

HB2703 HD2

Late Testimony

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 8:13 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: ekandagawa@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

LATE

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

Comments:

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 8:39 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: eve.wander@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

LATE

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Evelin Wander
Organization: Individual
E-mail: eve.wander@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

Comments:

LATE



To: House Finance Committee

From: Ashley Lukens, Board Member

My name is Ashley Lukens and I am testifying in support of HB2703 on behalf of the Hawaii Food Policy Council. I am a small business owner, a PhD candidate and an instructor in the Department of Political Science at UH Manoa. My research focuses on food policies at the state and municipal level. Based on my research of the policies put forward by the more than 150 food policy councils across the US, HB2703 stands out as an effective policy model for growing local food systems. Further, because HB2703 requires the Department of Agriculture to begin tracking levels of local food production, the bill will enable the state to better plan for its future food self-sufficiency.

As a small business owner, I feel that creating jobs, rebuilding and diversifying local businesses, and stopping the hemorrhaging of billions of dollars from our economy to other markets is the most important thing we can do for the State of Hawai'i. By some measures as much as \$3 billion is sent out of state every year to pay for food imports and the 2008 Hawai'i Department of Agriculture White Paper on Food Self-Sufficiency stated that replacing just 10% of food imports with local produce would generate over 2,300 new jobs. HB2703 will create jobs, has the potential to keep hundreds of millions of dollars circulating in our local economy, and is one of the most important steps we can take to rebuild and grow our local agriculture industry.

To achieve these goals, this bill establishes food self-sufficiency as a statewide priority and creates a framework for enabling the growth of agricultural production focused on livestock and crops for local consumption in Hawai'i. This is in line with Article XI, Section 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution which states:

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.

This food self-sufficiency bill helps establish standards for growing Hawai'i's agricultural capacity.

Secretary of Agriculture Russell Kokubon has testified numerous times that the DOA lacks the funding, and thus the capacity, to monitor our local food production. It is in the purview of the Hawaii State Legislature to rectify this situation. By passing HB2703, you create the necessary incentive to properly fund the DOA so that it may fulfill the constitutional mandate of setting standards and criteria to increase the state's agricultural self-sufficiency.

According to the US Department of Agriculture, only 8% of the food purchased in Hawai'i is produced in-state. That situation leaves us dangerously vulnerable to supply disruptions and global economic volatility. It is the responsibility of the state to ensure that Hawaii can grow a sufficient amount of food, particularly in the event of national disaster or an increase in transportation and thus imported food costs.

Opinion polls repeatedly show that agricultural self-sufficiency and increasing Hawaii's local food production is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. HB2703 is an opportunity for the state to champion a popular issue and help Hawaii's growers and eaters to realize the local food economy they are all working so hard for.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Signed:



Ashley Lukens

Organization: Hawaii Food Policy Council (HFPC)

Date: 3/19/12

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:01 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: laurahorigan@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: Laura Horigan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: laurahorigan@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

LATE

Comments:

We need to preserve our valuable agricultural lands. We can't eat houses!!

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:23 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: newsletter@riseup.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: R. Kinslow
Organization: Individual
E-mail: newsletter@riseup.net
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

LATE

Comments:

Aloha, I support this bill because as a former farmer and now graduate student in Sustainable development, I recognize food as a systemic need for humans to thrive. Our economic system is based on circulations of transactions and so the producing of food within our islands is a critical path towards increasing this type of economic circulation. As a matter of fact, when we double our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, this would provide \$313 million boost to our state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs. Now that's positive change we can live with and certainly something that should make legislators sit up and smile.

Secondly, as a graduate student I've been studying sustainability as it relates to Agriculture in Hawaii. Did you know that Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture? This means we are vulnerable and food insecure. Since we are highly vulnerable to supply disruptions why not pass this bill to increase our food security?

