

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** steve sakala [sustainablesakala@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:47 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB 2703, the bill that would require the state to double the amount of food we grow by 2020.

This actually is not a big feat. This should be a basic requirement. Right now we only produce about 10% of our own food here in the state. That means we ship out about 90% of our economic potential for food production to either other states or other countries. This bill would require that the state produce 20% of our food. In my opinion we should be creating on economic incentives backed by political will to grow at least 50% of our food in the state. Imagine how many jobs that would create! Not to mention food security! What happens when a major disaster hits here or the W. Coast of the mainland and the ships get delayed or stop? We would be out of food in less than a week! In addition over the past 50 years we have paved over half of our farm land and large develops are being planned for whats left.

I ask the politicians of this state to step up and support this bill and perhaps even look towards a bigger picture of future legislation to create farmer friendly legislation and protect our remaining farm lands.

Mahalo,

Steve Sakala  
Sustainability Consultant  
Owner/Operator Honaunau Farm  
808 756-7945

Hawaii State Legislature  
AGR  
HB 2703- Food Self-Sufficiency

Robyn Petterson  
USGBC at UH Manoa  
Ecology Club at UH Manoa  
ECOhanaHI  
[robypn@hawaii.edu](mailto:robypn@hawaii.edu)

We support HB 2703.

We feel that this is a necessary step toward strengthening our islands resilience and ability to support its residents. There is a certain empowerment that we gain from becoming independent. It would be a proud day for Hawai'i to return to its once sustainable heritage.

According to the local chapter of the Sierra Club, the following facts are testimony to the power if this bill:

- We used to grow 50% of our own food.
- In the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left
- In the event of a strike or natural disaster we have enough food to last about a week. That makes us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.
- As we replaced locally grown produce with imported processed food we unleashed a wave of diet related disease like diabetes and obesity.
- Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 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.
- And above all: to be effective the target needs enforcement provisions – it's essential that the threat of a reclassification moratorium remain in the bill.

Once again, we support HB 2703.

Robyn Petterson

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: laurie carlson  
Organization: Slow Food Oahu  
E-mail: [laurie@honoluluweekly.com](mailto:laurie@honoluluweekly.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

January 30, 2012

Dear Chair Tsuji and Members of the Agriculture Committee,

Slow Food O'ahu strongly supports HB 2703.

Slow Food O'ahu is a member of the US chapter of Slow Food International. There are Slow Food chapters on Hawai'i island, Maui, and Kaua'i, and O'ahu. On Oahu alone, there are approximately 150 members. Slow Food promotes good, clean, and fair food. "Good" in the sense of good quality, and delicious. "Clean" meaning non-polluting, good for the environment, and preferably grown organically. And "Fair" meaning farmers and producers are paid a fair price for their product, and workers are treated with fairness. At the heart, we support is food sustainability.

We have the ability to make real change happen, change that is essential to ensure our islands and our people can thrive. Hawaii is faced with a critical need to grow much more of our own food. We can not continue importing 90% of our food. World food and energy prices will continue to rise. We have the land and water to grow much of what we need to survive. Why are we importing so much produce from outside when we can grow it here, create jobs for our people, increase the availability of freshly picked produce (instead of produce that has traveled thousands of miles burning fossil fuel), increase healthful food and make it available in our schools, preserve and re-imagine our agricultural communities, and protect Hawai'i against the risk of supply disruptions.

There are so many positives and no negatives when it comes to increasing our food production and becoming food self-sufficient. We urge the Committee to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Slow Food O'ahu leadership team



Clinic  
4590 Hāna Highway  
tel 808.248.8294  
fax 808.248.8917

Administration  
P.O. Box 807  
Hāna, Maui 96713  
tel 808.248.7515  
fax 808.248.7223

## Hana Health's Testimony is in Support of HB 2703, Relating to Agriculture

Hāna Health and Hāna Fresh bring together healthcare, organic farming, and nutrition in a unique approach to community wellness. In addition to creating an environment that promotes healthy lifestyle choices Hāna Fresh is an agricultural based economic engine that contributes to the overall economic vitality of the Hāna district while maintaining its rural character. It provides sustainable agri-business employment and training opportunities for district residents and increases the food security of this remote population. The success of the Hana Fresh Farm has been limited by numerous infrastructure issues that require mediation, the lack of available land and water are among them. Transportation and distribution issues, the cost of organic soil amendments and organic pesticides, most of which must be brought in from the mainland, the myriad of requirements for organic certification and food safety are just a few of the issues small farmers face every day.

On behalf of Hana Health and those whom we serve, please pass HB 2703 so that we can begin to address the systemic challenges that prevent the growth of agriculture and food sustainability in Hawaii; and the health and wellness of our communities. Thank you.

Cheryl Vasconcellos  
Executive Director  
Hana Health

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 10:09 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** laniw@hiagtourism.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lani Medina Weigert  
Organization: Hawaii Agritourism Assoc.  
E-mail: [laniw@hiagtourism.org](mailto:laniw@hiagtourism.org)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 10:07 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** pomai@aklmaui.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Pomai Weigert  
Organization: Alii Kula Lavender  
E-mail: [pomai@aklmaui.com](mailto:pomai@aklmaui.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 9:14 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** Thorneabbott@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Thorne Abbott  
Organization: CoastalZone.com  
E-mail: [Thorneabbott@yahoo.com](mailto:Thorneabbott@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

### Comments:

As a disaster management planner and professional, it is imperative that we can feed our citizenry in the event of a significant coastal hazard. The bill helps reduce our current over reliance on imported food. Should a substantial tsunami, hurricane or other calamity hit the islands, cargo shipping would be impaired and food supplies could dwindle critically. Requiring a moratorium on agricultural land conversion does not stop development, it merely balances it until sufficient and/or innovative means of growing food are implemented, for example roof top gardens. This is the best means to achieve a free lunch during hard times. Please support food security and improve our Island's resiliency.

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 5:20 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** kalamar001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ryan A. Kalama  
Organization: Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club  
E-mail: [kalamar001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kalamar001@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 1/28/2012

Comments:



## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 9:01 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** reinaharris@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Reina M. Ahern Harris, MD  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [reinaharris@gmail.com](mailto:reinaharris@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/29/2012

### Comments:

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the committee:

I was born and raised in Hawaii, and I value our unique but remote location in the Pacific. Understanding that, historically, the native Hawaiians were once self-sufficient, living off the land using specialized farming and fishing techniques, I was appalled to learn that we now import up to 90% of our food. In the wake of recent natural disasters such as the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, it is not difficult for me to imagine that an unexpected natural disaster (if not a man-made one) could disrupt the food supply. This makes us extremely vulnerable in our island state.

As a physician, I can also attest to the health benefits of fresh produce over processed foods, especially in conditions such as diabetes and obesity.

We need to encourage Hawaii's government to reduce our dependence on imported food. Achieving this goal to double the amount of food locally grown would be the first step.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

## hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Cynthia Albers [cdahawaii@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 11:04 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Aloha,f

I am writing to provide testimony in support of HB 2703, an important step toward food sovereignty in Hawaii. There are a multitude of compelling reasons for law-makers to adopt this bill, among them:

- As we replaced locally grown produce with imported processed food we have ushered a wave of diet related disease like diabetes and obesity.
- In the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left
- In the event of a strike or natural disaster we have enough food to last about a week. That makes us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.
- Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 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 decrease in imported foods will result in a significant decrease in packaging waste, a problem that continues to escalate as landfills statewide are reaching limits and effective disposal of wastes remains elusive.

Mahalo for supporting this step in the right direction by passing HB 2703.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Albers

RR 2, Box 6256  
Pahoa, HI 96778

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Victoria B. Anderson [vanderso@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 2:07 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Dear Legislators:

Please support HB 2703. It is already incredibly dangerous that we don't grow more of our own food locally-this must increase rather than decrease! It is frightening to think that we are paving over more and more of our farmlands. Hawaii is geographically isolated and vulnerable enough as it is-we must stop and reverse this trend! Growing more of our own local produce will create jobs and respect for land and environment, will make us less vulnerable when natural disasters come, keep more money in the state, and promote more healthy food options.

