

HB2703 HD2

Testimony



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2012
2:45 P.M.
Room 229**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2703, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2703, House Draft 2. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure, but has concerns, and offers one amendment.

House Draft 2 creates a new chapter in the Hawaii Revised Statutes, requiring the Department of Agriculture to:

- Establish an information base on local production and consumption of food, from which to gauge achievement of a food sustainability standard;
- Identify food commodities to be targeted for assistance so as to increase their local market share;
- Develop incentives to ensure the food sustainability standard is met; and
- Submit annual reports to the Legislature on the status and progress of the Department's efforts.



The reference to the “United States Department of Agriculture” on page one, lines 10 to 11 is incorrect and should be replaced with the proper citation which is the Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program (Pacific RISA).

The responsibilities assigned to the Department of Agriculture are considerable, yet this measure provides no funds to begin and maintain the effort to achieve food self sufficiency.

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 existing federal or state sources. Import and export data from/to other foreign destinations are available from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The Department of Agriculture previously collected and compiled in-shipment data for fresh fruits and vegetables (FFV). This in-shipment data, used in conjunction with local production data, gave 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. The Department is working with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to develop a collaborative system to gather and analyze relevant data and to present findings to the community at large.

The Department is currently working on developing metrics to determine the current levels of agriculture within the State. We would recommend that the Department be allowed to complete these metrics as a necessary step prior to determining food sustainability standards.

Finally, the Department believes that to achieve and sustain any level of food self-sufficiency as proposed in this measure will involve the activities of the Department of Agriculture combined with the collective efforts of citizens, businesses, and

public/private organizations, and changes to the ways that agriculturally-important resources such as prime agricultural lands and irrigation water sources are valued, allocated, and reclassified.

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



March 20, 2012

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Opposition to HB 2703, H.D. 2, Relating to Agriculture. (Requires the Department of Agriculture to develop an arbitrary food sustainability standard.)

Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 2:45 p.m., in Conference Room 229

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 strongly opposes HB 2703, H.D. 2, and strongly supports SB 2692, S.D. 2, the bill proposed by the Governor’s Administration and Department of Agriculture (“DOA”). SB 2692, S.D. 2, is proposed DOA, and it addresses the issues relating to increasing local food production in a more professional and comprehensive manner, and allows the DOA to set its own goals for food sustainability standards. Thus, LURF respectfully requests that either:

- **HB 2703, H.D. 2 be held in this Committee**, or in the alternative,
- **LURF, respectfully urges that this Committee delete the entire contents of HB 2703, H.D. 2 and replace its contents with the contents of Governor’s Administration and DOA’s SB 2692, S.D. 2 (creating a new HB 2703, H.D. 2, S.D. 1), then favorably consider and pass the S.D. 1 version.**

LURF would also respectfully request the restoration of the DOA positions and funding for the purposes set forth in the DOA bill.

HB 2703, H.D. 2. This bill proposes the creation of a new chapter in the Hawaii Revised Statutes requiring the DOA to develop a food sustainability standard (FSS) to supposedly “promote local food production in order to help diversify the local economy.” However, in actuality, this is not a bill to promote local food production. If it were truly such a bill, HB 2703, H.D. 2 would address issues such as the cost of land, water availability, labor costs and availability, transportation costs, invasive species and marketing.

The original intent of HB 2703 was solely to stop further reclassification of agricultural lands. A proponent of the bill admitted that the purpose of the bill was to “**set a standard for local food production, and when the State cannot meet that standard, punish landowners – hit ‘em with a stick.**” The original bill proposed the following:

- DOA is required to collect in-shipment data (**without additional positions or funding**);
- **Regardless of what the DOA data proves, DOA is required to establish an arbitrary FSS (volume of food commodities sold in the State that are grown in the state) which shall be “at least double the amount grown in 2013.”**
- **If the FSS are not met, punish landowners by imposing an unfair and arbitrary moratorium on land use reclassifications of agricultural land.**

The H.D. 2 version merely deletes the punishment provisions, however, it is still infused with the underlying intent of the original bill; ignores DOA’s ongoing research and development of food production metrics; requires DOA to accept an arbitrary state food production standard; overlooks the fact that there may be droughts, floods, hurricanes and other natural disasters that affect food production; and is oblivious to the fact that 85% of Hawaii’s farm and livestock sales are exported (2008 data).

LURF’s Position. Over the years, LURF has consistently and strongly supported agriculture, agriculture development, the IAL law and water for agriculture. LURF also supports food security and food self-sufficiency, however, we must **strongly oppose the current form of HB 2703, H.D. 2**, based on the reasons set forth below. Instead, we **strongly support the contents of SB 2692, S.D.2**, which has been proposed by the DOA in the Governor’s package, because it is a measure that emphasizes cooperation and cohesive industry strategies and planning; a holistic approach from farm to market; active participation from all of the stakeholders in the agricultural industry, transportation, the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, public and private research entities, and other Federal and State agencies; and it focuses on implementing existing and future programs to develop Hawaii’s agriculture and food security. The DOA bill, SB 2692, S.D. 2, is a stark contrast to the original version of HB 2703, which established arbitrary standards and imposed moratoriums that punish landowners when the standards are not met.

LURF’s position is as follows:

- **HB 2703, H.D. 2 should be held, and DOA should retain its authority to establish its own food production and sustainability metrics or standards.** The DOA and its experts in agricultural food production should not be forced by this bill to accept an arbitrary FSS of “at least double the amount grown in 2013.” In fact, LURF understands that DOA is currently working on developing metrics to determine the current levels of agriculture within the State. DOA should be allowed to complete these metrics as a necessary step prior to determining if and when any food sustainability standard or other sustainability standards should be established. These might include, among other things: the cost of land, water availability, labor costs and availability, transportation costs, invasive species, marketing and the “long term economic viability of farms and ranches.”

- **In lieu of imposing an arbitrary FSS through HB 2703, H.D. 2, DOA's SB 2692, S.D. 2 better addresses issues relating to increasing local food production.** SB 2692, S.D. 2 authorizes the creation of an Agricultural Development and Food Security Program within the DOA, through which the DOA will develop and fund new and existing programs and facilities to promote the development of agriculture and food security within the State. This Administration bill emphasizes cooperation and cohesive industry strategies and planning; a holistic approach from farm to market; and active participation from all of the stakeholders in the agricultural industry. Thus, **LURF respectfully recommends that the contents of HB 2703, H.D. 2, be deleted in its entirety, and replaced with the contents of SB 2692, S.D. 2 (thereby creating a new HB 2703, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 version).** LURF also respectfully recommends restoring DOA positions and funding in this bill.
- **Support for DOA collection, compilation, analysis and presentation of in-shipment data.** LURF supports the DOA collection, compilation, analysis and presentation of data and other information relating to imports and exports to/from Mainland U.S. and for import and export to/from other foreign countries. We would respectfully recommend such amendments to a new HD1 version.
- **Support reinstatement of all DOA positions and all funding which were cut in 2009.** LURF also supports the reinstatement of DOA positions and funding for all DOA staff, particularly the restoration of positions and funding for DOA staff necessary to collect, compile and analyze such in-shipment data, to work collaboratively with CTHAR to develop a system to gather and analyze relevant data; to prepare DOA metrics relating to the levels of agriculture in the State; and to present findings to the community. LURF would respectfully recommend such amendments to the State budget bill.

