

**SB 1145**

**nishihara5 - Randy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 4:59 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** Leslie.Campaniano@hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1145 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** SB1145\_AGR\_2-3-2011\_AGL-final.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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**LATE**

**Categories:** Red Category

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1145

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position:  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: James Nakatani  
Organization: Hawaii Department of Agriculture  
Address:  
Phone: 973-9552  
E-mail: [Leslie.Campaniano@hawaii.gov](mailto:Leslie.Campaniano@hawaii.gov)  
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

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

LATE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2011  
TIME 2:45 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

SENATE BILL NO. 1145  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 1145, Relating to Agriculture. This bill requires the state to attain certain food sustainability standards with enumerated deadlines; requires the Department of Agriculture to monitor the state's progress to achieving food sustainability standards; imposes penalties for failure to meet prescribed standards; requires annual reporting to the Legislature; and to make appropriations to effectuate the purpose of this measure. The Department supports the intent of this bill.

The Department is a strong advocate for local farmers and ranchers and appreciates your committee's interest in setting a specific goal for food self-sufficiency in Hawaii by creating measurable standards over a long-term period. Furthermore, this goal reflects Governor Abercrombie's *Agricultural Renaissance in Hawaii*, to produce more of our own food, to keep money in the local economy, protect green space, support thriving rural communities, reduce the risk of invasive species, and make us more secure against disruptions to our food supply lines.

The Department realizes that growth in food self-sufficiency is not only dependent on the availability of land in the state. There are also other considerations such as water, labor, financing, appropriate technology, available markets, and other determinants that should be taken into account and quantified.

The food sustainability standard as proposed in this measure requires the collection and compilation of in-shipment data. This is necessary because imports and exports from/to the U.S. mainland are not available from federal or state sources. Imports and exports data from/to other countries are available from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The Department previously collected and compiled in-shipment data for fresh fruits and vegetables (FFV). This in-shipment data, used in conjunction with local production data, give us reliable estimates of the proportion of locally grown FFV sold in the local market. Currently, no in-shipment data is available as all staff members in the program were directly affected by the 2009 reduction-in-force.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

**nishihara5 - Randy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:13 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** amybrinker@mac.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1145 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1145

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Amy K. Brinker  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 248 Kaiulani Ave #4 HI  
Phone: 808 230-0085  
E-mail: [amybrinker@mac.com](mailto:amybrinker@mac.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

**Comments:**

Everyone knows that deadlines make things happen, and we NEED this to happen! I strongly support this measure to make our islands more sustainable.

Mahalo

**nishihara5 - Randy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:43 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** konanuij001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1145 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1145

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jerry Konanui  
Organization: Individual  
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Phone: 8089658394  
E-mail: [konanuij001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:konanuij001@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

## nishihara5 - Randy

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 9:24 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** abaalto@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1145 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** 02-02 SB1145 Food self-sufficiency.pdf

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1145

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: anthony aalto  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 3946 Lurline Dr honolulu, HI 96816  
Phone: 234-9779  
E-mail: [abaalto@gmail.com](mailto:abaalto@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE - February 02, 2011

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1145 - (2 pages)

Aloha Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee

As a concerned citizen I urge you to support this bill. I give you 8 powerful reasons:

1) We are vulnerable - we must boost our food security It is not news that Honolulu is the most remote major city in the world. Nor by now is it news that we in Hawaii import between 85% and 90% of all our food. These twin circumstances leave our food supply extraordinarily vulnerable to natural or man-made disruption and dependent on the vagaries of forces which we cannot control.

Already this year we are starting to witness food price inflation driven by rising oil prices. These rises will most hurt the most economically stressed members of our society.

The planet's booming population, climate induced loss of farmland and the competition for farmland between food farmers and agri-businesses growing energy crops all lead one to anticipate rapidly rising food prices for years to come.

Hawaii has some of the best agricultural land and most benign growing weather in the world. It is insane not to use it.