Please support this bill as well as the reclassification moratorium in it, to give it teeth in terms of enforcement.

--

Victoria B. Anderson  
Department of Linguistics  
University of Hawai`i at Manoa  
<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~vanderso/>  
[vanderso@hawaii.edu](mailto:vanderso@hawaii.edu); 808-956-5830

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

**Avoid cruelty to animals.**

**Choose a vegetarian diet.**

*Every little bit helps.*

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** Harvey Arkin [alohaxtc@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 7:44 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Aloha,

Please support HB 2703, which would preserve farmland and boost our economy. At the moment, according to the USDA, we import at least 90% of everything we eat, that's dangerous and unsustainable. Fresh local produce is much better than the shipped in produce. I buy as much local produce as possible.

Mahalo,

Harvey Arkin  
3349 Anoa'i Pl  
Hnl, HI 96822

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Lauren Armstrong [lauren.kehau@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 10:27 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Dear representatives,

I'm writing to ask you to support HB 2703 this Wednesday, which would set a goal for the state of Hawaii to produce at least 20% of its food locally by 2020. This seems like a reasonable and necessary goal to me. I am a graduate student at UH Manoa studying Urban and Regional Planning. I grew up on Maui and am sad to see a lot of agricultural land being converted to houses throughout the state..

We used to grow 50% of our own food. In the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left. In the event of a strike or natural disaster we have enough food to last about a week. That makes us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions. As we replaced locally grown produce with imported processed food we unleashed a wave of diet related disease like diabetes and obesity.

Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 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. And above all: to be effective the target needs enforcement provisions - it's essential that the threat of a reclassification moratorium remain in the bill.

Thank you for reading what I have to say.

Sincerely,  
Lauren

Masters Candidate, Department of Urban and Regional Planning  
(808) 281-8385

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Mika Ashley-Hollinger [kuponono.aina@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 12:09 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

I am in support of HB 2703 because we can not survive on tourism alone. Replacing 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 long term jobs...not short term construction jobs.

Hawai'i used to produce 50% of it's own food, in the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland!

No Farms No Food

Mahalo

Mika Ashley-Hollinger

Kilauea, Kaua'i

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 10:53 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** Rick.barboza@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Rick Barboza  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [Rick.barboza@gmail.com](mailto:Rick.barboza@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/28/2012

Comments:

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** rob@electronicinsight.com on behalf of Rob Barreca [rob@surfbeyond.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 2:10 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

There is nothing more important than our access to food. Being on an island we are especially vulnerable and at an economic disadvantage when we rely on outside sources for food. Right now, we import at least 90% of everything we eat. This is ridiculous.

We used to grow 50% of our own food here in Hawaii, but in the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left. If a strike, attack or natural disaster occurred, we have only seven days of food on the island to feed ourselves!

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. There is a very strong sentiment growing among Hawaii residents encouraging shopping for local, organic produce. The tide is shifting and we must make a stand to foster local agriculture again.

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

Rob Barreca  
Resident of Palolo Valley  
3535 Maluhia St.  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
808-224-1905



hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** TaroGifts@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 3:50 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

January 29, 2012

Dear Sirs;

I am writing in support of HB2703. I am a small farmer and I recognize the importance of Hawaii growing more food. It is crazy that we import so much food when we have a year-long growing season. WE should be EXPORTING food! I would love to be able to afford one or two employees. Please stop allowing urban sprawl to take over prime farmland. I hear that in California, they bulldozed all kinds of orchards to build houses. This makes no sense.

All schools should require at least one class in growing food. All students should be able to have the opportunity to reach under a chicken to feel that warm egg, to pull a carrot out of the ground, and in general to learn where food comes from. Thank-you in advance for putting this bill through.

Aloha from the Big Island! Edie Bikle Taro Patch Farm

28, January, 2012

Dear House of Representatives,

I am writing to ask that you support HB2703. As a resident of Hawai'i I believe it is extremely important and necessary to encourage development of local food resources.

As someone who shops at farmers markets (particularly at KCC and Mānoa Marketplace) as well as buys local food products from grocery stores, I know that Hawai'i-grown food is desired and sought out by others as well. If locally produced foods were to increase, their prices would go down and even more people would be inclined and able to purchase such goods.

Furthermore, supporting locally is only practical. Hawai'i is the most isolated archipelago in the world, yet the majority of our food is imported. Growing food locally means food security. It means decreasing our dependence on foreign oil. Additionally, it will provide long-term jobs and is responsible use of land.

Please vote in favor of HB2703. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chai Blair-Stahn

## hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Robyn Blaisdell [blue2.indigo@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 11:14 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

I have lived in Hawaii for 23 years. More and more people are moving to the Islands and there simply is not enough food grown here. There are a few people that bring their produce to flea markets, or malls, but as you know most of our locally grown food is exported. This is ridiculous!! With the economy down as it is here, people are not spending money on essentials for the home as they once did. Prices are sky high and that makes it impossible for some people to afford fresh produce grown locally. Try going into the supermarket and check out the prices of food here in the Islands. I've heard visitors complain about sticker shock!!

My point is that we need to be able to support ourselves in case of an emergency of some kind. So it is extremely important for us to keep this in mind when we vote of HB 2703.

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Jennifer Bojanowski [jenboj@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:46 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

As a voting, tax-paying Kailua resident, I strongly support this bill for the multitude of compelling, common sense reasons such as those laid out by the Sierra Club and other supporters. Maintaining the enforcement language regarding land use is absolutely critical to prevent the bill from becoming nothing more than placating words and empty sentiment. Please take this issue seriously, stand up, and take this action for a better, more secure, more sustainable way of life here in Hawaii.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Bojanowski  
Kailua, HI 96734  
808-433-4711

Sent from my iPhone

## hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 1:27 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** taiishnadai808@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Rebecca Branham  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [taiishnadai808@gmail.com](mailto:taiishnadai808@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/28/2012

**Comments:**

This bill is so important for us. It's only a beginning step towards where we need to go, but it is a step. Frankly, I can't see any negatives and so many positives.

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Patricia Cadiz [pbc5@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:36 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

I support the purpose of this bill.

Sent from my iPhone

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Stephen Canham [swc156@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 3:55 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Dear House Members of the Committee on Agriculture (and others): I urge your support for HB 2703, which would mandate that the state produce one half of its own food by 2020. I grew up in agriculture. My father and grandfather were citrus ranchers in Southern California, and during the post WWII boom I personally witnessed the demise of the California citrus industry and the relentless paving over of some of the most fertile land in the world in response to unbridled greed of developers and uncontrolled urban sprawl. I see the same thing happening here in Hawaii, our home for over 30 years. With this frightening difference: we cannot rely on rail and trucking to bring in food from other adjacent regions. We cannot eat cement and rebar. Period. We absolutely must preserve, nourish, and enlarge what viable agricultural lands are still left in the state.

I do not envision the kind of investor-driven agri-business that is changing the profile of farming in the Midwest. I am considering relatively small, diverse, sustainable, environmentally ethical farming, which is a very workable model for Hawaii. Such agriculture would create and maintain jobs all the way along the supply chain in a way that construction does not. The land is renewable, sustainable; once in place, poured cement or steel framing does nothing to maintain jobs or create new ones—for decades or longer. Adding square mile after square mile of construction is a mindless, short-term solution to a temporary (though difficult) economic situation, and it just repeats the tragedy of the Pomona Valley, San Diego County, or Riverside County CA in terms of destroying agriculture and the livelihoods that it sustains.

Again, please give HB 2703 your most serious consideration and support. I welcome a reply, but if your time is short, I would much rather you put it into advocacy for issues such as this which have critical implications for our future.

Respectfully yours,

Stephen Canham, PhD  
46-156 Nahiku Place  
Kaneohe, HI 967844

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Cathy OLeary Carey [cathycaper@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 3:24 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Dear Legislator,

It is shocking that a very high percentage of food is imported to Hawaii, when the state could grow its own food, reduce unnecessary costs and produce healthier food while using less energy in the process.

In Waianae, the large number of fast food restaurants must have something to do with dietary health problems.

It seems home grown food ought to be #1 on the list of the right thing to do to promote good food, food independence, local farming to improve citizen health and create jobs .