Food security is one of the highest concerns globally of all people according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. Surely we can pass a bill in Hawaii that would increase our food security! Here at home, 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 local food than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food. You are going to run into big ag-land-transportation biz lobbyists who consistently argue against this type of legislation and my response would be to strongly suggest that you stand up for our children's food supply and be bold. We the people will support you.

Having targets is the only way to get to a goal. In fact, without targets you cannot ensure a sustainable future. 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 support this bill and stop watering it down. Mahalo for your kokua.

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:58 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: eileen@lava.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 3/20/2012 2:45:00 PM

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

LATE

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eileen Cain
Organization: Individual
E-mail: eileen@lava.net
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

Comments:

This bill helps Hawai'i to plan for food self-sufficiency, and this is a great need here in our islands. This will provide needed jobs of our people, especially young people. It will strengthen our economy. Every dollar spent on money imported to Hawai'i is money that leaves Hawai'i, weakening our economy. Importing food also adds to the pollution problem from fossil fuels needed for the vehicles which bring food in. Furthermore, locally grown food is fresher and can improve nutrition, thereby reducing dietary illnesses. Please vote for this bill! Mahalo!

nishihara1 - Danille

From: rike weiss [rikeweiss@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:09 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: HB2703 HD2

LATE

Aloha kakou:

I am testifying in support of HB2703 for the following reasons:

1. Hawai'i produces, at best, only ten percent of its own food. What will we do as fuel costs increase to power airplanes and ships? How will we feed our one million plus residents and seven million visitors?
2. Nationally and in HI, there is an increased interest in farming among young people. O`ahu still has prime agricultural lands that need to be protected for agriculture and safe-guarded from development.
3. Agricultural jobs in the thousands support our local economy—they won't be skimmed off by continental developers. The money will be earned by local people and spent in the local economy.

Respectfully submitted, Rike Weiss

nishihara1 - Danille

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

LATE

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

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Allison Vincent
Organization: Individual
E-mail: alli.vincent@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

Comments:

I just wanted to comment that we need to support and promote all measures that push our state towards food security and sustainability. We live in a changing world, and to deny that is foolish. We must leave behind our wasteful and inefficient old ways (like importing the majority of our food) in order to ensure our mutual survival in the future. Local food production will provide jobs for Hawaii residents, and ensure nourishment for Hawaii's residents. As a concerned citizen with an environmental science degree, I cannot stress enough the importance of passing measures like this so we can move our state forward into the 21st century.

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:36 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: bMcD50@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: Yes
Submitted by: Beth McDermott
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bMcD50@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

LATE

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2703, and also the hope that it will be strengthened to include firmer and broader benchmarks. It is absolutely essential that Hawaii begin to move toward achieving greater food security. This bill is a sensible, proactive approach. It is shocking to realize we only produce some 8-10% of the food we need at present. This is dangerous and unsustainable. A new generation of farmers have proven that we are ready to transition to a new mix of diversified ag that can grow our economy and provide good jobs throughout the industry. They have shown we can grow the foods we need, successfully and profitably. But we can't do it without protecting our best farmland for that purpose. This is not something we can go back and correct after the fact. Please pass this bill before we lose any more time, and valuable land, that we need to feed island families. This is not the time to be short sighted but to act to create a legacy that will be commended for generations to come.

nishihara1 - Danille

From: flemming carstensen [flemming@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:42 AM
To: AGL Testimony
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: Flemming H. Carstensen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: flemming@hawaii.rr.com

LATE

Submitted on: 3/20/2012 at 10:40 AM

Comments:

Aloha and Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in favor of this bill. Hawaii is unique among the rest of 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,

Flemming H. Carstensen

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:08 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: Robynp@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: No
Submitted by: Robyn Petterson
Organization: 3E Consulting
E-mail: Robynp@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

LATE

Comments:
Aloha,

HB2703 is important for our current and future sustainability. It makes no sense that Foodland can sell pesticide-laden Ecuadorian bananas in HAWAII cheaper than LOCALLY GROWN bananas! Please give local food production higher priority on your agenda and insure a food-secure Hawaii.