LURF opposes the contents of HB 2703, H.D. 2, and supports the contents of DOA's SB 2692, S.D. 2, based on the following:

1. **Trust the experts on Food Production, Security and Sustainability.** We understand that DOA, being experienced in agricultural production, drafted SB 2692. We do not know who drafted the original version of HB 2703, or whether they have experience comparable to DOA.
2. **Purposes of measures:**
 - **HB 2703, H.D. 2 does not include support for any agricultural programs; does not address any issues which would increase local food production; and does not involve a collaboration of agricultural stakeholders to increase local food production.** Thus, it is apparent that the main purpose and desired outcome of HB 2703, H.D. 2 is to collect data to create an FSS, then ignore DOA's data and establish an arbitrary FSS so that perhaps, if the FSS are not met, opponents of land use classifications can use such information, or in the future, lobby for legislation imposing sanctions if the FSS are not met.
 - **The purpose of DOA's SB 2692, S.D. 2 is to create and implement a very broad agricultural development and food security program.** The desired outcome of the DOA bill is to grow the "farm to market" concept and increase

interrelationships between private and public sectors to develop and improve agriculture in the state.

3. Differing strategies to achieve food security and sustainability:

- **HB 2703, H.D. 2. ignores the DOA's metrics research and data collected regarding food production, and just sets an arbitrary FSS of "at least double the amount grown in 2013."** HB 2703, H.D. 2. is premised on the unreasonable belief that all you need to do to increase agricultural production – is to set an arbitrary standard.
- **DOA's SB 2692, S.D. 2 will implement a multi-faceted strategy to increase local food production.** DOA understands successful and viable agriculture is very complex and involves many issues (agricultural infrastructure, labor, biosecurity, food safety, market development, research and development, agricultural lands, water and water treatment, pest management, food safety, etc.).

4. Differing Approaches:

- **HB 2703, H.D. 2 is exclusionary; usurps DOA's authority; ignores DOA's expertise relating to food production; and the arbitrary FSS will have a divisive impact.** The drafting of the original HB 2703 did not include the participation of the DOA, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, large agricultural landowners, or other agricultural stakeholders. This collaborative effort is crucial, especially because of the possibility that those same landowners could possibly face penalties or sanctions if the FSS is not met. It disregards DOA's ongoing work on food production metrics, requires DOT to collect data, just so that it can be ignored, and forces DOA to accept an arbitrary FSS of "at least double the amount grown in 2013." Any failure to meet this arbitrary FSS will result in blame, finger-pointing, and perhaps the proponent's original intent – the unreasonable and unjustified punishment of landowners.
- **DOA's SB 2692, S.D. 2 calls for collaboration and understands that in Hawaii, all stakeholders must work together for the success of agriculture.** DOA understands that to increase food production and move towards achieving food security, all stakeholders must work together to make agriculture viable and successful, similar to the collaborative efforts which led to the passage of the IAL law.

Based on the above, LURF **strongly opposes** HB 2703, H.D. 2, and **strongly supports** the Governor's Administration and DOA's SB 2692, SD2. Thus, LURF respectfully requests that the **HB 2703, H.D. 2 be held in this Committee**, or in the alternative, LURF, **respectfully urges that this Committee that delete the contents of HB 2703, and insert the contents of the Governor's Administration and DOA's SB 2692, SD2 (as a new HB 2703, H.D. 2, S.D. 1), then favorably consider and pass the S.D. 1 version.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding this measure.



HB2703 Mar 20 2:45 Room Tuesday March 20, 2012

Chairman Senator Clarence Nishihara,

Please SUPPORT this bill. The Department of Agriculture has multiple bills this year stressing the need and priority of championing sustainable agriculture, buying local, diversified Agriculture, etc. etc. All POLICY and Mandate to grow more of our food.

But NO ONE IS MEASURING it! No one is counting or keeping score. So year to year we do not know if we are growing more or less of what we eat locally.

Sure, we grow a lot of agriculture, but we ship out 80+ percent of what we grow. And we import 90% of what we eat.

Somewhere there has to be a record and a way to measure how we are doing.

The Department of Ag is hesitant to take on the project, it will be their report card! And how will they justify taking land out of ag when we are growing less and less each year? This will be wake up call for many folks.

Seed corn is NOT going to feed our people. We need to grow FOOD.

Please support HB2703 and pass it on.

Like the energy bills, we have to start counting.

Suggested Amendment: Allow third party funding (Grants or other agencies) into a revolving fund.

Thank you,
Glenn Martinez



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: info@hfbf.org
www.hfbf.org

March 20, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2703, HD2
RELATING TO FOOD SELF SUFFICIENCY

Room 229
2:45 PM

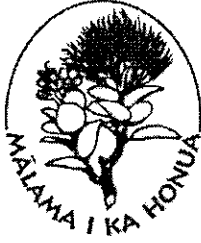
Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF provides the following comments to HB 2703, HD1, requiring the Department of Agriculture to develop food sustainability standards.

We do agree with the need for data. DOA's Market Analysis and News Branch (MANB) is responsible for collecting information on in-shipment (intra-island and inter-state) and market share of commodities which the Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service uses to cross-check and to publish market share information. Much of the data requested in this measure is already available. However, due to cutbacks, DOA's ability to collect and analyze data has been severely curtailed. All three members of the MANB were lost during the reduction-in-force exercise in December 2009. What is needed is a restoration of capacity for the Department to collect data ...not just food but all agricultural data. We understand some of the positions are being restored, however, County level data previously available may no longer be possible. This information is important as it guides access to funds and other critical matters for agriculture.

I can be reached at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.538.6616 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

March 20, 2012, 2:45 P.M.
(Testimony is 2 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2703 (HD2) WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Aloha Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with 10,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, strongly *supports* HB 2703 (HD2). This measure creates a vision of food self-sufficiency and sets metrics to ensure compliance over time. We suggest, however, that it return to the language contained in the original version inasmuch as connects compliance and land use planning within the State.

The Hawaii State Constitution, article XI, section, is explicit about the need to “conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, [and] increase self-sufficiency.” Despite this rather clear directive, Hawai'i has moved in the wrong direction. We import approximately ninety 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.

Our current strategy for increasing diversified agriculture and promoting self-sufficiency plainly isn't working. Hawai'i needs to look at new solutions.

HB 2703 sets a new vision. It creates a specific targets and requires annual reporting. 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.

This makes economic sense. 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 recognize there are concerns about this measure. In order to give DOA time to implement this program, we suggest extending the effective date to 2014. The measure already gives DOA the flexibility to adjust the measurement of the food sustainability standards if the current language proves too challenging.

