES**

Chairpersons Tsuiji and Nishimoto and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Concurrent Resolution No. 145 and House Resolution No. 127. The resolutions urge the UH-Cooperative Extension Service with assistance from the Department of Agriculture and Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to develop a coordinated plan to assist home gardeners with forming community-based, home organic produce cooperatives.

The Department of Agriculture (DOA), as a strong supporter of the "Buy Local" concept, supports the intent these resolutions. However, we caution that such a concept must include a food safety component to ensure the sale of safe products to the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these resolutions.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education/Agriculture
Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at 10:00am

By

Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Sylvia Yuen

Interim Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HR 127/HCR 145 - Urging the Development of a Coordinated Plan to Assist Home Gardeners with Forming Community-Based, Home Organic Produce Cooperatives

Chairmen Nishimoto and Tsuji, and members of the Committees on Higher Education and Agriculture: thank you for the opportunity to testify on HR 127/HCR 145, which urges the development of a coordinated plan to assist home gardeners with forming community-based, home organic produce cooperatives. I am Sylvia Yuen, Interim Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

This resolution requests CTAHR, with the assistance of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, to develop a coordinated plan for the purpose mentioned above. It further requests that a progress report on developing the plan be submitted to the 2012 Hawaii State Legislature.

CTAHR will be happy to comply with the legislative request as outlined in HR 127/HCR 145.