Hawaii used to grow 50% of its own food and can do it again.

Please vote for HB 2703 the bill that would double the amount of food Hawaii grows by 2020 or earlier.

Cathy OLeary Carey  
Makaha Valley



## hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 4:34 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** samuel.chesser@ml.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Samuel Chesser  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [samuel.chesser@ml.com](mailto:samuel.chesser@ml.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

### Comments:

- Around the time of statehood we used to grow 50% of our own food.
- In the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left
- In the event of a strike or natural disaster we have enough food to last about a week. That makes us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.
- As we replaced locally grown produce with imported processed food we unleashed a wave of diet related disease like diabetes and obesity.
- Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 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.
- And above all: to be effective the target needs enforcement provisions - it's essential that the threat of a reclassification moratorium remain in the bill.

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** Dawn Christopher [tiare2bloom@live.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 9:15 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

**Importance:** High

Please pass this bill on Wednesday. It is of great importance for the well being and future of Hawaii.

Dawn Christopher  
Pahoa, Hi 96778

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** randy ching [oahurandy@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 4:30 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** in strong support of HB2703 - relating to food self-sufficiency

HB2703

House Agriculture Committee

Hearing on Wednesday, February 1 at 8 a.m. in conference room 312

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the committee,

I strongly support HB2703, relating to food self-sufficiency. We need to grow more food locally. We cannot continue to import 90% of the food we eat here in the state. That is unsustainable. Before western contact, the indigenous people of Hawaii grew 100% of their food. At the time of statehood, we grew locally about half of the food we ate.

To ensure the state meets its goal of 20% local food production, the threat of a moratorium (reclassifying ag to urban) must remain in the bill. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Randy Ching  
Honolulu  
[oahurandy@yahoo.com](mailto:oahurandy@yahoo.com)

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Denise Colgrove [nomadathart@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 7:57 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Hello,

I think it is very important for Hawaii to increase it's food production. We have vast tracts of land that was sugar and pineapple land that can be farmed for food for the Island. What happens if there is a shipping strike or Air strike? As it is now with the surcharges on fuel for things shipped here it is getting more and more expensive to feed a family and the job situation is not that great. I live on the big Island and our Farmer's Markets are terrific but they are not so great on the other Islands. I am not a farmer, but I see the need for more agriculture on our Islands and most specifically for food.

Thank you for your attention and please pass bill number HB2703.

Thank you. Denise J. Colgrove, DVM  
Hilo,  
Hawaii.

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** John Conti [jjinparadise@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:08 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Food is so expensive like everything in Hawaii. We need more locally grown food.

**hashem3 - Casey**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 3:14 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** diane.cosh@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Diane  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [diane.cosh@gmail.com](mailto:diane.cosh@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/29/2012

Comments:

01/30/2012

House of Representatives the twenty-sixth Legislature, Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chairperson

Hearing Date: 02/1/12

RE: HB 2703 relating to food self-sufficiency

1. TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2703 CREATING FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY LEGISLATION

To the Honorable Chairperson Clift Tsuji and Hawaii State Legislature.

As our nation continues to rely upon fossil fuels to fertilize, harvest and ship our food it is more and more important to eat local. In our state, we import over 90% of our food supply. This burdens the people with excessive food prices due to shipping. This is also dangerous. Dangerous in the event of a natural or manmade disaster that could possibly isolate the islands from the mainland. In this event, we do not have the means to feed the people. We need to make progress to create demand for local produce to allow the market to adjust and expand our food production. This will not happen without guiding legislation. The benefits of growing local food are enormous. It can create jobs, reduce food prices, maintain Hawaii's agricultural heritage, maintain Hawaii's nature and undeveloped beauty all while helping the environment by reducing the distance that food has to travel from farm to plate.

Thank you for allowing me to present testimony today regarding this resolution ensure we continue down a path of sustainability. My name is Lanson Cosh. I grew up on a farm in upstate NY and now practice Structural Engineering here in Hawai'i. I am a resident of Kailua.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Lanson A. Cosh PE

432 Kihapai St.

Kailua, HI

917 548 9676

## hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Nancy Davlantes [ndavlantes@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 3:43 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

House Committee on Agriculture Hearing  
Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 8 a.m., Room 312

Dear Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the committee:

My name is Nancy Davlantes and I am delighted to see that the legislature is tackling the issue of food self-sufficiency and sustainability in Hawaii.

By requiring the state to double the amount of food grown here by 2020, we will encourage major landowners to dedicate a portion of their holdings to food farming.

We all know the gloomy statistics:

- In the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left
- In the event of a strike or natural disaster we have enough food to last about a week. That makes us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.
- As we replaced locally grown produce with imported processed food we unleashed a wave of diet related disease like diabetes and obesity.
- Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 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.
- And above all: to be effective the target needs enforcement provisions – it's essential that the threat of a reclassification moratorium remain in the bill.

We used to grow 50% of our own food--there's no reason why we can't do it again, if the will is there. We have a chance to spark a farming renaissance in Hawaii.

Let us hope we don't blow it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Nancy Davlantes  
45-571 Awanene Place, Apt. A  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

[ndavlantes@aol.com](mailto:ndavlantes@aol.com)



hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Angela [advsurfsail@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:08 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

It's pretty basic economics. The more land we have to grow food. The more we have to eat on an island, the less we have to ship in, the lower the cost to eat.

Also, do we really want to look like another Orange County, CA suburb in the middle of the ocean? If new developments are to built they should be 1acre MINIMUM lot size with a low maximum build out cap to encourage home farming.

Respectfully, Angela DeVargas, B.S., Urban and Regional Planning, University of Southern California

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** Julia Devrell [tyandjul@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 6:23 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Dear Legislators,

I hope you'll support HB 2703 requiring Hawaii to double the amount of food grown by 2020. I've been a resident of HI for almost 40 years, and have been appalled that there isn't much local produce in the big chain grocery stores. It'd be such a big contribution to our economy and health to support local farmers, providing jobs, land availability, and fresh produce to our residents and visitors.

Thank you,

Julia and Tyler Devrell  
Kapa`a, HI 96746

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** ron dixon [xidnor@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

In Hawaii we have enough food to last about one week were supplies to be disrupted.

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** Cliff DeVries [cliffdevries@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 8:09 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Testimony on

HB 2703, *a bill that would require the state to double the amount of food we grow by 2020*

At the moment, according to the USDA, we import at least 90% of everything we eat. Let's face it: that's dangerous and unsustainable. The bill is meant to encourage major landowners to dedicate a portion of their estates to food farming.

A few summary points to help the committee to allow the bill to move forward:

- We used to grow 50% of our own food.
- In the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left
- In the event of a strike or natural disaster we have enough food to last about a week. That makes us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.
- As we replaced locally grown produce with imported processed food we unleashed a wave of diet related disease like diabetes and obesity.
- Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 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.
- And above all: to be effective the target needs enforcement provisions – it's essential that the threat of a reclassification moratorium remain in the bill.

We need to find alternative ways to generate income for the state and this bill would help to create these extra jobs and generate extra cash flow for our feeble economy.

Cliff DeVries  
2543 Makaulii Pl,  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
808 737-4421

## hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** tabatha donley [niponneko@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 9:13 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Aloha,

Please support HB 2703. As a citizen of Hawaii, I highly prefer eating local food, as it is fresher and supports local communities. Here are other facts:

- We used to grow 50% of our own food.
- In the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left
- In the event of a strike or natural disaster we have enough food to last about a week. That makes us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.
- As we replaced locally grown produce with imported processed food we unleashed a wave of diet related disease like diabetes and obesity.
- Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 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.
- And above all: to be effective the target needs enforcement provisions – it's essential that the threat of a reclassification moratorium remain in the bill.

Mahalo,

Tabatha Donley

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Christine Eason [greenhawaii@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 3:34 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my support for HB 2703. Hawaii needs to increase its food production and reduce its dependence on imported food. Hawaii MUST think long term (for a change) and use the abundant resources available. Not only would we would create jobs and stimulate the local economy with local food production, but we would reduce our carbon imprint and our vulnerability to shipping strikes or natural disasters.