In order to avoid simply a feel-good proposal, the measure should be revised to require the state to consider the food sustainability standard in long-range planning and decision-making.

Proposed Amendments:

§ -3 **Food sustainability standard.** (a) A statewide food sustainability standard to be achieved by the year 2020 is hereby established that requires the State to increase the amount of food grown in the State for local consumption by at least double the amount grown in [2013] 2014; provided the department shall measure this amount by the farm cash receipts for livestock, dairy, and crops without regard to inflation adjustments, or by a comparable measurement as determined by the department.

(b) The state's compliance or future compliance with the food sustainability standard shall be considered a standard or criteria of Article XI, section 3 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and shall be considered in any decision impacting the state's obligations thereto.

~~(b)~~ (c) The department shall submit a report and recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2020 regular session on how to raise the food sustainability standard over the following decade."

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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>

March 20, 2012

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2703, HD2

Aloha Chairman Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair Gilbert Kahele and agricultural committee member. 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 Native Hawaiian citizen advocate.

I am here to testify in strong support of House Bill 2703, HD2 – Relating to Food Self Sufficiency. The ECDPH introduced SB 1156 relating to the need for task force to address local feed mills for food self sufficiency as part of our initial platform issue and we are greatly encouraged at the introduction of HB 2703 HD2. 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 the resolution to support this endeavor. The need for local fresh feed and the development of locally grown feed ingredients will literally turn our livestock industry back into a thriving and successful agribusiness that will support Hawaii's self sufficiency goals. The passing of this bill will build the integral foundations for Food sustainability according to current statewide community plans by many community organizations focused on food sustainability. HB 2703, HD2 is realistically clear on how to go about creating a standard that is achievable by Hawaii's small family food farmers as well as other potential food farming enterprises. 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.

HB2703 HD2, will continue to be an ECDPH priority platform focus until the standards dictated by this bill are achieved and provide us with a means to protect and preserve Hawaii's food farm lands and farms. HB2703 HD2 provides guidance for Hawaii by designing and maintaining a healthier food and farm environment for everyone.

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

Juanita C. Kawamoto Brown
Subcommittee Chair
Food and Farm Sustainability
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 10:14 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: anthuriumz@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Wynnie Hee
Organization: Individual
E-mail: anthuriumz@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/16/2012

Comments:

I want Hawaii-grown produce for local consumption for all of us, including children eating school lunches. Let's start planning now. It makes no sense to me to grow agricultural products for export and then have to import other agricultural products for us to eat. If we produce locally and consume locally we keep our money in the local economy, not wasting money on shipping.

I don't know why the House Committee on Finance amended the bill so that they could have 28 years until 2030 "for the purpose of facilitating further discussion." Very disappointing. Such a baby step. Better than nothing?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 6:15 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nancy Davlantes
Organization:
E-mail: ndavlantes@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/17/2012

Comments:

I have not heard one person who disagrees that Hawaii must grow more food. Everyone says it but we have yet to carry through with the goal.

This bill is an important step toward that goal-- please pass it.

It's time that we start planning for a future where Hawaii grows more of its own food.

This bill has garnered wide-ranging support judging by the number of people have testified on it already.

The community of people supporting this cause keeps on growing. Do you part to move this forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Nancy Davlantes
Kaneohe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 10:25 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: janeyamashiro2020@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jane Yamashiro
Organization: OLA Hawaii 2020
E-mail: janeyamashiro2020@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/17/2012

Comments:

Food Sustainability is a key issue for Hawaii. This bill will help ensure that we are continuing to increase our food production. Please support this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 9:28 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: haleyj001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: James Haley
Organization: Individual
E-mail: haleyj001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

We urge the committee to approve HB 2703. This bill is a small step toward creating a sustainable Hawaii. Most large problems are resolved only by taking numerous small steps. The vision we have is a self sufficient Hawaii with at least a 50% independence from California and Mexican growers. We also see a Hawaii creating surpluses that are canned and shipped to Eastern Markets. We see, as well, that Hawaii is 2,000 miles closer to those markets and we can compete with California and Mexico in price on canned goods. Please, take this first step toward a sustainable and prosperous Hawaii that will last into the next millennium. A caution, however, California and Mexico both see the threat of Hawaii Agriculture to their share of market and we can expect a decided "push back" from them.

Finally, for Hawaii agriculture to succeed we need to have fast inter-island transport as another first step.

Aloha,
Jim Haley

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 2:34 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: bisaki@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bianca Isaki
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bisaki@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

Aloha Senator Nishihara and others,
Please support HB2703.

§ Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs.

§ Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture. This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.

§ Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food.

§ A statutory goal for food production will have a galvanizing effect both on the state and on the private sector - in the same way as the Clean Energy Initiative has helped kick-start the booming alternative energy sector.

Thank you.
Bianca Kai Isaki, PhD

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 2:41 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: Writtenword2@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linda staton
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Writtenword2@mac.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:
Please keep HB2703 before the committee for a yes vote.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 2:47 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: djrx.cares@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alex Oshiro
Organization: Individual
E-mail: djrx.cares@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

We are an island community that is vulnerable and we need to create a sustainable future where we are able to fend for ourselves.

Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs.

§ Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture. This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.

§ Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food.

§ A statutory goal for food production will have a galvanizing effect both on the state and on the private sector - in the same way as the Clean Energy Initiative has helped kick-start the booming alternative energy sector.

It is important that we are able to feed our island population.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 3:07 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: manokes@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mark A Nokes, PhD
Organization: Individual
E-mail: manokes@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

Dear Senator Nishihara:

I'm writing to urge you and the Senate Agriculture Committee to pass HB 2703, requiring a doubling of locally produced food by 2020.

We only produce a small fraction (8-10%) of the food for our state now, leaving us enormously vulnerable to supply disruptions. If a tsunami and/or earthquake like the one that struck Fukushima, Japan, hit Honolulu, we would exhaust our food in less than 2 weeks, while repairing the port and resuming shipping might take months. This is unacceptable.

Doubling our food supply would provide a big economic boost to the state, increasing tax revenues and jobs. And opinion polls show that this is a top concern for the citizens of Hawai'i.

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 3:21 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: metroben@me.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ben Robinson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: metroben@me.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:
Aloha!

I am writing to SUPPORT HB 2703 as I believe it is a good step in encouraging local food production in Hawaii, and providing yet another reason to control urban sprawl that is threatening prime farm lands.

I make a conscious effort to purchase locally grown and produced food whenever feasible, and hope that our state government also provides the backbone necessary to implement a sustainable economy less dependent on food imports.

Mahalos.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 3:58 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: kupono.aina@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mika Ashley-Hollinger
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kupono.aina@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

Please support this bill, it will create permanent jobs here in Hawai'i and provide safe sustainable food.

Protect our Aina and it's people. Mahalo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 4:03 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: kupono.aina@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stuart Hollinger
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kupono.aina@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

I urge you to support this bill...Hawai'i needs to produce it's own food and employ local people to grow it.