### 2) Nutrition

Some argue that it is more logical to import food from places where it can be grown more efficiently and competitively. That argument overlooks the fact that imported food is often less nutritious than local produce. Fruits and vegetables shipped from overseas are picked before they ripen. They have less time to develop a complete spectrum of vitamins and minerals. The heat and light they are exposed to during transportation degrade fragile nutrients like vitamin C and thiamin. Frozen produce suffers similar problems. An emphasis on local produce, grown by local people, will inevitably promote nutritional awareness and

consumption which will help counter the growing epidemic of diabetes, obesity and other diet related illness.

3) It's the economy...

A recent study by the State Department of Agriculture says that if we boost our food production by just 10% we'd stimulate nearly \$200 million in new sales, \$50 million in profits, \$6 million in state tax revenues, and create more than 2,300 jobs. If we grew all our own food the impact would be more than \$1 billion and 15,000 new jobs.

Boosting local agriculture is a great way to create new businesses and a great way to diversify our economy to help absorb future shocks like the recent recession which hammered our main industry tourism.

4) Global Warming

Our climate is warming, sea levels are rising and Hawaii will be badly affected. We have an obligation to contribute to efforts to mitigate this looming disaster. The United Nations Environmental Program says organic agriculture can sequester 7,000 pounds of carbon dioxide per acre per year, one of the cheapest methods available to tackle carbon dioxide build-up and climate change. By fostering agriculture we will be doing our part to mitigate CO2 emissions and to provide a national and global model.

5) Protect Farmland

By encouraging local agriculture we will preserve farmland that would otherwise be turned into suburban sprawl. This in turn will help preserve view corridors and the beauty of our islands. This is not an elitist aesthetic concern: tourists increasingly complain about over-development and sprawling subdivisions, especially on Oahu. Farmland in turn preserves native habitats, species, streams and watersheds and reduces the risk of importing invasive species with imported food..

6) Quality of Life

We've paved more than 50% of Oahu's farmland already. It's led to ugly suburban sprawl and the second most congested freeway in the nation.

7) It's a moral and spiritual obligation Farmland is a finite resource. Once paved it is lost forever. It is our duty to the next generation to malama the aina.

8) It's the Law!

Finally, I believe our state constitution enjoins you to adopt this bill. Article XI Section 3 of the Constitution requires that "The State shall conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands. The legislature shall provide standards and criteria to accomplish the foregoing."

I thank you for permitting me this chance to testify.



## nishihara5 - Randy

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:19 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** keokikaloman@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1145 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1145

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: George Keoki Fukumitsu  
Organization: Hui Kalo/Govenor's Taro Task Force  
Address: 49-077 Johnson Road Kaneohe, HI  
Phone: 808-554-7650  
E-mail: [keokikaloman@aol.com](mailto:keokikaloman@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

**Comments:**

Hawaii was agriculturally sustainable but as big corporations took over lands for crops that are no longer viable (sugar, pineapple), we are overly dependant on outside food. This is a tragedy but it is not too late. We can, with working together rebuild our sustainability levels.

## nishihara5 - Randy

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:51 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** caztwin@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1145 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1145

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Kanoë Cazimero  
Organization: Individual  
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Phone: 808-540-0900  
E-mail: [caztwin@aol.com](mailto:caztwin@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

### Comments:

I am in support of this bill, however it is my hope that the food self-sufficiency requirement of 20% by Dec 2020 and 40% by 2040 be given every chance to double. We were once a completely self-sustainable sovereign nation that has been crippled by outside cultures driving the food market and food availability on these islands. Yes, every effort needs to be made. In education where future farmers are supported, encouraged and sustained through apprentice programs & ag land appropriations. In business where our people become the engine that drives production of our own resources. In land management where natural resources of land and most important water are given to the farms that build sustainability and are not diverted to projects that do not maintain viable and recyclable and self-sustainable lifestyles.