If we continue to “pave paradise and put in a parking lot” tourism in Hawaii will take a hit. No one wants to travel to an island that is over-built and barren. Our lush landscapes, fertile valleys and pristine ocean are what tourists want to see—not a concrete jungle. If Hawaii makes a real commitment to agriculture, we will keep the tourists coming.

I, for one, like to enjoy produce and animal products that have not been shipped half-way across the world. Here on the Big Island we have some of the best farmers markets in the world. There is growing support for our farmers and I can't think of a group that deserves it more.

Do the smart thing, please. Support HB2703.

*Christine Eason  
Greenhouse Productions  
P.O. Box 6283  
Kamuela, HI. 96743  
(808) 885-4272*

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 10:19 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** namastealoha@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Mike Elhoff  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [namastealoha@gmail.com](mailto:namastealoha@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/29/2012

Comments:  
Please pass this bill!!

We need to support local food production now.

## hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Mellencs@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:56 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** Rep. Cindy Evans; Rep. Denny Coffman; Rep. Robert Herkes; Smith6849@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

I am writing to ask you to support the passage of HB 2703 which establishes guidelines for food sustainability in the islands.

I have lived on Hawaii Island for 11 years and believe strongly in the adage 'Buy Locally.'

This means that I choose to shop at local grocers who provides ample opportunities to buy local goods... not just bananas, papayas and pineapples, but all sorts of locally grown and produced foods. By doing so I am able to purchase fresh wholesome foods and help provide a livelihood for our island farmers.

Here is a partial list of what I personally buy locally, and I'm hoping that you support local farmers and growers too...

Big Island beef, lamb, veal

Locally caught mahimahi, swordfish, ahi etc.

Products grown and produced at NELHI such as lobster and Bio-Astin.

Big Island produced eggs and milk, and cheese

Big Island grown avocados, spinach, zucchini, romaine and other lettuce products, tomatoes, volcano potatoes, green beans, kale, sprouts, eggplant, bok choy, snow peas etc.

Big Island grown apple bananas, papayas, tangerines and other fruit.

Big Island produced tortillas, salsa, honey, jams, herbs

Kona coffee, and tea

Kona, chocolate, vanilla, mac nuts, cookies, mac pies :)

Oahu grown vegetables and fruits

Maui pineapples, rum and strawberries (when available)

Big Island beer--Kona brew and Mehana beers (Hawaii Is. and Kauai)

I appreciate the freshness of these products and am willing to pay more to purchase local items. I realize that cost is a limiting factor for many families with more mouths to feed. However, I feel that if more food were grown here, the cost might be less of a factor and more folks would be able to enjoy locally grown foods and products.

Please support the passage of this bill to encourage more land to be used for agricultural purposes, to increase the amount of locally grown food and thus provide a greater degree of island sustainability.

Thanks so much for your consideration of our request.

Aloha,

Mary Ellen & Bob Smith  
77-262 Maliko St, Kailua Kona HI  
[mellencs@aol.com](mailto:mellencs@aol.com)



Testimony File - HB2703  
Jennifer Ersbak

Sustainable agriculture/food systems are critical to the health of communities, but the issue is that much more pressing in Hawaii. With 90% of our food imported, there's an incredibly dependency on the "outside world" to supply the islands. Food security needs to start in our own backyard!

HB2703 Relating to Food Self-Sufficiency  
Testimony

January 30, 2012

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Agriculture,

I am in support of HB2703, relating to food self-sufficiency and doubling the amount of food grown in the State of Hawaii by 2020.

You may be interested to know that this is my first time submitting testimony – ever. This should give you some idea about how important this issue is to me and why I've taken the time to share my thoughts. Like many people, I am concerned about the future of Hawaii. As a state we import nearly 92% of our food and send billions of dollars overseas to pay for imports. We are also one of the most isolated land masses in the entire world. These facts speak to the tremendous need to amend current practices and change the status quo. How can we openly acknowledge our vulnerability, and continue to live in a way that goes against everything we know? The choice is simple – adapt or die. Achieving food self-sufficiency in the State of Hawaii is *the most important issue* for this 2012 Legislative Session and I encourage you to support HB2703.

Remember, we have the opportunity to stand as a model for the rest of the world and can be the change we all wish to see! There is no better time to act than now.

Sincerely,



Katie Ersbak

233 Hawaii Loa Street (Niu Valley)

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 10:27 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** merway@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Marjorie Erway  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [merway@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:merway@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 1/28/2012

**Comments:**

Aloha Chairman Tsuji and Committee members!

I love the concept that this bill would require the State to double the amount of food we grow by 2020! Just think -- replacing a mere 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 jobs!

This is a great chance to spark a farming renaissance in Hawai'i and I urge you to completely support this bill.

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** justine espiritu [espiritu.justine@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 3:15 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

From: Justine Espiritu  
To: The Committee on Agriculture  
Wednesday February 1, 2012 8:00am  
HB2703

Dear Members,

Thank you for reading my letter in support for HB 2703.

I believe this bill's commitment to double food production by 2020 will be a great step towards diversifying Hawaii's economy and increasing our food security. An increase in local food production will leave us less dependent on imported food and oil as well as less vulnerable in the event of natural disasters, economic disruption, and other external factors out of our control. It will increase the availability of fresher and more nutritious food options than currently available considering Hawaii imports close to 90% of our food. It will show great initiative and forward-thinking on the part of legislatures to prioritize local food production ASAP, and this bill is a step in the right direction. I believe this bill will catalyze greater commitment of resources and investment in local food production and force Hawaii to take on issues that have long plagued our local farmers such as land use planning, resource allocation, and tax incentives to make farming a viable career in Hawaii. Please carefully consider the meaningful implications of committing to doubling our local food production by 2020. Hawaii is capable of achieving this goal, and our island will be more secure and robust as a result.

Thank you,

Justine Espiritu

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** Mitch Evans [me@dmesys.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 11:33 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Gentlemen:

Increasing our states capacity to grow its own food has many benefits. First, of course, is increasing our supply. As you know, we keep only a 1 week supply on hand. More locally grown food means more local jobs. The contribution to our social and cultural lives should not be ignored. Consuming more locally grown food means less dependence on high carbohydrate foods that are leading to obesity and diabetes. We would keep more of our money circulating within the state, with less going out to external suppliers.

These are only a few of the many good reasons to approve the mandate to double our production of locally grown food. I urge you to approve this measure.

Mitchell Evans  
Honokaa, HI  
808 775 9512

**hashem3 - Casey**

---

**From:** michaelgenger@juno.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 3:24 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 2703/Hawaii Food Sustainability

Aloha, Please support HB 2703. Hawaii's only sensible course towards self sufficiency is to grow and produce food here in the islands. Care for the Earth, Kindness to All,

Sincerely, Michael Genger

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Gisele Hetu [waikikigigi@rocketmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 6:09 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Aloha ~

I have lived on Oahu for almost 10 years and my son was born at Kapiolani Hospital, so he and I are definitely locals, and WANT to stay here, but the high price of life, mostly that of food, may make it necessary for us to leave our beloved island. I have been worried about the lack of locally grown food for awhile now and to hear that this bill could pass is a BIG step in the right direction!

I hope that all those in power to make the right decision will do so, and even raise the 20% goal by 2020 to 40 or 50%!

20% won't DO, and this is years before oil will be at a crazy high price, when we will have no choice but to shell out outrageous amounts for our bare necessities if we don't greatly improve on our agricultural infrastructure.

This is a NO BRAINER!

PLEASE do MUCH MORE for Hawaii's people, than just a mediocre, inadequate 20%!!!!

I would also like to help if I can in any way, to educate or help with marketing, articles and or press releases, if need be.

MAHALO for being wise and educated regarding this urgent issue.

Gisele Hetu  
808-636-6844

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Michelle Galimba [mgalimba@kuahiwiranch.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 6:53 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\* Support for HB2703

I fully support the intent of HB 2703 to create a strong political mandate to double local food production. This will create jobs and a more resilient community in Hawaii. We need to create more jobs in sustainable agriculture as soon as possible.