Malama our Aina

Mahalo

Keoni Kealoha Mahelona

keoni@kmahelona.net | +64 21 025 08205
4 Kumi Raod, Awanui 0486, New Zealand
<http://portfolio.kmahelona.net>

Testimony for HB2703

March 20, 2012

Aloha Senator Clarence Nishihara and members of the committee,

Mahalo nui for scheduling HB2703 for a hearing and showing your support for Hawai'i's food system. Food self-sufficiency is a no-brainer, and I'm shocked that all of us have allowed our Islands and our People to be in this situation with regard to food security.

Hawai'i once produced 100% of its food for a population estimated to be as high as 800,000. We have brought that down to 10% for a population of only 1.3 million. Even considering our tastes for imported processed foods, imported produce that can't grow in Hawai'i, and contemporary foods that require more land per output (e.g. cattle versus kalo), Hawai'i should still be capable of producing 50% of its own food.

I would like to ask that we challenge ourselves further and aim to triple (or even quadruple) Hawai'i's food production. Perhaps this goal may not be achievable in 10 years time, but it is a goal for which we should strive.

As a physicist, an engineer, an entrepreneur, and a Hawaiian, I would like to point out that the future of agriculture is more than just growing food. It is about technology, innovation, and the preservation of culture and life. We see the robotics industry assisting farmers in increasing safety and yield. We see nanotechnology finding new ways to harvest water so that we have a smaller impact on our natural water sources. We see that homegrown, local food benefits health and helps peoples of the world to practice their culture. The opportunities in agriculture for Hawaii are huge as we face unique challenges for which innovations will benefit the entirety of humanity.

Thank you for taking the time to listen my mana'o. Unfortunately I cannot attend the hearing as I am currently in Aotearoa.

Mahalo,

 MAHELONA

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 4:33 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: janice palma-glenie
Organization: Individual
E-mail: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

Please schedule this bill for a hearing and support this small step toward our state's self-sufficiency. I support all efforts which our legislature can make to help our State head in that direction. Mahalo.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 5:07 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: icec002@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: charley ice
Organization: Individual
E-mail: icec002@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

Sometimes the issue is not whether the experts think that conventional solutions are possible, but whether the will of the people is matched by the expertise of the decision-makers in finding a way to make an issue important to the electorate work, regardless of its inconvenience to decision-makers. This initiative has gotten this far because even decision-makers realize it's a fundamentally important step we need to take, even though they have not yet figured how to get there. Some may have supported it because, in their cynical way, they know it's unlikely and therefore harmless. Let's face the realities around us, not play politics as usual. It's about time the people got this commitment from our "leaders".

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 5:29 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: taiishnadai808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rebecca Branham
Organization: Individual
E-mail: taiishnadai808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

We need to move towards 100% sustainability because of our food and power vulnerabilities.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 7:18 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: carolkozdesigns@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carol Kozlovich
Organization: Individual
E-mail: carolkozdesigns@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

This bill makes sense for Hawaii. Please pass it and be proud of having done something good for our state!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 7:34 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: selina@egofree.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Selina Heaton
Organization: Individual
E-mail: selina@egofree.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs.

Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture. This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.

Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food.

It is extremely important that we grow our own food - and buy our locally grown food. It will save the state so much money and save the work and lives of tens of thousands of people who live on our beautiful islands. The world would be proud of us and want to follow.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 7:40 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: lyonashiro@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Larry Yonashiro
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lyonashiro@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

I want to express my sincere support for this bill. Because of its isolation, Hawaii needs a strong agricultural base to support the population before it expands into other industrial sectors. The faster we can get this done the better.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 8:14 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: matthewklynch@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Matthew Lynch
Organization: Asia-Pacific Center for Regenerative Design
E-mail: matthewklynch@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

Monitoring the amount of food we produce & consume locally is a simple, yet critical step towards Hawaii being able to achieve food security.

This bill provides an important framework for the development of future legislation around the areas of the food system that need government support in order for our communities to flourish once again with nourishing, home-grown produce.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 8:35 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: mgalimba@kuahiwiranch.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michelle Galimba
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mgalimba@kuahiwiranch.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Please support this bill and provide the Department of Agriculture with the necessary tools to implement.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 8:59 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: saralegal@live.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sara Steiner
Organization: Individual
E-mail: saralegal@live.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

I am a farmer on the Big Island of Hawaii, and I encourage the passing of this House Bill 2703 regarding producing a sustainable amount of food here in Hawaii by 2020. In reality we should be doing that a lot sooner, due to the uncertainty of our economic situation, global wars, and extreme weather the earth is starting to experience. In the days before white men came to Hawaii, there were millions of Hawaiians living and supporting themselves off the land. Now we have at most perhaps a weeks worth of food, and what will we do if the barge stops coming? There is plenty of land available, you should make it available to the people who need jobs and support our sustainability sooner rather than when it is too late. It takes several months to grow vegetables to harvest, longer for fruit and other aquaculture, so let's get started now!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 9:43 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: aacorby@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Amanda
Organization: Individual
E-mail: aacorby@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

I support more local food for local consumption and I am going to do my best to be present for the hearing to tell you in person that I think this is important.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 10:01 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: millikan@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM
Attachments: Millikan_testimony.docx

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Debbie Millikan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: millikan@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 10:24 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: justin@islandfoodscaping.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM
Attachments: hb2703 testimony.pages

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Justin Franzmeier
Organization: Individual
E-mail: justin@islandfoodscaping.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 10:34 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: ileanahaunani@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ileana H. Ruelas
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ileanahaunani@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 11:19 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: sustainablesakala@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Steve Sakala
Organization: Hawaii Farmers Union
E-mail: sustainablesakala@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

I am in support of HB 2703 and think its imperative we start to take food self sufficiency seriously for our islands! Some of the reasons for my strong beliefs are below. Mahalo

§ Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs.

§ Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture. This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.

§ Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food.

§ A statutory goal for food production will have a galvanizing effect both on the state and on the private sector - in the same way as the Clean Energy Initiative has helped kick-start the booming alternative energy sector.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 5:31 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: vvesci@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeffrey Vesci
Organization: Individual
E-mail: vvesci@sbcglobal.net
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

This is a no brainer we should maximize our own resources in a responsible way.

Judith Flanders
3003 Kalaukua Ave. #5
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

March 19, 2012

Hawaii State Legislature
Senate Agriculture Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii

Honorable Members of the Agriculture Committee:

My name is Judith Flanders and I live at 3003 Kalakaua Ave, Honolulu Hawaii. I am testifying in favor of the passage of HB2703 whose enactment will be an important step forward in slowing down the reclassification of Ag lands and promoting food sustainability for our vulnerable island community. I'm appearing before you today to add my voice to the growing community alarm over the loss of our prime agriculture lands, especially on O'ahu. There is a dawning awareness starting to gain momentum in Hawai'i that we are fast becoming the most vulnerable state in the union due to our almost complete dependency on imported food. Before a full-blown crisis occurs, I believe we still have the opportunity to redefine our priorities but this will involve a paradigm shift that will not happen overnight. HB2703 will allow all of us: government, business, education, and citizenry, to begin to create a systemically viable and self-sustaining template for our island community.

