



Poamoho Organic Produce
PO Box 728
Waiialua HI 96791
808-637-4555
info@poamoho-organic.com

To: House Committee on Agriculture
Re: Hearings on February 1, 2012, 8:00 am, Rm #312
Subject: Testimony regarding HB2430, HB1947, HB2263 and HB2431

January 30, 2012

Aloha Committee Chair and Committee Members,

I am an organic farmer on the North Shore of Oahu and President of the Hawaii Center for Organic Farming. Please accept my testimony on the subject Bills.

HB2430 tasks the Department of Agriculture (DoA) to establish an Agriculture Development and Food Security Program. I support the purpose of this Bill and I have some comments and concerns. Agriculture Development requires a new look at old problems and, above all, advocacy. The legacy of our DoA has been regulatory, not advocacy; so the opportunity for "new-think" will require advocacy for new ideas. Food Sustainability should be defined in the text of the Bill to eliminate confusion and solidify intent. For many of us farmers, food sustainability refers to ensuring the continuous and uninterrupted flow of imported foods. It is the exact opposite of food self-sufficiency i.e. growing local food for local consumption, which appears to be the true intent of this Bill.

HB1947 creates an Agriculture Safety and Security program within DoA. I cannot support any portion of this Bill as it is misdirected, based on erroneous facts and detrimental to our local farmers. This Bill would authorize an expanded farm inspection program far beyond that which has already resulted in excluding 99 ½ % of our farms from our local markets. The preamble implies that cantaloupes and rat lungworm incidents occurred on the farms and therefore requires more farm inspections. These incidents did not occur on farms but in a processing plant and a home garden. The term "generally accepted agriculture management practices" is not generally accepted beyond the State of Michigan and has little application in Hawaii. Please don't be misled, there are better alternatives to the words in this Bill such as HB2065 which promotes education in Hawaii-specific and science-based practices and which many of our farmers support.

HB2363 establishes a task force to study the feasibility of an agriculture distribution co-op. I fully support this effort and even hope to be part of it. The words are very specific and target a long standing issue for our widely distributed network of farms.

HB2431: I fully support this Bill that reinforces desire and need to increase "local food for local consumption" through State policy. A similar Resolution supporting "local food for local consumption" was passed by the North Shore Neighborhood Board and forwarded to the City Council for their consideration. Mahalo.

Al Santoro

hashem3 - Casey

From: Haleiwa Farmers' Market [haleiwafarmersmarket@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:00 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: HB 1947

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To: Honorable Chair, Rep. Clift Tsuji and Vice Chair, Rep. Mark J. Hashen and Members of The Agriculture Committee,

Subject: HB 1947

My name is Pamela Boyar, owner of three farmers markets..

II strongly oppose HB 1947

I support small Hawaii farmers. They grow our food in a responsible way with good agricultural practices.

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Agriculture Development requires a new look at old problems and, above all, advocacy. The legacy of our DoA has been regulatory, not advocacy; so the opportunity for "new-think" will require advocacy for new ideas. Food Sustainability should be defined in the text of the Bill to eliminate confusion and solidify intent. For many of us farmers, food sustainability refers to ensuring the continuous and uninterrupted flow of imported foods. It is the exact opposite of food self-sufficiency i.e. growing local food for local consumption, which appears to be the true intent of this Bill.

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Pamela Boyar

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Hale'iwa Farmers Market
808-388-9696

Please visit all of our Farmers' Markets:

- Ala Moana Farmers Market
<<http://alamoanafarmersmarket.com/ala-moana.html>> 8-12 on Saturdays
- Hawaii Kai Farmers Market
<<http://alamoanafarmersmarket.com/hawaii-kai.html>> 9-1 on Saturdays
- Haleiwa Farmers Market
<<http://alamoanafarmersmarket.com/haleiwa.html>> 9-1 on Sundays