Aloha,  
Michelle Galimba  
Rancher

cell: (808) 430-4927  
[mgalimba@kuahiwiranch.com](mailto:mgalimba@kuahiwiranch.com)



**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 10:40 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** woodygarrison@windstream.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Woody Garrison  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [woodygarrison@windstream.net](mailto:woodygarrison@windstream.net)  
Submitted on: 1/28/2012

Comments:

January 28, 2012

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

DATE: Wednesday, February 01, 2012

TIME: 8:00am

PLACE: Conference Room 312

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI

**Re: HB 2703, Relating to FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

Dear Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee,

As a resident of Hawaii and strong supporter of agriculture, I support House Bill 2703. Increasing food production in our islands makes good sense. This would benefit the entire population of Hawaii in many tangible ways.

With food security a very real issue, replacing just 10% of imported processed food could create over 2,000 jobs, have direct health benefits such as reduction in obesity and diabetes, and most importantly, allow our island nation to be less vulnerable to supply disruptions in the event of natural disaster or human-created disruptions.

With passage of HB 2703, major landowners would be encouraged to dedicate a portion of their estate to farming and billions otherwise spent on importing processed food would be kept in-state, having a dramatic economic impact for our region. To be truly effective, it is essential to include enforcement provisions and that the threat of a reclassification moratorium remain in the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Cheryl Ginter  
cgquest@yahoo.com  
PO Box 298  
Mountain View, HI 96771

**hashem3 - Casey**

---

**From:** Mare Grace [maregrace9@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 11:04 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony

Dear Legislators,

I am asking for a yes vote on HB-2703.

Here on the Big Island, we have a lot of land that could be used to grow food to feed our people. Our needs are great for healthy, locally grown food as many of our people go hungry.

Our dependence on food shipped here is a travesty and could be a major disaster if (when) there is a shipping problem. Many of our people who are out of work would be happy to work on farms if that were available. I know a number of young people who dream of making their living off the land if only it was possible.

Please vote yes.

Thank you

Mare Grace P.O. Box 1229 Kamuela, HI 96743 808-885-8559 <[maregrace9@yahoo.com](mailto:maregrace9@yahoo.com)>

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2012 9:34 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** shaglund@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sue Haglund  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [shaglund@hotmail.com](mailto:shaglund@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/27/2012

Comments:

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** Cory (Martha) Harden [mh@interpac.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:32 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Dear Legislators,

Please support HB 2703.

It's NUTS to depend on a food supply chain thousands of miles long. It's vulnerable to rising fuel prices, labor disputes, natural disasters, and armed aggression. It takes money out of Hawai'i, and brings us invasive species, and processed-food diseases like diabetes and obesity.

Please keep the reclassification moratorium so this bill has TEETH.

Mahalo,

Cory Harden  
PO Box 10265  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96721  
[mh@interpac.net](mailto:mh@interpac.net)  
808-968-8965

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** C. Hansen [hansenc003@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 9:54 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Hello,

I am writing in support of HB 2703. As a political science instructor, I know that we are headed for a collision of demographics. World population is rapidly increasing, energy supplies (particularly oil) are becoming tighter and will continue to tighten, and as residents of Hawaii we are highly reliant on the costs of transportation to bring in much of our food.

Even without world conflict, this is a worrisome picture. Add in war, and you have a recipe for instability in the world's supply chains, including those that deliver food.

To be prepared for these possible scenarios, one of the best (and least expensive) precautions Hawaii can take is to grow more of its own food. This would also serve as an opportunity for local entrepreneurs to build businesses and create jobs.

I hope you will support HB 2703.

With Aloha,

Christine Hansen, Ph.D.

## hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Selina Heaton [selina@egofree.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:57 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

To whom it may concern:

I learned that we grow over 800,000 lbs of avocados here, and over 350,000 lbs go to waste because of the importing of "more uniform looking" avocados are imported. This is disgraceful! We have the best avocados here and do not need to import any!

I am very concerned about the amount of imported processed food we have here in Hawaii. Diet related diseases like obesity and diabetes are epidemic because of this.

We could create thousands more jobs here by just replacing 10% of imported food.

These islands could be completely self sustaining and we could save the billions of dollars we send overseas for imported food which could stay in the state and have major economic impact.

Please help pass this bill!

Mahalo  
Selina Heaton

Selina Heaton  
PO Box 30867  
Anahola, 96703  
760.208.1820 home

Subvert the dominant paradigm...

hashem1 - Julie

---

From: january [januarywaimea@gmail.com]  
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 11:23 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Subject: Support for HB 2703

January 28, 2012

Dear House of Representatives,

I have been living in Waimea/Kamuela, on the Big Island of Hawai'i since June 1976. I think I represent a diverse cross-section of the population here. I am "hau'oli", and married to a Hawaiian.

I have owned a successful restaurant here, volunteered for 30 years in most of the schools in this area, been actively involved in our theaters, and worked part-time as a care-giver over the years to numerous elderly residents.

There has been an increasing awareness in the Big Island population about the crucial connection between a fresh healthy diet, and a healthy life. More and more of us our growing, and raising foods we can in order to eat fresh, healthy products. Another benefit to all is the healthy environment that agriculturally grown foods provides for those who work growing, raising, packaging, delivering, or selling Big Island raised foods.

There is an obvious "snowball effect" of the health & happiness of individuals who grow & sell foods here and the happiness they feel and radiate in the process. Come visit any Farmers' Market and feel how good it is, not only to buy fresh island grown foods, knowing how delicious and healthy they are, but also just interacting with the very farmer who grew the food, or flowers, or raised the sheep, the cows, the chickens with care, and interest in the consumer as well.

Hawai'i Island will proudly go forward as an example in being a caring, food producing Agri-Community, willing to put in the effort for a healthier outcome: Healthy Happy People

Please vote a strong, healthy YES in support of HB 2703

Thank you,

Most Sincerely,

january Herron

Box 1538

Kamuela, Hawai'i

96743



hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Marvin Heskett [mhesketts@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 9:07 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Aloha,

I am in strong support for HB 2703 RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY. As a voting and tax paying resident of Hawaii, I am concerned with the state's current tendency to support land development for building over farming. The planet is very rapidly approaching a crossroads with world food supply and population. Neighbors just to our West are already feeling the pains of inadequate nutrition for their populations. Where there is currently an abundance of food in America and Hawaii, the global picture is changing and we have the opportunity to plan on arriving where we would like to be as our populations expand right now. As global citizens, we're also responsible for the result of our actions today. The current food distribution systems which we rely on are leaving a heavy carbon footprint that will invariably lend itself to further climate change. HB2703 lends itself to solutions on both of these fronts by putting us on the right path to food sustainability. It will prepare us to reduce our wasteful footprint while taking control of our course to a sustained nutrition rich Hawaii as global populations expand. Furthermore, having a greater abundance of local food sources will provide us greater resilience to natural disasters, dock strikes or other unforeseen emergencies. This bill will also bring a lot of money back into our local economy rather than squander it to a few un-supporting off island ventures.

Please do the right thing for yourself, your community and our future generations by supporting HB2703.

Thank You,  
Marvin Heskett  
3252 Palolo Terrace Pl.  
Honolulu, HI 96816

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Kevin [kevin.fantz@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 8:53 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Aloha,

Please support food sustainability in Hawaii, I need fresher stuff, and would happily grow more local edible plants for consumption and resale if I could just find a landowner willing to lease me a small agricultural parcel for a reasonable cost. Right now on South Shore Kaua'i that is next to impossible. It sounds like HB 2703 may help with this issue. Mahalo

Kevin Houck  
Kalaheo

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Mele Aloha [carolynnhulet@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 11:09 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Dear Senators and Representatives & Involved Parties:

Please support HB 2703.

I was on Maui when 911 happened, and believe me, it really gave us something to think about. The airports were closed and we did not know if they would reopen again. We got an upfront look at how it would be if we were not able to import items to the islands.

I am happy to say, life resumed a while thereafter, but not without changing a lot of residents outlooks.

Please support HB 2703. It is critical that we island peoples become self sufficient in agriculture. There is no good reason that I can think of that we are not already. We were once upon a time.

With increasing threats, solar flares, economic unrest, we need to be able to take care of ourselves.

It is also a 'no brainer' that we could be doing some real 'upscale' exporting as well. Our economic problems could be lessened and we could become much more prosperous. We have foods that grow here that the rest of the world would love to have.