I am wondering if any of you assembled here in committee today are aware of the food crisis which occurred in Cuba in the early 1990's when they lost access to oil after the collapse of the Soviet Union? In what is now referred to as "the special period", the Cuban population, finding itself on the verge of starvation, was able to rally together and with great hardship and sacrifice, become food self-sufficient within a very short period of time by creating across the island an array of less energy intensive organic farms and urban gardens. In this unforeseen and ingenious adaptation in the interests of survival, they achieved remarkable success because they were able to convert the existing Ag lands from large-scale fossil-fuel intensive farming to small, less energy intensive organic farms and urban gardens. This is a very sobering lesson from recent history that everyone of us here in Hawai'i needs to become aware of if we are to tackle the threat of both natural disaster and/or peak oil facing us here in Hawaii today.

I believe that the first step in moving toward food and energy self-sufficiency is to make sure that we preserve our best Ag lands now and create built-in laws to increase food production here at home. We look with anticipation to our elected officials to create the kind of template which will allow a non-crisis transition toward food self-sufficiency. This challenge rests on your shoulders and we are here today to support you in making the right decision for the wellbeing of Hawaii and her people.

Sincerely,

Judith Flanders

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 8:14 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: clk5356@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carolyn L Knoll
Organization: Individual
E-mail: clk5356@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture. This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions. Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food.

Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs.

A statutory goal for food production will have a galvanizing effect both on the state and on the private sector - in the same way as the Clean Energy Initiative has helped kick-start the booming alternative energy sector.

This bill is critical to Hawaii's sustainability.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 8:21 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: woodygarrison@windstream.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Woody Garrison
Organization: Individual
E-mail: woodygarrison@windstream.net
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs.

Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture. This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.

Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 8:28 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: laura808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM
Attachments: testimony.txt

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laura Watkins
Organization: Individual
E-mail: laura808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

testimony.txt

Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs.

Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture.

This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.

Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii.

They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food.

A statutory goal for food production will have a galvanizing effect both on the state and on the private sector - in the same way as the Clean Energy Initiative has helped kick-start the booming alternative energy sector.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 8:40 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: patbak1@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Byron W. Baker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: patbak1@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

HB 2703 would provide a continuing boost to the economy by strengthening agricultural production. It would reduce our dependency on imported foods , enhance sustainability and create jobs. This is a good bill, and I hope you will support it.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 8:43 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: ksm@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: K. Millikan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ksm@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:
Senator Clarence K Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Kimball Millikan
Marine Research Engineer
University of Hawaii

March 19, 2012

Testimony in Support of HB2703 Relating to Food Self-Sufficiency

I am writing in support of HB2703. This bill is important because it is an opportunity for our legislatures to take a first step in committing to food self-sufficiency. This is a chance we cannot pass up. We all want more locally grown foods. We all want to eat fresh, good tasting foods and enjoy the natural beauty of Hawaii and we all have an obligation to protect our agricultural lands. The Hawaii State Constitution says the following:

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Section 3. 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.

As stated above it is YOUR job to provide the standards and criteria to increase food self-sufficiency.

Are we acting for 'now' or 'the future' Please support HB2703.

Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator Clarence Nishihara,

I strongly support HB2703. I am extremely concerned about food security, land use, and food quality in Hawai'i. I believe it is critical that we do everything in our power to promote local, preferably organically grown, fruits and vegetables to provide jobs, a healthy environment, and nutritious, locally grown food in our community.

According to a 2008 UH study, doubling our food production, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs.

Please do everything in your power to ensure the passage of this Bill.

Sincerely,

Denise Snyder

Honolulu, Hawai'i

3/19/12

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:03 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: mh@interpac.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cory Harden
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mh@interpac.net
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Dear Legislators,
Short supply lines are the best.

Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million lift to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs.

Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture. This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.

Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food.

A statutory goal for food production will have a galvanizing effect both on the state and on the private sector - in the same way as the clean energy goal.
Mahalo!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:23 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: pearlj@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pearl Johnson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pearlj@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

I support wholeheartedly SB2703. We need locally grown food and must discourage large landholders from keeping their agricultural lands from producing food. They are hoping to put houses on ag land and therefore will not offer long-term leases to farmers to grow food for local consumption.

Please pass SB 2703 and save farmland for our children.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:32 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: wschnitzer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bill Schnitzer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: wschnitzer@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:
government has no business mandating how we use our land as long as we conform to proper zoning.

Name: Cherub Silverstein

Comments for: Senator Clarence Nishihara and the Agriculture Committee.

Hearing date and time: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 2:45pm

Measure Number: HB2703

Number of copies the committee is requesting: 0

Aloha,

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude to Senator Nishihara and the Agriculture Committee for scheduling HB2703 for a hearing. This bill has gained tremendous community support over the past couple of months and I am excited to see support from government officials as well.

HB 2703, relating to Food Sustainability in Hawaii, would help Hawaii become more food self sufficient by 2020. The bill set out standards to double the amount of food production in the islands by 2020. This standard produces multiplier effects in the field of economics, sustainability, environmental stewardship, agriculture land, and growing farmers.

HB 2703 will grow Hawaii's economy by keeping food dollars in state and supporting our local farmers. HB 2703 will help the states efforts on sustainability by decreasing our reliance on imports. HB 2703 will increase environmental stewardship of Hawaii's lands by increasing the amount of land dedicated to farming, which can improve the health of soil and watersheds. HB 2703 will help Hawaii grow farmers so that the next generation of youth will have the knowledge of farming the land.

I support this bill as the child of an organic farmer on Hawaii Island, as an educator involved in agriculture and food issues, and as a consumer concerned about the lack of locally produced food.

I humbly ask for your support in the passage of HB 2703.

Mahalo nui,
Cherub Silverstein

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 10:36 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: mariyakai@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mariya Gold
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mariyakai@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Increasing our food self sufficiency in the State of Hawaii will not only help our state economy and help the environment by using less fuel for importation but will contribute to improving our health as well. Eating local and organic whenever possible provides more nutritional value compared with foods that have been grown/made to last long stretches of travel time. Anything that we can do to encourage sustainability for our land and our bodies should be supported, especially when it will have a beneficial effect on our economy as well!

Name: Reginald McGowen

Comments for: Senator Clarence Nishihara and the Agriculture Committee.

Hearing date and time: Tuesday March 20, 2012 at 2:45pm

Measure Number: HB 2703

Number of copies the committee is requesting: 0

Aloha Senator Nishihara and the Agriculture Committee,

I am writing in support of HB2703, relating to Food Sustainability in Hawaii.

Thank you for listening to the people of Hawaii about the importance of securing our farm lands and establishing a sustainable food system. This is important for youth looking to adults to make the right decisions regarding their future. This is also important to make sure big business profits for the few do not come before the safety, health, and security of all our peoples here in Hawaii.

I humbly ask for your support in the passage of HB 2703.

