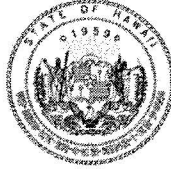


**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
Governor



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. 167  
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 145  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A WORKING  
GROUP TO EXAMINE THE FEDERAL 2008 FARM BILL AMENDMENT TO THE  
RICHARD B. RUSSELL NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT**

Chairpersons Tsuji and Nishimoto and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Concurrent Resolution No. 167 and House Resolution No. 145. The resolutions request that the Department of Agriculture convene a working group to examine the Federal 2008 Farm Bill Amendment to the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

The Department of Agriculture (DOA), as a strong supporter of the "Buy Local" concept, supports this resolution and agrees that buying more fruits and vegetables would benefit local farmers and businesses. The DOA, however, does not have the staff or resources to perform the duties described.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this resolution.