**HEARING OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**Thursday, Feb. 3**

**2:45p.m.**

**Room 229**

**To: Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair**

From: Annie Koh  
Resident of Honolulu and Kanu Hawaii member

Re: Food Sustainability Standard bill ([SB1145](#))  
In Support

Chairs & Committee Members:

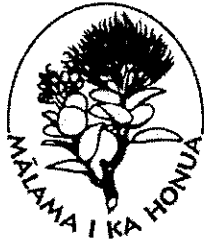
I strongly support [SB1145](#) for the following reasons:

- 1) To strengthen local agriculture and help diversify Hawaii's economic base
- 2) To support public health initiatives that help Hawaii's people eat more nutritious foods
- 3) To encourage public and private institutions to buy food grown within the state

I also urge the committee consider amending the bill to address "value added" foods that are manufactured in the State of Hawaii but may include ingredients that are produced elsewhere. We need food entrepreneurs of all types for a healthy agricultural and food industry, and acknowledging the importance of both "grown-in-Hawaii" and "manufactured-in-Hawaii" is an essential step.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Annie Koh  
1650 Kanunu St. #610  
Honolulu, HI 96814



# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803  
808.538.6616 [hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org)

LATE

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 3, 2011, 2:45 P.M.  
(Testimony is 2 pages long)

### TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1145

Aloha Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with 8000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, ***strongly supports*** SB 1145. This measure creates a vision of food self-sufficiency and sets metrics to ensure compliance over time. It also ties one of the biggest hinderances to food self-sufficiency -- lack of available land -- to the actual production of food.

The Hawaii State Constitution, article XI, section, is explicit about the need to “conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase self-sufficiency,” and the obligation to “assure the availability of agricultural suitable lands.” Despite this rather clear directive, Hawai‘i has moved in the wrong direction. We import approximately eighty-five per cent of our food. Currently, Hawaii has a fresh supply of produce for no more than ten days. Ninety per cent of the beef, sixty-seven per cent of fresh vegetables, sixty-five per cent of fresh fruits, and seventy per cent of all milk consumed in the state are imported.

Further, over the past 50 years, approximately 53% of Class A and B lands have been reclassified to urban use. On Oahu alone, almost 4,000 acres of prime farmland have been reclassified in the past 20 years.

Our current strategy for increasing diversified agriculture and promoting self-sufficiency plainly isn't working. The definition of stupidity is doing the same thing over again and expecting different results. Plainly Hawai‘i needs to look at new solutions.

SB 1145 sets a new vision. It creates a specific targets and requires annual reporting. It forces longterm planning that ties to the specific metrics that are set out over time. A similar concept helped pump prime Hawai‘i's clean energy industry. Hawai‘i's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards were a key part in starting the clean energy movement. Tangible goals with metrics that define success effectively brought previously bickering parties together to solve Hawai‘i's dangerous dependence on foreign oil.

Just fifty years ago half our food was produced locally. Let's aspire a return to that level of self-sufficiency through self-enforcing standards that encourage collaboration between landowners, farmers and the State.

Relying on DOA estimates, this concept could generate a billion dollars in new sales for our businesses, stimulate \$300 million in new household earnings, create more than 14,000 new jobs with living wages, and pump \$39 million in new tax revenues into our state coffers.

We understand some folks will take exception with the "penalty" section. This section was inappropriately named. It is not a penalty. It is a necessary connection between the success of growing Hawai'i's own food and the authorization of future development. SB 1145 does not restrict small transformations -- the type that a small farmer might need to consider -- but it does ensure we stop digging a deeper hole if we're not achieving our state's food sustainability standards.

Enforceability of the Food Sustainability Standards is necessary. For example, Hawai'i has adopted a goal of reducing its waste production by 50% by the year 2000. Without some enforcement, stakeholders will not have a reason to treat the standards with the level of seriousness necessary to ensure compliance. Enforcement, particularly tied to one of the problems hamstringing food production, is a means to bring everyone to the table for positive solutions.

SB 1145 is an opportunity to create a self-sustaining vision of Hawai'i's future. We hope this Committee will allow it to proceed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.