Mahalo nui,
Reginald McGowen

Aloha Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brilana Silva and I am testifying in strong support to HB 2703. I believe that the future of Hawaii's food sustainability is dependent on this bill passing. Over 90% of our food is imported, when just 70 years ago, we were growing 50% of our own food. This seems more like a step backwards than forward. HB 2703, requiring the state to double the amount of food we grow by 2020, is a small but bright step forward. This is going from approximately 10% to 20%. This is a no-brainer. In the event of a strike or natural disaster, we only have enough food to last the current population for about a week, making us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.

In addition, growing more of our own food by just 10% would create more than 2300 needed jobs. We send billions of dollars overseas every year to import food. If that money stayed in the state, it would have a huge economic impact. The time is now. Support this bill!

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Brilana Silva

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 11:51 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: Lesliewitten2@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Leslie Witten
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Lesliewitten2@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

I am writing testify in support of HB 2703, a bill to require the state of Hawaii to double its food production by the year 2020. ¶;This bill is good for our sustainability and economic development.

Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs.

Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture. ¶;This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.

Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. ¶;They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food.

A statutory goal for food production will have a galvanizing effect both on the state and on the private sector - in the same way as the Clean Energy Initiative has helped kick-start the booming alternative energy sector.

This bill is good for the people, their physical health and economic health as well. ¶;Please support HB 2703.

Mahalo nui loa,
Leslie Witten

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 1:00 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: mfsleh@ulukanu.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michal Stover
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mfsleh@ulukanu.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs.

Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture. This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.

Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food.

A statutory goal for food production will have a galvanizing effect both on the state and on the private sector - in the same way as the Clean Energy Initiative has helped kick-start the booming alternative energy sector.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 1:02 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: evernw@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Evern Williams
Organization: Individual
E-mail: evernw@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

You must pass this bill. This bill is absolutely critical toward achieving food sustainability in Hawaii. Do not let corporate and developer interests sway you at this critical time.

You have a mandate to do what is best for All of our people and not the few who stand to profit. Protect our ag lands, Protect our food security and continue to create and pass legislation that will get Hawaii independent of overseas shipping of our food.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 1:05 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: kimo1246@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Williams
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kimo1246@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Please pass this bill. We must plan ahead and be independent of overseas shipping of our food. Be forward thinking and protect our food security. You were not elected to protect developers and corporate interests. You were elected to protect our people's best interests. Pass this legislation!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 1:09 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: pohuku@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Walter Rees
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pohuku@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

I support HB 1703. I expect you, as our elected representatives vote in favor of the peoples' best interests first and foremost.

Hawaii's food security is of utmost importance. WE will remember which legislators vote FOR THE PEOPLE and not for special interests in the upcoming election.

Joy Leilei Shih, M.A.S.
3267 Mokihana Street
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808) 956-5970
leilei@bamboobike.org

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

MAR 20, 2012, 2:45 pm
(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT HB 2703

Aloha Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

I am a graduate student at the University of Hawaii and I am in strong support of Hawaii's food security and future economic well being.

Living in a beautiful island State means we must be as self-sufficient as possible. It is not only important for preserving our natural land and resources, but because relying on expensive imports compromises our current and future economic security. Growing food locally needs to be a statewide priority. Its importance and relevance spans everything from Hawaiian culture to mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Under HB 2703, if we fail to double the amount of food we grow by 2020, an automatic but temporary moratorium would block all reclassification of farmland from agriculture to urban until we do meet the standard. Importantly, this would encourage large landowners to put some of their holdings into food production in perpetuity. If the state is committed to doubling the amount of food it produces by 2020, it will create an environment in which it will be easier to address the many other issues that farmers face – from leases and financing, to processing and marketing. Importantly, local agriculture is a significant part of Hawaiian culture and is at risk of being lost if we do not pass this measure.

I respectfully ask that you advance this measure so that we may all look forward to healthier, locally grown foods on our plates, fresh from our island farmers. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Joy Leilei Shih

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 1:46 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: jlojacobs@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jennifer Jacobs
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jlojacobs@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

We need to preserve food growing farmland •Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs.

- Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture. This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.

- Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food.

- A statutory goal for food production will have a galvanizing effect both on the state and on the private sector - in the same way as the Clean Energy Initiative has helped kick-start the booming alternative energy sector.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 1:50 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: jmccay@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James McCay
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jmccay@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Dear Senator Nishihara,

I cannot overstate my support for this critical bill HB2703. This will REALLY help Hawai'i to get on the path that it needs to begin the self-sufficiency movement. It will also create long-term employment that offers our residents local and healthy foods. As a national leader in obesity and diabetes, we need to do much, and quickly. Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture. This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions. I work in the solar industry and have seen the important of driving policy. The Clean Energy Initiative has been amazing for this State. Please pass the beginning of amazing food production goals so that we can start to get food and energy here - where it NEEDS to be created.

Many thanks!

James McCay
2957 Kalakaua Avenue #216,
Honolulu, HI 96815-4650

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 1:57 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: bdshafer@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Benjamin Shafer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bdshafer@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou Senators,
I support this bill as it starts the process of gauging our food production and consumption in the State of Hawaii. The hoopla on 2030 will be wishful thinking - lose money - if we do not start the process now. This is about responsibility, accountability, stewardship and long term planning for Hawaii.
Mahalo nui loa for all you do,
Benjamin Shafer
52.210 Kamehameha Highway
Hauula, Hawaii 96717
808.222.3138
bdshafer@gmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 1:59 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: RRolirad@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ross Rolirad
Organization: Individual
E-mail: RRolirad@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It is just another anti-development ploy. I am President of the Kapolei Foundation, a non-profit organization that had paid out over \$1.2MM over the last ten years to deserving students in Leeward Oahu. They are our future and need a place to live and work. That requires smart sustained development like Ho'Opili. This bill would just add more people to the state payroll for no good reason. If we couldn't keep Del Monte, what makes anyone think we can truly grow 20% of our food. If we must pass another bill, let's make it one that makes our state more business friendly.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 2:17 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: arnoldp003@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Phillip M. Arnold
Organization: Individual
E-mail: arnoldp003@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

I support HB 2703 because (1) Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs.

(2) Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture. This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.

(3) Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food.