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:13 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: Ageer@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: No
Submitted by: Aaron Geer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Ageer@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

LATE

Comments:

Please support HB2703, increasing our states food production is the only logical step to food security.

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:20 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: amybrinker@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: Amy Brinker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: amybrinker@mac.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

LATE

Comments:

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:41 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: gotonsbs@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: Dr. Robert B. Smith, D. C.
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gotonsbs@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

LATE

Comments:

I fully support this bill as an obvious measure to insure food in our future.
If we have in fact only a 3 to 7 day food supply that could be interrupted by any number of catastrophes, we need to work towards food sufficiency.

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:46 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: maxaalto@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: Max Aalto
Organization: Individual
E-mail: maxaalto@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

LATE

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nishihara and members of the committee

My name is Max Aalto. I'm 15 years old. I'm a freshman in high school. I'm not playing hooky! I'm on spring break.

In less than three years time I will have the right to vote and I thought I would take advantage of this break to come down to the Capitol for the first time in my life and testify about an issue that I'm very concerned about.

My father has taught me to respect politicians. He told me that you get a bad rap. That you have a hard job to do and difficult decisions they make.

I understand that we are living through difficult economic times and that there are pressures on you to sacrifice the environment tomorrow for jobs today. But if I may I'd like to speak to you as a voice of tomorrow.

I am worried that the world that I will inherit and the lifestyle that your generation will hand to me as your legacy, will be unsustainable and doomed to disaster.

We currently grow less than ten percent of the food that we eat in Hawaii and that proportion is actually falling. Since statehood Hawaii has paved-over more than half of its prime farmlands and we continue to build on our best farmlands at a really alarming pace. Today about four thousand five hundred acres are being used to grow food on O'ahu. The Ho'opili and Koa Ridge developments alone would pour concrete over half of that land.

So where will my generation grow its food? What green spaces will you leave us? It's not just that this uncontrolled development on farmland leaves us extraordinarily vulnerable to supply disruptions, it's also that it swallows up our best carbon sink.

The vast majority of climate scientists tell us that we have to prevent the planet from heating more than 2 degrees above the 19th century average to avoid planetary disaster. To do that we have to keep CO2 in the atmosphere at less than 350 parts per million. But your generation has already blown right past that target. Already we're at 390 parts per million. Sea level in my lifetime will swamp Waikiki, parts of downtown and the reef runway at the airport. With all due respect sir, you may not live to see it, but I think I will.

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:21 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: Jimmylegs12@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: Jessica
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Jimmylegs12@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

LATE

Comments:

LATE

To Whom It May Concern:

I writing to support the bill, HB 2703. As a local consumer, I always buy and support fresh locally grown produce and products derived from local fresh produce. I choose to consume and support our Hawaiian farmers and their businesses. I am a consistent consumer that wants Hawaii produce and products of these small farmers, not only to thrive in local farmers markets but in larger retail stores here in Hawaii. I would like 100% of our produce and products to be grown and developed here as soon as possible and latest by 2019. This would benefit the community on several levels:

- It would bring great convenience to consumers that invest and desire local products and produce from small local farmers.
- It would benefit the community by creating local jobs in farming, retail and farmers markets, which are becoming increasingly popular throughout the islands and tourism.
- It would benefit the restaurants that desire and/ or support fresh local produce from small farmers. These restaurants turn to these farms before outsourcing.
- It would benefit the small and standard farming community and the University by bringing new perspective opportunities to the University and the community.
- The small farmers of Hawaii will benefit by the agribusiness cooperative program expanding their business to larger retail outlets.
- Through advancing studies, there will be sharing of more information which will create access, best farming practices, and education between programs, agricultural economics and the small local farmers. This may cause a superior agricultural industry.

This bill will create a multi-faceted effect on the the economics of Hawaii and our community by providing jobs, education, health and well being, standards and accountability for farmers and better market for consumers of local products and produce.

