

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2980

Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: H.B. No. 2703
 H.D. 2
 S.D. 1

Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui
President of the Senate
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2012
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture, to which was referred H.B. No. 2703, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the Department of Agriculture to:

- (1) Measure and analyze the amount of food livestock, dairy, and edible crop commodities grown and sold in the State annually;
- (2) In conjunction with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, identify key food commodities to be targeted for assistance in developing an increased local market share;
- (3) Develop a food sustainability standard to at least double the amount of locally grown food for local consumption by 2020;
- (4) Plan and adopt the necessary incentives to ensure that the food sustainability standard is met or exceeded; and
- (5) Submit reports to the Legislature.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture, Hawaii Farmers Union United, Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, Hawaii Food Policy Council, and ninety individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii and three individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

Your Committee finds Hawaii is dangerously dependent on imported food. As the most geographically isolated state in the country, Hawaii imports approximately ninety-two percent of its food. Each food product imported to Hawaii is a lost opportunity for local economic growth.

Your Committee further finds that in creating a food sustainability standard, the State needs to examine what food self-sufficiency truly means for the State or whether the ultimate goal of sustainability is ensuring that productive agricultural lands are used to the greatest extent possible. In addition, the State needs to determine in which areas it can achieve greater self-sufficiency and prioritize those areas as part of the effort to increase the amount of food that is locally produced and consumed while ensuring that local farmers are profitable.

Your Committee recognizes that funding for this program may be an issue as the Department of Agriculture no longer has the resources necessary to provide the level of record keeping that this measure requires. Your Committee is concerned that unless the State is able to fund positions within the Department of Agriculture that were lost due to the reduction in force in 2009, the food sustainability standard program proposed by this measure may not be properly administrated.

In addition, your Committee recognizes the concerns about the effectiveness of this program in measuring actual growth and the amount of food produced and consumed in the State because the program only requires the Department of Agriculture to track farms' cash receipts and does not take into account inflation in determining a baseline for food sustainability and any resulting growth.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

(1) Clarifying that the citation stating that Hawaii imports approximately ninety-two percent of its food due to the United States Department of Agriculture is inaccurate, rather those imports are due to the Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program;

(2) Amending the food sustainability standard that the State increase the amount of food grown in the State to double the amount grown in 2014, rather than 2013, by the year 2020; and

(3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2703, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2703, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the
members of the Committee on Agriculture,

CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, Chair

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: info@schha.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM
Date: Monday, April 02, 2012 1:37:55 PM

Testimony for WAM 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jared Aiwohi , President
Organization: Sovereign Mokuuni Council O Maui
E-mail: info@schha.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: info@schha.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM
Date: Monday, April 02, 2012 1:36:57 PM

Testimony for WAM 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kammy Purdy, President
Organization: Sovereign Moku-puni Council O Molokai
E-mail: info@schha.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: info@schha.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM
Date: Monday, April 02, 2012 1:37:28 PM

Testimony for WAM 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lorraine Rapozo, President
Organization: Sovereign Mokuuni Council O Kauai
E-mail: info@schha.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: info@schha.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM
Date: Monday, April 02, 2012 1:36:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kamaki Kanahale, Chairman
Organization: SCHHA
E-mail: info@schha.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: info@schha.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM
Date: Monday, April 02, 2012 1:36:33 PM

Testimony for WAM 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mike Kahikina, Legislation Committee Chair
Organization: SCHHA
E-mail: info@schha.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: info@schha.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM
Date: Monday, April 02, 2012 1:39:08 PM

Testimony for WAM 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Duke Kapuniai, Comm Chair, Agri., Water & Pastoral
Organization: SCHHA
E-mail: info@schha.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM
Date: Monday, April 02, 2012 10:43:17 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Javier Mendez-Alvarez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: laurahorigan@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM
Date: Monday, April 02, 2012 2:35:15 PM

Testimony for WAM 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laura Horigan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: laurahorigan@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

We need to preserve and increase our agricultural land and decrease our dependence on imported food. WE CAN'T EAT HOUSES!! Our growing population can be housed in denser, high rise units. I live in the Kaimuki/Kapahulu area.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM
Date: Monday, April 02, 2012 10:13:19 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nancy Davlantes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ndavlantes@aol.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

I am among the many who are delighted that this bill is being heard by the Ways and Means Committee. Hawaii cannot pass up this opportunity to encourage an agricultural renaissance here. According to a UH report and the state Department of Agriculture, replacing just 10% of our food imports with locally grown produce would give a nearly \$200 million boost to our economy, create more than 2,300 jobs and raise more than \$6 million in state tax revenues. And it would encourage the protection from development of valuable farmland that can help us grow more of what we eat.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Nancy Davlantes
Kaneohe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hehehesweet666@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM
Date: Monday, April 02, 2012 9:34:52 PM

Testimony for WAM 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nicholas Nguyen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hehehesweet666@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

Why should this bill be taken away!?! This bill can improve Hawaii so much as a community. Stop trying to take this opportunity away for the better future of Hawaii!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM
Date: Monday, April 02, 2012 10:31:37 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/4/2012 9:10:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Penny Levin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

Aloha;

As a farmer, a planner, and a consumer, food self-sufficiency for these islands is both absolutely critical and long past due. I strongly support HB2703.

I know each of you would ensure that good food was on your family's and friends' table (local self-sufficiency) before you gave it away outright to someone else first (export). Your family's survival and health matters to you. So why in agriculture do we put export production ahead of local food self-sufficiency in agriculture, value-added product development, and in most of our HDOA and DBEDT programs and crop supports? We are 2500 miles from the next source of food. As fuel costs go up, so to will food costs. A lot fewer families will be eating well. If we grew more food locally, and supported the development of local soil inputs and alternative ways of restoring soil health, local animal feeds, and local biofuels production, the costs at market would go down for everyone. The highest costs on farm right now are fossil-fuel based (shipped feeds and fertilizers).

There is an assumption that export income generates more revenues than locally derived, family farm income - and that it creates more jobs (more tax revenues). Both these assumptions are false. The more and the longer revenues circulate locally, the more financially stable we become. The smaller the farm, the more diverse the produce and the greater number of jobs per acre.

At the end of the day, you might ask yourself - if you are cash rich but food poor, what will be on your family's plate? Have you ever tried to eat a dollar bill? Tastes terrible. A \$1000 dollar bill tastes just as bad. But a plate of locally grown greens with strawberries, fresh mango vinaigrette, range-fed chicken and local caught fish in a macnut crust with chili pepper water, like the 99% local meal I just had last night - divine.

It should be the utmost priority and directive from the legislature and the Governor to the Department of Agriculture and all related agencies to put food on our tables before putting food on the tables of people in California, Japan and any other place. And to develop locally the necessary inputs that make that possible.

Please pass this bill as is, no amendments.

Mahalo.

From: [randy ching](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: in support of HB2703 HD2 SD1 - relating to food self-sufficiency
Date: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 8:27:57 AM

HB2703 HD2 SD1 (in support)
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Hearing on Wednesday, April 4 at 9:10 a.m. in room 211

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee,

Please pass HB2703 HD2 SD1. This is a good bill which will move us toward food security.
Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Randy Ching
Honolulu
oahurandy@yahoo.com