

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, February 1, 2011
Room 312
8:00 A.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2363
RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGRIBUSINESS COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM

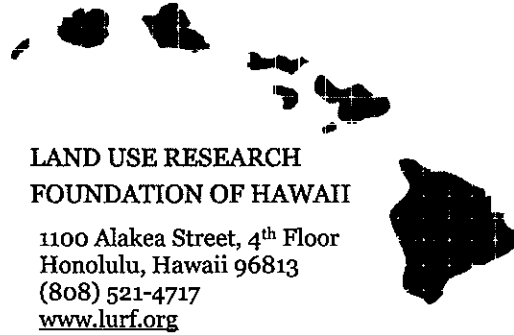
Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2363. Although the Department of Agriculture conceptually supports some aspects of this measure, there remain many concerns.

The objectives of this bill are covered by other legislative proposals and existing programs. The Department's Market Development Branch can address the distribution of local farm products to large retailers. With respect to livestock feed legislation, the Department prefers the direction of House Bill 2421 and House Bill 2433.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





LAND USE RESEARCH
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

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January 31, 2012

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Support of HB 2363, Relating to the Establishment of an Agribusiness Cooperative Program. (Requires the convening of a task force to conduct a study as to whether an agribusiness cooperative program should be established in Hawaii.)

Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 8:00 a.m., in CR 312

My name is Dave Arakawa, and I am the Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF), a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 2363** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations, and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii.

HB 2363. This bill requires the convening of a task force to conduct a study as to whether an agribusiness cooperative program to promote the distribution of local farm products to large retailers, should be established in Hawaii.

LURF's Position. In view of the difficulty currently experienced by local farmers to distribute their products to large retail establishments, LURF supports the convening of a task force by the Department of Agriculture to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of an agribusiness cooperative program intended to assist the farmers to increase distribution of local products, and to develop feed mills to lower farm expenses and minimize carbon impact as a result of transporting feed imports. LURF especially concurs with the intent of the bill to explore means by which the program may be permanently funded through private and public resources.

Despite high productivity by local farmers, limitations on the distribution of local products is not only discouraging to farmers, but prevents the State from meeting its sustainability goals for food production.

Based on the above, LURF **supports HB 2363**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to express support regarding this measure.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:58 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: anthony@veteranswaybicycles.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2363 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Anthony Tony Austin
Organization: Environmental Caucus of the DPH
E-mail: anthony@veteranswaybicycles.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

We believe this bill will further the need for food security in the state of Hawaii!

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:46 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: leimomidavis@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2363 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elise Davis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: leimomidavis@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Dear Chair Tsuji and members of the committee,

Please support HB2363 and support the need for local agribusiness cooperatives that can support many small family farmers. Hawaii farmers can maintain economic self sustainability by supporting or creating small local feed mills within a good agribusiness cooperative. This bill would help Hawaii's local farmers, local food production and increase our food security.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Elise Davis, MPH

LATE TESTIMONY

Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

State Democratic Headquarters ♦ 1050 Ala Moana Boulevard, D26 ♦ Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96814
(808) 596-2980 ♦ <http://EnvironmentalCaucusoftheDemocraticPartyofHawaii.com>

February 1, 2012

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2363

Aloha Chairman Clift Tsuji, Vice Chair Mark Hashem and agricultural committee members. My name is Mrs. Juanita C. Kawamoto Brown, Subcommittee Chair of Food and Farm Sustainability of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, Executive Board member at Large and a Hawaii citizen advocate.

I am here to testify in strong support of House Bill 2363 – Relating to the Agribusiness Cooperative task force. The ECDPH introduced SB 1156 relating to the need for task force to address local feed mills and agricultural cooperatives as part of our initial platform issue and are greatly encouraged at the introduction of this bill. ECDPH has presented this concern for local feed mills to the 2011 Oahu County Democratic convention at which time the convention voted in strong support and adoption of a the resolution to support this endeavor. The need for agribusiness cooperatives and local feed mills producing local fresh feed and the development of local grown feed ingredients will literally turn our livestock industry back into a thriving and successful agribusiness that will support and sustain us to true food security

House Bill 2363 will create a bill that will support food farms who are dedicated to addressing food security for all the people of Hawaii. The passing of this bill will build the integral foundations for Food sustainability and the current community plans by many community organizations focused on food sustainability. Hawaii needs to be able to find our food farm resources ready and willing to feed the people of Hawaii, reduce the import of out of state and out of country foods that could be easily grown here in our own state which then keeps our local economy thriving via more local jobs and other local green career oriented businesses that are developed as a result of small family farms and all agricultural industry dedicated to true food security.

HB2363, as has been stated before and will continue to be the ECDPH strong focus to provides us with a means to protect and preserve Hawaii Ag food farm lands, food farms and agricultural related industry and maintain a healthier environment throughout the State of Hawaii.

Please support this bill and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Juanita C. Kawamoto Brown
Subcommittee Chair
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii
Democratic State Headquarters
1050 Ala Moana Blvd, D26
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 4:56 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: charlottejm@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2363 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Charlotte J M Tanaka
Organization: Individual
E-mail: charlottejm@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Glenn Martinez [olomanagardens@me.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 7:49 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Hawaii Farmers Union supports HB 2363

Hawaii Farmers Union United strongly supports HB 2363.

Farmers in Hawaii need the support and services of Cooperatives, from buying COoperatives for raw agriculture inputs and feed to the selling cooperatives to distribute product to market.

Many farmers are too small to individually order in bulk quantities and do not produce the volume of produce to individual deal with the large retailers.

Cooperatives are a method to satisfy both ends of the food chain at minimal cost or government involvement.

It is a winning solution for the farmer and the consumer.

Thank you for your consideration,

Glenn Martinez
Hawaii Farmers Union United
Hawaii's voice for the family farm.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 7:38 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: lucas@kaulana.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2363 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kauai Lucas
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lucas@kaulana.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Agricultural infrastructure like co-operatives for local distribution and feed mills are critical to food security, please pass this Bill.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 9:01 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: icec002@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2363 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Charley Ice
Organization: Individual
E-mail: icec002@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

This is a major step forward for local, sustainable family farms and island-wide food security, a fundamental building block to get us to the next level. Mahalo for your support.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:40 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2363 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nancy Redfeather
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

In the Stakeholder List at the end of the Bill, I believe the list should include a Representative from the USDA Rural Cooperative Development Center for the State of Hawai'i, The Laulima Center housed at The Kohala Center, Hawai'i Island.

Mahalo,

Nancy Redfeather
The Kohala CenterRur