We could be researching and developing many products made with local ingredients.

Let's get on the ball and do something that is so simple, and that could be so far reaching in solving our problems, by supporting HB 2703 and going way beyond that.

Thank you!

Mele Aloha  
a.k.a. Carol Lynn Hulet

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Ellen Jacobs [emjacobs2001@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 7:49 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Food security is crucial for the well being of all of Hawaii's citizens. 90% of our food has to be shipped in from other locations. If something caused a stop in this, what would we eat? Please pass HB 2703 to help assure that the citizens of Hawaii are well fed for years to come.

Ellen Jacobs  
citizen of Hawaii Island

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Lori Jaynes [halemanufarm@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 10:57 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

aloha, we definitely need to produce a larger amount of our food products, such as meat, poultry, eggs, fruit and vegetables. with our diverse climates we can grow everything and anything. we won't need to import, which uses unsustainable amount of petroleum based energy. we need to start a new generation of localvores. if we all work together and use different systems such as aquaponics, we won't need as much soil or petroleum based chemicals and pesticides. let's just do it and be a model for our nation in renewable, sustainable and healthy food choices. for me this is especially exciting, as i would like to own and operate an aquaponics farm, be a real job creator and offer healthy choices into our food supply. we don't need more resorts and developments, we need farms, dairies and pastureland for raising our own beef, lamb, goats. i support HB 2703 wholeheartedly.

hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** David Johnston [hawaiidhr@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 4:13 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

I support the effort of HB 2703. Please pass this bill for the future food supply of the State of Hawaii.

Thanks,

David Johnston

P.O. Box 388

Puunene, HI 96784

808-986-0626

Join the movement for Ecovillage Zoning in Maui County, Hawaii.

<http://ecovillagingmaui.grouply.com>

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** Marcia Kemble [mkemble@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 1:38 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

To members of the Legislature,

I'm writing to express my support for HB 2703, which would require the state to double the amount of food we grow in Hawaii by 2020.

I believe that it is of paramount importance that Hawaii move towards a path of sustainability, both with respect to food and energy sources. We are dangerously dependent on what we import. It is easy to get complacent about this, but if there were some sort of major calamity, either brought on by nature or by human conflict, we would realize how short-sighted we have been to allow ourselves to get to such a state of dependence on food and energy sources from off our shores.

Thank you for your attention and I hope you support HB 2703.

Marcia Kemble  
2055 Makiki St.  
Honolulu, HI 96822

[mkemble@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:mkemble@hawaii.rr.com)

## hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 2:18 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** clk@quixnet.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Carolyn L Knoll  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [clk@quixnet.net](mailto:clk@quixnet.net)  
Submitted on: 1/28/2012

**Comments:**

We used to grow 50% of our own food. We now import 90% of what we eat. That's dangerous and certainly unsustainable. Besides, in the event of a strike or natural disaster we have enough food to last about a week. That makes us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.

In the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left. Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 jobs. Additionally, 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.

This bill would double the amount of food we grow here in Hawaii by 2020. If we failed to meet that target, an automatic, but temporary, moratorium would halt all reclassification of large tracts of land from agriculture to urban until the standard was met. It's meant to encourage major landowners to dedicate a portion of their estates to food farming. And to be effective the bill needs enforcement provisions; it's essential that the threat of a reclassification moratorium remain in the bill.



**hashem3 - Casey**

---

**From:** theresa lee [edithyamashita@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 7:54 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** voting on HB 2702

To all members of the House of Representatives, State of Hawaii. Please vote yes on House Bill 2703. thank you theresa y lee 46-4085 Mamalahoa Hwy Honokaa Hawaii 96727

**From:** Sue Lindequist [suelinde@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 12:33 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

I strongly support Hawaii becoming agriculturally sustainable. I believe in the small farmer. I have often had a garden where I can grow my own vegetables. I prefer to live sustainably. I would like to see more land dedicated to farms and gardens here. This means that the laws regarding farmers and farm workers living on their land will need to be changed. I dont want to eat food that has been picked too long ago and then shipped here and I dont want to eat GMO food. Organic small farming is what I support.

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** Colleen Lawrence [aloharejuvenation@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 1:10 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Aloha, Hawaii has the potential to be self sufficient in growing food for our people. Presently should a natural disaster strike, we only have food for one week, making us very vulnerable to supply disruptions. Sustainable ag needs to be supported. It is essential that the threat of a reclassification moratorium remain in the bill. We have paved much of our farmlands and need to protect what is left from huge interests,

Aloha,  
Collen A Lawrence

--

Colleen A, Lawrence  
Aloha Rejuvenation Therapy, Llc.  
P.O. Box 5078  
Honokaa, Hawaii 96727  
808-775-9130

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Christine [cmaamaui@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 3:40 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Dear House Members,

Please give the peoples of Hawaii a real chance to commit to substantially increasing the amount of food we grow – which would preserve farmland and boost our economy. At the moment, according to the USDA, we import at least 90% of everything we eat. Let's face it: that's dangerous and unsustainable. Please seriously consider the following facts as we continually seek ways to improve our lives and our children's future:

- We used to grow 50% of our own food.
- In the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left
- In the event of a strike or natural disaster we have enough food to last about a week. That makes us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.
- As we replaced locally grown produce with imported processed food we unleashed a wave of diet related disease like diabetes and obesity.
- Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 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.
- And above all: to be effective the target needs enforcement provisions – it's essential that the threat of a reclassification moratorium remain in the bill.

Won't you please add your name to HB 2703 for a healthier future here in Hawaii? It just makes good sense, doesn't it?

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Trying to eat locally as we think globally,  
Christine MacDonald and family

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Steve Mazur [steven.mazur@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 1:14 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Aloha Members of the House,

I am in strong support of HB 2703 because it is crucial for everyone that calls Hawaii home to have a sufficient supply of local food. With current food supplies of only one week, how could we not encourage large land owners to utilize more land for growing food? While it would be great to encourage this with out passing legislative measures, we cannot take the chance that other objectives gain priority over something so vital to all of us. Food. If we wait for the corrective laws of economics to solve the best use of land issues, it will definitely be too late! Preservation is vital now and HB 2703 moves us towards that.

The very expensive Wholefoods and the farmer's markets that often have bargains, have two obvious things in common. They are extremely busy and they are the main distributors of local food. What this tells us is that locally grown food is in very high demand and the supply is not adequate; especially as the population continues to increase but the abundance of adequate and undeveloped ag land is decreasing. Preserving our limited resources to make energy and food local will not only provide security for all of us, but it will help keep more of our dollars here in Hawaii. I truly believe that the threat of a reclassification moratorium is crucial because gambling with our local food security is unacceptable. This bill will not solve all of our local food production problems, but will certainly move us in the right direction.

Mahalo for supporting HB 2703.

Steven Mazur  
3258 Catherine St.  
Honolulu, HI 96815  
c: 808.469.5022

**hashem3 - Casey**

---

**From:** Randolph McCreight [rmacpam@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 2:43 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

I totally support HB 2703.

Huge developments threaten the best of what is left of our agricultural lands.

The target of this bill needs enforcement provisions.

One of the best is the threat of reclassification which must remain in the bill.

With our long growing season, and good soil there is every reason why this state must be more self sufficient in food supply.

Sincerely

Randolph McCreight  
14-4820 Pua O Kapoho Road  
Pahoa HI 96778

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** sunsetyards@mac.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 7:50 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Dear politicians... leaders of Hawaii, and Please Support HB 2703 ,

- We used to grow 50% of our own food.
- In the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left
- In the event of a strike or natural disaster we have enough food to last about a week. That makes us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.
- As we replaced locally grown produce with imported processed food we unleashed a wave of diet related disease like diabetes and obesity.
- Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 jobs.
- We send billions of dollars overseas every year to import food – if that money

Please Support HB 2703 for Hawaii.

