

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

LATE TESTIMONY

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2011

TIME 10:00 AM

CONFERENCE ROOM 016

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73

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

Chairperson Hee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 73. 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, SLH 2009, 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.

To remedy the situation, ACT175 could be modified to reinstate the exemption for fresh meats and produce.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this resolution.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

LATE TESTIMONY

TO: Honorable Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee 4-14-11, 10:00am, Rm 016

RE: Proposed amendments to SCR 73; Procurement, Hawaii Agricultural Products Preference

Submitted by: Inga Gibson, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States, P.O. Box 89131, Honolulu, HI 96830, igibson@hsus.org, 808-922-9910

On behalf of our more than 50,000 members in Hawaii, we respectfully request your consideration of the below amendment to SCR 73.

The Humane Society of the United States pursues the reduction of animal suffering in the raising, housing, care, transportation, and slaughter of animals raised or caught for food. We seek to ensure that animal production systems are *humane, sustainable, and environmentally sensitive*. We support Hawaii farmers and ranchers who give proper care to their animals, act in accordance with the basic ethic of compassion to sentient creatures under their control, and practice and promote humane and environmentally sustainable agriculture.

Our greatest efforts on behalf of farm animals in Hawaii has been to reduce the long-distance transport of animals, specifically, thousands of pigs who are transported annually from the mainland Midwest to Oahu for slaughter. The most humane and safe alternative is to urge the state and its residents to *only* purchase humanely, locally raised animals or to purchase (non-live) frozen/chilled products from the mainland.

From Mainland Farm to Hawaii Table

Hawaii is poised to become the first state in the nation with a publicly owned slaughterhouse that purchases, transports and slaughters a mass majority of its animals from the mainland.

SCR 73, along with numerous other measures introduced this legislative session, have been “packaged” to support local animal agriculture however, and unbeknownst to the majority of Hawaii residents and visitors, more than 70 percent of animals slaughtered on Oahu aren’t even from Hawaii, but are shipped in from the mainland. In fact, more than 10,000 live pigs are shipped from California ports to Honolulu each year, most of them having first been transported by truck from farms as far away as South Dakota and Iowa. The pigs then endure a sea journey of up to eight days before reaching their final destination on Oahu for slaughter. Until only 2 years ago, these mainland imported pigs were sold to unknowing Hawaii consumers under the “Island Fresh” and “Made in Hawaii” label. Following a formal petition from our organization, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture recommended removal of the misleading labels, in favor of “Island Processed” labeling, although the import of thousands of mainland pigs to Oahu continues to this day.

In addition to the continued concerns with the lack of transparency in labeling, there is considerable scientific evidence that long distance transport of live farm animals causes severe suffering, especially in pigs, who are especially susceptible to motion sickness. During long-distance transport these animals are simultaneously exposed to a variety of stressors that facilitate the spread of disease and infections, and increases the suffering of the animals who often die on these long-distance sea voyages.

The continued transport of pigs from the mainland to Hawaii for slaughter is inhumane, undermines food safety, contradicts the goal of supporting local agriculture and serves only to continue to finance mainland producers.

The peoples of Hawai'i have a right to know how their tax dollars are being used and provided accurate information to make informed decisions about the food they purchase and consume. Numerous polls have shown that residents prefer to purchase locally produced products, that creates obvious benefits to our local state economy, yet many residents don't know where—and how far away, their food is coming from.

In addition, records have not been made available to determine the exact number or species of animals slaughtered on Oahu, raising serious concerns about the transparency and accountability in state funding for procurement of animal products that are in fact mainland raised and produced.

For the above reasons we request your consideration of the below amendments to require:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no state monies be distributed to the Hawaii Livestock Cooperative in the form of appropriations, loans, grants in aid, or purchases; or purchases made from the Hawaii Livestock Cooperative, until the Chief Procurement Officer has determined that the majority of animals slaughtered at the Hawaii Livestock Cooperative are raised and produced within the State and a standing or special committee of the Senate has conducted an informational briefing on the financial and operational state of the Hawaii Livestock Cooperative and has received sufficient assurance of the viability of operations of that facility and that the majority of animals slaughtered are raised and produced within the State;

In closing, if the goal is to truly support local agriculture and urge the purchase of locally produced products, efforts should instead focus on appropriating more agriculturally zoned lands necessary for production.

If it is determined, as requested in the above amendment, that the State Procurement Office is *not* purchasing products from our local slaughterhouse, or that the majority of animals slaughtered continue to be shipped in from the mainland, then the state should not appropriate taxpayer dollars nor procure such products, only to support a private industry that does not serve the public's interest or good.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY OF
THE HAWAII PROCUREMENT INSTITUTE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

April 14, 2011
10:00 a.m.
SCR 73/SR 46

IN SUPPORT OF SCR 73/SR 46, 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.

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SCR 73/SR 46.

The Hawaii Public Procurement Code preference for Hawaii products in Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") § 103D-1002 utilizes the State's buying power to create market opportunities for Hawaii's local farmers and has the potential to be an economic stimulus for Hawaii's agricultural industry. If more local agricultural products are purchased by State agencies, Hawaii's agricultural industry can expand capacity and produce a greater and range quantity of crops and animal products.

Additionally, because a majority of Hawaii's local farms and ranches qualify as "small businesses" pursuant to HRS § 103D-901, compliance with the preferences for Hawaii products will also support and grow our local small businesses.

Despite the beneficial effects on Hawaii local food security and local businesses that may result from compliance with the preferences, the chief procurement officers of this State have not complied with the preferences for Hawaii products. Thus, the passage of this Resolution is necessary to ensure that the procurement officers comply with the preferences created by HRS § 103D-1002. Ensuring the procurement officers implement the preferences for Hawaii products would fulfill the preferences' goals of enhancing and protecting our local food security and also will grow local businesses.

Thank you for your efforts to improve procurement practices in Hawaii and for affording us the opportunity to submit testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 9:11 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: wagenborg@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR73 on 4/14/2011 10:00:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for JDL 4/14/2011 10:00:00 AM SCR73

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Rachel Huff-Wagenborg
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: wagenborg@mac.com
Submitted on: 4/14/2011

Comments:

Please Support Proposed SD1, SCR 73 to provide transparency regarding Hawaii Livestock Cooperative's operations and enhance state efforts to support local agriculture rather than continued or increased mainland imports of pigs to Oahu.