(4) A statutory goal for food production will have a galvanizing effect both on the state and on the private sector - in the same way as the Clean Energy Initiative has helped kick-start the booming alternative energy sector.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 2:22 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: Kealii8@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kealii Makekai
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Kealii8@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 2:25 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: harmonyrainbow5@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Harmony Bentosino
Organization: Individual
E-mail: harmonyrainbow5@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Please pass this bill for local production of food. This will greatly increase our economy and provide safety if there were ever a block to shipping Mainland food. This is a political issue that most voters support according to polls. This will also save farmland and enhance our tourist industry as well. Please pass this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 2:44 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: lkmcelheny@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Larry McElheny
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lkmcelheny@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:
Please support HB 2703

Mahalo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 2:57 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: Larryshawn@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Larry Babcock
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Larryshawn@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:
Food sustainability is very important to me.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 3:33 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: hampton@hokua.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ed Hampton
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hampton@hokua.org
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Aloha and Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in favor of this bill. Hawaii is unique among the rest of the America in that we import 90+% of what we consume so available ag land is of a major concern to our growing population we must look to future needs before considering any reclassification of our ag land I respectfully urge this committee to support this bill.
Mahalo nui loa, Ed Hampton

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 3:42 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: qehcc@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Casina Waterman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: qehcc@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 4:02 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: waynetakamine@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wayne Takamine
Organization: Individual
E-mail: waynetakamine@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2012
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice
Chair NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 TIME: 2:45 PM PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

HB 2703, HD2 (HSCR944-12)

RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

Creates a new chapter in the Hawaii Revised Statutes requiring the Department of Agriculture to develop a food sustainability standard to promote local food production to help diversify the local economy. Effective July 1, 2030. (HB2703 HD2)

Aloha Chairman Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chairman Gilbert Kahele and the Senate Committee on Agriculture:

Please accept this testimony in support of HB2703 that would require the state to double food production by the year 2020. It requires the Department of Ag to develop a way to monitor the amount of food we produce locally - and the amount of that food that is consumed locally.

Respectfully,

Wayne Takamine
Honolulu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 4:30 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: abensley80@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Adam Bensley
Organization: Individual
E-mail: abensley80@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Aloha, I stand in strong support of HB 2703. At a time when we currently only produce 8-10% of the food we eat, we need to stop the development of agricultural land and start producing more of our own food. Please pass HB 2703 to require an increase in food production. Also, it is imperative that a moratorium be put on the development of agricultural lands if the goal of doubling our food production is not met. Stop catering to the developers and agricultural sellouts like Dean Okimoto. It is time to look out for the benefit of the public and pass this bill.

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Adam Bensley

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 4:31 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: mdeycaza@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: mike deycaza
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mdeycaza@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 4:36 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: ana@beachhousehawaii.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ana Murray
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ana@beachhousehawaii.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs.

Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture. This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.

Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food. A statutory goal for food production will have a galvanizing effect both on the state and on the private sector - in the same way as the Clean Energy Initiative has helped kick-start the booming alternative energy sector.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 4:50 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: Shaunaghr@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shaunagh Robbins
Organization: Ola Hawaii 2020
E-mail: Shaunaghr@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

We should not need to pass a law addressing preservation of our best farm for agricultural purposes, but it is clear that development interests on our island state far outweigh those concerned with our ability to withstand even a minor disruption to our imported food supply. Although the Oahu General Plan and other respected visions for our future advocate preservation of our most valuable farm land, our legislators ignore such wise treatises and the impassioned warnings of so many that have spoken out about the continued degradation and paving over of our most valuable resource.

Please pass this food sustainability bill for the future of all the people of Oahu - to begin to safeguard the very aina which we so desperately need to sustain us. Yes! To a new era of food sustainability and No to further plunder and paving by the powerful developers, who reward only themselves with the paving over of our precious aina.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 4:57 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Choon James
Organization: Country Talk Story
E-mail: ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

I wish to lend my support to BILL HB2703. This bill is a common sense approach to a big elephant problem that we must address, today.

I'm very disappointed that the moratorium in the earlier bill was taken out. Like any good planning strategy, it's important to stop, step back, review and then take further actions.

Please pass HB2703. It's a step in the right direction for Hawaii's well-being. Hawaii's future and food security is too big of our shared kuleana to play politics with.

Mahalo,

Choon James
808 293 9111
ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 5:19 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: emartinez@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elizabeth Martinez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: emartinez@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Voting for this bill is taking a brave and intelligent direction towards healthy, viable future for future generations of Hawaii's children. This bill sets the course to ensure that they will inherit a strong, productive, balanced, economic system underpinned by sustainable, food production and wealth created from the land. This bill is strategic in its vision, and will create the environment for success. Please vote for the passage of HB2703.

Thank you!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 6:08 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: redahi@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: B.A. McClintock
Organization: Individual
E-mail: redahi@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Please SUPPORT this bill. Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs. Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture. This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions. Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food.

03/19/2012

I strongly support HB2703. We currently only grow 8-10% of the food that we eat. This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions. Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs. Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food. A statutory goal for food production will have a galvanizing effect both on the state and on the private sector - in the same way as the Clean Energy Initiative has helped kick-start the booming alternative energy sector. Please advance HB2703.

Thanks for your time,
-Matthew Stuckey

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 6:59 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: freeman@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Lynn Peters
Organization: Individual
E-mail: freeman@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Per a 2008 UH study, doubling our food production would give a \$313mil jolt to our economy, create more than 2300 jobs, create \$47mil in profits, and provide \$6mil in state tax revenues. Opinion polls continue to show that our citizens STRONGLY SUPPORT 'locally grown food' and they will pay more to have it. A STATUTORY GOAL for local food production would ENERGIZE a self sustaining food industry for Hawaii. WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR ? ? ?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 7:02 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: kaiulania@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: G.F. Ka'iulani Akamine
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kaiulania@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Please support food sustainability. We live on an island - it is vital to our very survival.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 7:06 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: jimpattersons@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jim Patterson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jimpattersons@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:
Please support this bill

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 8:38 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: nlowen@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nicole Lowen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nlowen@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Dear Chair Nishihara and members of the Committee,

Please pass this bill. Encouraging local production of food will keep dollars in the local economy, save farmland from sprawling development and will be a step towards a safer, healthier, more sustainable food system.

Thank you,

Nicole Lowen
Palolo

Aloha Chair Senator Nishihara and members of his committee,

Thanks for taking the time to hear HB2703. I am a home owner in Honolulu and of course a taxpayer. I believe that it would be good to double our food production in Hawaii. For many reasons including:

1. When you look at the various scenarios for Honolulu's seaports and airports we can see that they could stay the same, get better, or get worse. With the terrible tsunami that occurred in Japan a year ago, we can see that thing could get worse quickly. We could easily lose of seaports with a natural disaster. Our major airport in Honolulu is just a few feet about sea level and could be easily damaged with a tsunami. If we were producing more of our own food then the impact wouldn't be as tragic. We are producing only 8% to 10% of our food supply now. To increase our food production to 20% would allow us a little buffer preventing real hardships to our population if there was a natural disaster.
2. Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million boost to the state economy, creating \$47 million in profits, providing \$6 million in state tax revenues and creating more than 2,300 jobs. This would be much better than what the large chemical companies with their patented seeds are doing for Hawaii now.
3. Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food.
4. A statutory goal for food production will have a galvanizing effect both on the state and on the private sector.