Joy McDougall  
N.Shore resident

## hashem1 - Julie


---

**From:** Gail McElrath [akele33@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 4:48 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

I'm writing to encourage the support for HB 2703. Having been born and raised in Hawaii, and living all of my 47 years of life here so far, I've seen the effects of Hawaii losing it's home-grown status. Just some of the pointers are as follows:

- We used to grow 50% of our own food.
- In the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left
- In the event of a strike or natural disaster we have enough food to last about a week. That makes us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.
- As we replaced locally grown produce with imported processed food we unleashed a wave of diet related disease like diabetes and obesity.
- Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 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.
- And above all: to be effective the target needs enforcement provisions – it's essential that the threat of a reclassification moratorium remain in the bill.

But, more personally, Hawaii needs to be self-sustainable for many reasons. To preserve the Island culture and community, to remain independent from rising shipping costs, etc. But also, so that we can ensure a fresh supply of food picked at the peak of ripeness versus the ones picked before and that rots before even getting here. Health, economy, family strings....so much is involved when we keep a lot of what we need on our Island. Please reconsider and vote to support this bill....a first step to keeping Hawaii the beautiful aina that it is.

Live with passion — Laugh out loud — Love deeply ~! 

Gail McElrath  
282-0824

Please consider the environment....don't print unless you have too. Mahalo!

"May all beings have happiness and the causes of happiness. May all beings be free of suffering and the causes of suffering." — Buddhist prayer

To help animals for free, visit the animal rescue site below and click daily:  
<http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com/clickToGive/home.faces?siteId=3>



**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2012 10:13 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** McQuillan.ashley@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ashley McQuillan  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [McQuillan.ashley@gmail.com](mailto:McQuillan.ashley@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/27/2012

**Comments:**

We are only reverting back to living with the land like ancient Hawaiians. This is not a new concept.

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Bill Metzger [wjmetzger@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 4:47 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Dear Legislators,

Many thanks for your public service; we appreciate your efforts on behalf of our precious State.

And thank you for considering the merits of HB 2703.

There are just many signs and warnings that we must turn our attentions to a program of home-grown, sustainable agriculture.

Too much of our money leaves the state and too much money goes to developers who pave over our precious farmland.

PLEASE lend your voice and vote to this important bill.

aloha,  
William Metzger  
3102 Beaumont Woods Place  
Honolulu, 96822  
988-6220

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** John Naylor [jdancer@kula.us]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 1:28 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** John Naylor  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Aloha,

I am writing in support for HB 2703. It's a no brainer that our State of Hawaii needs to support growing more food for it's people. We need to stop paving over prime ag land. We need to stop importing 90% of our food. We need to create more jobs in ag food production. Hawaii's people need to eat healthier. We need diversified ag which builds our soils and protects our waters, both fresh and ocean from run off full of top soil & chemicals.

We need to feed our people. We have one weeks supply of food on the island. If a natural or other type of disaster occurs, we are in trouble. This is dangerous and unsustainable.

Please support HB 2703

Mahalo,

John E Naylor  
P.O.Box 1749  
Makawao, Hi. 96768

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Mark Nokes [manokes@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:50 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** Rep. Scott Nishimoto  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Dear Representatives:

We urge you all to support HB 2707, a bill that is vital to Hawai'i's food sustainability and economic wellbeing.

According to the USDA, we import more than 90% of the food we eat here in the islands. That leaves us frighteningly vulnerable to supply disruptions caused by natural disasters, strikes, or other catastrophic events. With only about two weeks supply of food in the state at any one time, the prospect of going hungry is not one that appeals to us.

In addition, by importing over 90% of our food, we send billions of dollars out of the state every year. If even part of that were kept at home, it would have a significant economic impact. We could create 2300 local jobs by some estimates, just by producing 10% more of our food .

HB 2703 is the beginning of a solution to this problem, requiring that we double the amount of our food we grow here by 2020. This is still far below the 50% of our own food that we used to grow.

In order to be effective, however, the bill must contain enforcement provisions. It is essential that the automatic moratorium (on reclassification of large tracts of land from agricultural to urban until the standard is met) be retained in the bill.

This issue and the bill are tremendously important to our island state and the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Mark A. Nokes, Ph.D.  
Paula M. Nokes  
3805 Kana'ina Avenue Apt. 304  
(Diamond Head-Kapahulu)  
Honolulu 96815

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** Stuart Novick [snovick@hawaiifoodpolicycouncil.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 10:42 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Aloha,

As a person who had to make wholesale changes in his diet over forty years ago to cure severe health challenges, food means much more than just "something to eat".

Locally grown food is fresher, carries more valuable nutrients, and helps anchor us to the aina.

Of all the good things that our government could do for Hawaii's future, full support of growing food on our local farms is one of the greatest. It is not only healthier and more delicious. It creates an ever widening sector where solid, well-paying, meaningful jobs are plentiful.

Please vote YES!

Aloha,  
Stuart Novick

**hashem3 - Casey**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 8:12 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** t.oc.maui@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Tim O'Connor  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [t.oc.maui@gmail.com](mailto:t.oc.maui@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

**Comments:**

I urge you to support HB2703 for the immense, positive health, economic, and sustainability effects 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. Lastly we would be more effectively using our land while reducing the many negative side-effects of large mono-crops that benefit only the big corporations.

Patricia S. O'Kieffe ~ POB 1569 ~ Kamuela, HI ~ 96743

[ticiaok@mac.com](mailto:ticiaok@mac.com)

January 29,2012

Dear Representative,

Please support HB 2703.

Most of what is imported into Hawaii we have no choice but to import but we do have a choice about the amount of food we need to import.

We are farther from land than any other place else on earth so by importing most of what we use in our daily lives each one of us is responsible for leaving an exceptionally large footprint.

Additionally, if the ports on the West Coast shut down for any reason we are left extremely vulnerable. That has happened in the past and is likely to happen again whether from a longshoreman's strike, an earthquake, an act of sabotage or some other unforeseen reason.

Hawaii has the land and the climate to affords us the opportunity to be largely self sufficient; to not make every effort to take advantage of our assets would be irresponsible. I hope you will support HB 2703.

Thank you,

Ticia O'Kieffe

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 9:40 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** palmtree7@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: janice palma-glennie  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [palmtree7@earthlink.net](mailto:palmtree7@earthlink.net)  
Submitted on: 1/28/2012

Comments:  
Aloha,

I'm writing in support of HB 2703 and whatever its Senate companion bill. We've strayed so far from producing our own food, and on an island dependent upon off-island, expensive, unreliable transportation, this is even more of a challenge.

In the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left. Again, even in our island state, this is a huge problem.

Please support this initiative. Most important, support enforcement provisions and the bill's essentials that minimize the threat of a reclassification moratorium.

Mahalo for your consideration of my views on this important issue.

Sincerely,  
Janice palma-glennie



**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** Kachina Palencia [kachina@mauigateway.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 9:06 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Dear Legislator,

Let's keep the food revenue at home. We need to be more sustainable in general, but especially in times of disaster, emergency etc.

Sincerely, Pam Palencia

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** Tia Pearson [tia.pearson@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 11:54 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

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.

I work for the state and right now, for the last few years, money is taken out of my paycheck to balance a budget that had a surplus at the time I began working for the DOE. Through no fault of my own, I cannot get a raise or even make as much as I did before 2009.

Why can't the state balance its budget by cutting its cost in the amount of food that is being imported. Matson is going to raise its costs again and again.

In the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left. When there's a water and food shortage, who will get our water and our land-the farmers who can feed us or the huge developments?

Now on the job front--Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 jobs.

Sounds like a win-win solution!

Please consider these points when voting on this bill

Respectfully,

Tia Pearson

hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** Elyse Petersen [elysepetersen@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 9:17 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

As a food scientist, Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, and Social Entrepreneur I have committed my life to improving food security and food self-sufficiency around the world. Although I believe that the world's ability to improve food security and self-sufficiency relies on our individual decisions and actions, the government should do all it can to support it. If HB 2703 is implemented the State of Hawaii would be declaring its commitment to improving our food self-sufficiency. This is the first step. Our government, industry, and consumers need to continue into the future with this common goal.

I support HB 2703.

Elyse Petersen  
MBA Student  
Shidler College of Business  
University of Hawaii, Manoa

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Randy [randyldna@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:05 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Aloha Hawai`i Capitol,

My name is Randy Rugar and I am co-owner of a 15 acre organic farm in Honaunau on the Big Island of Hawai`i.