Thank you,

Shannon Crivello

LATE

To Whom It May Concern:

I writing to support the bill, HB 2703. As a local consumer, I always buy and support fresh locally grown produce and products derived from local fresh produce. I choose to consume and support our Hawaiian farmers and their businesses. I am a consistent consumer that wants Hawaii produce and products of these small farmers, not only to thrive in local farmers markets but in larger retail stores here in Hawaii. I would like 100% of our produce and products to be grown and developed here as soon as possible and latest by 2019. This would benefit the community on several levels:

- It would bring great convenience to consumers that invest and desire local products and produce from small local farmers.
- It would benefit the community by creating local jobs in farming, retail and farmers markets, which are becoming increasingly popular throughout the islands and tourism.
- It would benefit the restaurants that desire and/ or support fresh local produce from small farmers. These restaurants turn to these farms before outsourcing.
- It would benefit the small and standard farming community and the University by bringing new perspective opportunities to the University and the community.
- The small farmers of Hawaii will benefit by the agribusiness cooperative program expanding their business to larger retail outlets.
- Through advancing studies, there will be sharing of more information which will create access, best farming practices, and education between programs, agricultural economics and the small local farmers. This may cause a superior agricultural industry.

This bill will create a multi-faceted effect on the the economics of Hawaii and our community by providing jobs, education, health and well being, standards and accountability for farmers and better market for consumers of local products and produce.

Thank you,

Maria Devera

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:33 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: Mdmd57@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: Earl Dahlin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Mdmd57@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

LATE

Comments:

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:05 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: nimboy44@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: william quinlan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nimboy44@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

LATE

Comments:

Becoming self supporting in Agriculture must be on of our three top objectives if we are to truly strengthen our State.
It will provide needed jobs and will have a significant effect on our balance of payments.
Please pass this bill.
Please also stop the Ho'Opili house planting project. Hard to believe we are being so short sighted.I visited Ma'O farm last week. It is a shing example of what can be achieved.

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:42 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: FrancesYuanHayashiRD@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: Frances Yuan-Hayashi
Organization: Individual
E-mail: FrancesYuanHayashiRD@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

LATE

Comments:

It is time for the state to start planning for Hawaii's self-sufficient food future.

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.

Locally grown food is freshest and more nutritious because the food can be harvested when it's ripe and ready compared to food harvested in the Continental USA or Mexico when it's under ripe and then potentially deteriorates while it sits in containers being shipped to Hawaii.

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.

Date and Time of Hearing: 03/20/12, 2:45 pm
Room: 229
Bill Number: HB2703 H.D. 2

To: Senator Clarence Nishihara
Senate Agriculture Committee

LATE

From: Alani Apio
1363 Manu Mele Street, Kailua, HI 96734
kamaullc@hawaiiantel.net

Re: Support for HB2703 H.D. 2: RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

This testimony is in strong support of HB2703 H.D. 2. Hawai'i's incredible level of vulnerability with respect to imported food compels us to take action. Any number of scenarios could leave us simply unable to feed our population for an extended period of time—people may literally starve. A hurricane strike to O'ahu, a global disease outbreak or even the current political turmoil in the Mideast can cause disruptions to our food supply in myriad ways. To not begin immediately addressing our dangerous over-reliance on imported food is simply immoral. We have put our citizens and society at huge risk.

I strongly support the passing of this legislation because we need to set goals for food sustainability through government in order to begin addressing the systemic changes that are needed to bring us back to acceptable levels of food self-sufficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2703 H.D. 2

Alani Apio

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 3:50 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: derek.lindes@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: Derek
Organization: Individual
E-mail: derek.lindes@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

LATE

Comments:

We need to produce our own food. It should be obvious how dependent we are on shipping and how crippled we would be without it. Even with the current system working, it's horribly inefficient and actually very detrimental to our world in general. It's way too expensive and uses way too many resources to produce food in the current model. Eating is fundamental and is a fundamental issue that should be handled properly.