It would seem more practical to build townhouses on unfertile soil. High density low rise is the style of architecture that is seen everywhere in Italy and it would be good model to apply in our state also.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

All the best,

Cliff DeVries
2543 Makaulii Pl
Honolulu, HI
808 838-9127

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:25 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: akaai2674@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Aulani Kaaihue
Organization: Lanis Goats
E-mail: akaai2674@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

I support this bill. We should allow people to have 1 goat in their yard in residential zoned areas. Goats can be used as a daily milk supply, and for raising until it is ready to be slaughtered. With the high cost of oil, we need to become self-sufficient, and independent of foreign oil. This is one way to help. With the abundance of goats, our own natural resource, we need to make sure that the shipping lanes stay open, and that we are able to transport animals interisland for our food supply. Goats are healthy and good for you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 10:44 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: dubielfdesign@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rexann Dubiel
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dubielfdesign@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Please vote to support HB2703. We need to grow our own food here. We can't depend on outside sources. It was done before the war and we can do it again. For our children and their children, make the right choice---promote sustainability for Hawaii's agriculture. Bring back the small farms, bring back the economy---make it homegrown. We have the capacity.
Thank you.
Rexann Dubiel
3rd grade teacher Sunset Beach Elementary
Vice-president North Shore Outdoor Circle
40-year resident of Sunset Beach

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 11:07 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: abaalto@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM
Attachments: My testimony - HB2703 - Sen Ag Cttee.pdf

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: anthony aalto
Organization: Individual
E-mail: abaalto@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 11:13 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: mhinchey@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mike Hinchey
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mhinchey@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Dear Senator Nishihara,

Thank you for hearing this very important bill HB2703.

I support this bill because as we now all know, Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture. This of course leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions due to natural disasters and other causes.

We got a small taste of this predicament last year when the tsunami from Japan created havoc at the gas stations and supermarkets. Walmart was packed at 2 a.m. with nervous people who needed no reminder for the need to stockpile food. We live on a small island - let's ensure we can feed ourselves and our children now and in the future. This bill is a step in the right direction. Please show us you care by supporting HB2703.

Mahalo,
Mike Hinchey

March 18, 2012

Re: HB 2703

My name is Lauren Nicole Kealohilani Cheape and I am the fourth generation from my family's egg farm, Petersons' Upland Farm. My great-grandfather started the farm in Wahiawa in 1910 and it has been an essential part of our local community ever since. In the early 1980's we were one of 21 commercial egg farms in our state. Today, there remain only four, all of which are seriously threatened by closure. Our farm has proudly celebrated our 102nd anniversary this year but every day we face numerous challenges that threaten our existence.

Personally, I couldn't imagine my life without the farm. I have witnessed and joined in on the countless hours my grandfather, great-uncle, mother and other members of my family spend in order to supply our customers with local food. Not only is the farm a part of my life but it is a big part of the lives of those in our community. Since we are a family run farm we are able to build special relationships with our customers. Many of them have been coming to the farm since they were a little child when grand ma used to bring them to get eggs. Local production means people are able to personally know the farmer and know exactly where their food comes from.

I always hear people talk about diversifying our economy and making Hawai'i more sustainable, but it's time to put those words into action. Support for local agriculture needs to be addressed on the state level. It is important that this goal of doubling local food production by 2020 is considered whenever the State of Hawai'i adopts new policies that affect agriculture or land use. My family farm, as well as many other farms across the state depend on it.

Your help will not only aid in the preservation of agriculture and the survival of our local farms, but also in ensuring future generations the opportunity to experience the benefit from the products and the culture of this treasured lifestyle. Once a farm closes it is virtually impossible to restart, which is why HB 2703 is so vital. Mahalo for your support of agriculture and for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

Lauren Nicole Kealohilani Cheape
Petersons' Upland Farms
Ph: 808-358-7816

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 11:21 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: gladshawaii@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Glads Bautista
Organization: Friends of Makakilo
E-mail: gladshawaii@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 11:50 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: Victoryalui808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lai Lui
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Victoryalui808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

We should try to grow as much food in Hawaii as possible instead of relying on it being shipped here.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 2:03 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: angelavideotron@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Angela Breene
Organization: Individual
E-mail: angelavideotron@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Please support HB 2703 to double local food production in Hawaii by 2020. We are happy to buy food from Hawaii farmers, even if it costs a little more, because it puts more money back into our local economy and provides long term jobs. Imported food will just keep on getting more expensive with the rising cost of fuel. We need more incentives for the private and public sectors to modernize and diversify agriculture in Hawaii. HB 2703 is a step in the right direction.

Mahalo,

Angela Breene

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 3:01 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: 8alana8@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alana Bryant
Organization: Individual
E-mail: 8alana8@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

Comments:

Aloha e,

I strongly support HB2703. This is a major step in the right direction toward food sustainability in Hawaii. I am a recent college graduate, and I am returning Hawaii to live for the rest of my life because I love it so much. However, it frightens me how reliant we are on imported food. There is too much at stake for us to rely on imports for more than 90% of the things we consume. We are the most isolated island chain in the world, and the current geopolitical climate is not working in our favor. In the event of a strike or natural disaster (two very plausible events) Hawaii has enough food to last about a week. That makes us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.

On a positive note, Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 jobs. We have the opportunity to replace unhealthy food with the traditional and healthy Hawaiian foods. This would decrease diabetes and obesity rates, lowering the number of people who need costly health care.

But finally, to be effective the target needs enforcement provisions - it's essential that the threat of a reclassification moratorium remain in the bill.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Alana Bryant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 5:22 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: vviernes@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: vernon viernes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: vviernes@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

Comments:

I feel that preserving agricultural lands that would feed more of the local population and decrease our dependence on shipping far out weighs supporting suburban development that only a few select would benefit from. Ua mau ke ea o ka aina I ka pono. Ka ha o ka po'e no ka ola o ka aina, breath of the people is in the life of the aina.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 4:42 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: joyamarshall2003@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joy Marshall, RN
Organization: Individual
E-mail: joyamarshall2003@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

Comments:

I urge you to support HB2703 for the immense, positive health, economic, and sustainability effect it could have upon Hawaii and all who live here. We live in a state capable of sustainability and we should absolutely be working towards that. This bill would also create jobs and that would benefit Hawaii.
Thank you for allowing me to testify

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 6:36 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: lance.duncan@live.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lance Duncan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lance.duncan@live.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

Comments:

Dear Senator Clarence Nishihara and committee members, I urge you strongly to support passage of HB2703. With the world seeing dwindling fossil fuel supplies and political unrest in oil producing regions, and with Hawaii being 2,500 miles or so from the nearest landmass, it is extremely important that we be able to rely on our own food sources in the event of a disruption in global shipping. Such policy is just good economics anyway, as fuel begins to account for a larger and larger percentage of the price of imported food, and since we have an ideal climate to produce much (if not all) of what we need.

As the bill specifies, doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs.

Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture. This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.

Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food.

A statutory goal for food production will have a galvanizing effect both on the state and on the private sector - in the same way as the Clean Energy Initiative has helped kick-start the booming alternative energy sector.

It is also in the best interest of our role as stewards of the land and our environment for generations to come that we cease paving over our most productive farmland for housing, encouraging more people to live here and consume things, while decreasing our capacity to produce them.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lance Duncan
Pahoa, HI