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:24 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: cmacmaui@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: Christine MacDonald
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cmacmaui@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

LATE

Comments:

PLEASE support this bill in order to help Hawaii take one step closer toward self-sustainability. Keep the aina green and feed our children locally.
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.

Testimony
SUPPORT -- HB 2703

LATE

Dr. Kioni Dudley

I am an intervenor before the state Land Use Commission in opposition to the urbanization of the Ho'opili farmland. This case began in January of 2009 and I have spent most of my life in the days since working on this project. All parties have now completed their presentation of evidence and the case is drawing to a close. The Land Use Commission will render a decision in late May or June.

There is a VERY good chance that the decision will favor keeping the 1550 acres in farmland. I expect to be coming back to you next year with various proposals for how the state can come into possession of that property and keep it in farmland perpetually. In the meantime, you have probably heard the radio commercials where Alec Sou talks of moving Aloun Farms to property on the North Shore slopes over the next twenty years. It is good that they have made these provisions. That will free the land up for new farmers.

As you know the military, the state and others are in the final stages of purchasing the Galbraith Estate which will be run by the Agribusiness Development Corporation is. This is where Aloun Farms plans to move.

The Wahiawa Wastewater Treatment plant will be sending R-1 water directly to that property, skirting around and avoiding Lake Wilson. This will all aid the Aloun Farms move to this property.

However, crops need special circumstances in able to grow well. In those higher elevations you have much more rain, much more cloud cover, and thus, less sunshine and warmth. Some plants that prosper in warm, sunny flatland grow much more slowly and mildew and rot before reaching maturity.

We will find a greater variety in what we grow by putting up there the things that grow well there, and keeping things that don't grow well, like corn and melons, in the flatland. So we need both places.

We also need farmers. You are probably aware that Ma'o Farms is training farms on its Waianae farm, and is already working at Leeward Community College and with UHWO. A number of high schools, intermediate schools, and grade schools have farming programs. There is great interest among people in all of these programs to become farmers.

You need to know that Ma'o Farms testified recently at the LUC that they are working with UHWest Oahu to develop a farming program at their new campus. The initial plan is to farm property on the campus, but the 1550 acres of Ho'opili is just across the street.

Gene Awakuni, Chancellor of UHWO is looking for innovative programs. He has express an interest in collaboration.

My hope is:

We win
Aloun prepares to leave slowly
Aloun or others work with UHWO
Young farmers take over
Eventually we have both place in agriculture

Varied income levels for various kinds of agriculture.

Seed crops are making hundreds of millions of dollars a year. They are buying up all of the best lands. As we run through the north shore of O'ahu all of the pink lands have been bought by them.

The next highest money makers will be bio-fuels. In the future, we will need to provide thousands of acres for them.

Then come the nurseries who make less than the bio-fuels, but far more than food farmers.

Then the food farmers who are going to need protections.

And finally the chicken farms, pig farms, and cattle ranchers who are growing now, but will also need encouragement.

The reason for going into this is to point out that we are going to have to watch out for the food farmers, to make sure they get their necessary share of the agricultural land as it opens up.

But it is also to point out that doubling our food production by 2020 is certainly a possibility that is within reach.

City Council Resolution 12-23

You are possibly aware that the city plans have, for some time now, designated both Ho'opili and Pearl Ridge for urban development.

Because of this, they have never included them in their plans for naming Important Agricultural Lands.

They recently considered a resolution which would direct Laura Theilen to bring before them a listing of possible Important Agricultural Lands, so that they could designate those that they wished to.

When I brought to their attention that in case we won at the Land Use Commission, both Ho'opili and Koa Ridge should be their first consideration for IAL, they changed the resolution to include both for IAL consideration.

By this action they said, "If the LUC retains the agricultural designation for Ho'opili and Koa Ridge, we want to be able to name both as IAL."

In reality, then, with the city also showing its concern, there is plenty of reason to think that the doubling of food production by 2020 is certainly possible and can be achieved.

I also want to speak of putting the teeth back into this bill.