The following are my concerns:

Hawai`i in the past grew over 50% of it's food.

In the last half century we have paved approximately 53% of our farmlands and continued developments threaten the remaining acreage.

We currently import 80% of our food.

During a State of Emergency we will only have one week of food supply.

More farming means more jobs.

More jobs equals more money staying in Hawai`i and supporting our local economy.

PLEASE take into consideration and support HB 2703.

Mahalo nui loa for your valuable time.

In Peace,  
Randy Rugar, Ph.D.

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** Sandra Scarr [sandrascar@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:04 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703  
**Attachments:** sandrascar.vcf

We need to increase the consumption of locally grown food, not only because it is healthier than imported food, but because it will give Hawaii a measure of food security. We are an island chain more than 2,000 miles from the US mainland. An interruption in shipping would leave Hawaii without food supplies of little more than a week. It is insane for us to be importing even half of our food when we used to grow more than half. Locally grown food also means local jobs and income to Hawaii farmers. This bill will provide incentives for Hawaii to begin to become more food-sufficient. Please pass this bill.

Aloha,

Sandra Scarr  
78-6915 Palekana Road  
Holualoa, HI 96725

808-322-9445

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Darrell Schuetz [llerrads@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 2:23 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Nearly 40 years ago I was privileged to be among a group of educators who took a course from Dr. Jan Newhouse of the University of Hawaii. The course, "Science, Ecology and Man," focused on the interrelationships that keep our lives going on an isolated group of islands: our total dependence on things shipped to us -- oil, food, manufactured items -- and the possible TOTAL disruption to our lives that would ensue in the event of disruptions to this flow. Such disruptions become increasingly likely as population continues to grow and our appetites for imported goods increase.

What disruptions? shipping strikes; weather disasters, political developments, a collapsing economy with decreases in the number of visitors coming to Hawaii, just to mention a few.

Later THAT SAME YEAR (1973) Hawaii lived through the effects of the oil embargo. Residents waited in long lines as the shortage of gasoline for our cars dragged on and on.

That happened nearly 40 years ago, causing great panic. In the years since, we have been lulled back into complacency, and the potential for real crisis has increased along with population, number of vehicles on the road, urban sprawl and INCREASING dependence on things shipped into the islands to sustain our lives on these fragile islands.

How can people NOT see the problem?

Wake up, please.

Do something.

Sincerely,

Darrell Schuetz  
(retired teacher, 51-year resident of Oahu)

**hashem3 - Casey**

---

**From:** Evelyn Seiler [eviseiler@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 3:55 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Food Self-Sufficiency - HOT Issue

Dear House Members,

it is scary reading about our local food supply of 10% only. We ought to keep our island more self-sufficient. What will happen if there is a disaster and we can't import the quantity of food required to feed all the people on the islands? It is a shame to know that we are giving away any and all independence for the sake of big money that is being made by developers and their stakeholders and that we are giving away a lot of money overseas to pay for produce that could easily be grown here. Furthermore, locally produced food is tastier, fresher and healthier.  
You need to say YES to Bill HB 2703.

V/r

Evelyn

Evelyn Seiler  
3020 Ala Napuaa Pl. Apt. 703  
Honolulu, HI 96818

Aloha Chair Tsuji 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



hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Sylvia Spalding [sylvias@lava.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 9:44 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

To whom it may concern:

I support HB 2703 RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY. It is imperative that Hawaii actively work toward self-sufficiency in regards to food.

This is not only a food security issue, it also mitigates climate change as it should reduce our need to transport food into the islands and thus decrease our state's carbon footprint. I believe this bill should not only address agriculture on land, but also the harvesting and production of fish, be it aquaculture (traditional fishponds, particularly) or wild caught fish.

Thank you,  
Sylvia Spalding  
2171A Kaululoa Place  
Honolulu, HI 96816

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Linda Staton [writtenword2@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 6:34 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

It is very important to pass the HB 2703. You have no doubt heard many reasons but I would like to add my experience as my testimony.

I take my Sunday mornings with my neighbors to go to the Millilani farmers market. There you will find locally grown lettuce, onions, papayas, pineapple, corn, tomatoes and many other plant based foods, some are organically grown. My neighbors are just thrilled to get vegetables and fruits picked just a day ago and know it is healthy and wholesome. We get to speak with the growers and they sell their products with pride. Why not consider the benefits to our citizens as growers and consumers and support this bill.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify.

Aloha

Linda Staton

Sent from my iPad

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Susan Stayton [Susan.Stayton@Rare-Dear.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 2:26 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Dear Legislators,

I wish to stand in support of HB 2703.

The fact that Hawaii is becoming more and more reliant on food imported from foreign shores via petroleum powered ships is a disgrace. We are putting ourselves at great risk of shortages. When our prime agricultural land is turned into developments, we are cutting our own throats.

This is a matter of extreme urgency. We must act now to increase our food production and protection of our agricultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,  
Susan

~~~~~  
Susan Stayton  
PO Box 1113  
Lawai, HI 96765  
~~~~~

**hashem3 - Casey**

---

**From:** Sara Jackson Steiner [saralegal@live.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 4:10 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Aloha from the Big Island of Hawaii!

As a resident since 1985, I have seen a lot of changes, and one of them being a huge growth in population. With this comes the need for more and more containers bringing more and more sugar-corn fake food, and the incidence of diabetes and other nutritional deficiencies abound this population. Before the missionaries came I believe the population on the Big Island was a million souls, all sustainably eating and living together. We need this HB2703 desperately for the health and welfare of our residents, and for the jobs it will create. Let's start being smart in 2012 and get Hawaii on the track to self sufficiency and healthier living!

Sincerely,

Sara Steiner  
Po-Box 1965  
Pahoa, Hawaii 96778  
936-9546

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** Steve Tearney [stevetearney@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 3:25 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

I agree with HB 2703 that we should double the amount of food we grow for our own use here in Hawaii by 2020. Actually I think we should do more than double it and I am afraid that this bill might make it seem that doubling is enough. We should do more and get closer to self sufficiency. Maybe we should offer a subsidy for rice growing in Waipio Valley. It was grown there in the 19th century. Government can do more to help the state become less dependent on imports and HB 2703 is a start.

Steve Tearney  
545 Queen Street #626  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** daniel twiggs [dtwiggs@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:36 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

hi my name is daniel l twiggs and i would like to say that i believe hawaii should be more self sustainable it is smarter thank you

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Ellen Unterman [ellenu@maui.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 8:31 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

HAWAII NEEDS TO GROW ITS OWN FOOD TO SURVIVE ANY WORLD CRISIS THAT MIGHT OCCUR! WE CAN EASILY BE CUT OFF FROM OUR FOOD SUPPLY AS 90% OF IT IS SUPPLIED FROM THE MAINLAND. THIS IS A MAJOR PROBLEM AND NEEDS TO BE FIXED. PLEASE PASS BILL HB 2703 FOR THE SURVIVAL OF HAWAII.

THANK YOU,  
ELLEN UNTERMAN  
967 POLIPOLI RD  
KULA, MAUI, HAWAII

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** Michael & Patti [wisevalentine@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 9:16 AM  
**To:** AGFtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Legislators of Hawaii,

I write in complete support of HB 2703 which supports Food Sustainability in Hawaii by 2020.

Only 3 generations ago, Hawaii produced about 80% of its food, and only imported 20%. As you've heard by now, we currently import about 80% of our food, and only produce 20%. If you've lived here a while, and have long-term family connections, you'll remember that everyone had a garden in the past, and that provided most of the families and the neighbors vegetative needs.

Today most of us have been trained away from installing and maintaining home gardens (and now a days who has the time?), and are accustomed to buying our food at grocery stores. Sadly, even at those stores, locally grown produce is rare to be seen.

It's time for Hawaii to change it's priorities. We need to make small, sustainable farms THE SOURCE for our food needs. Not only can we grow fruits and vegetables here year-round, we could have an industry for the production of rice, taro, sweet potatoes, and other starches. We certainly have the land resources available on every island to feed all of us. It's simply up to you, the legislators, to make that land available, to institute programs that will instill interest in young farmers, and to make funds available, so that small farms can be started. Perhaps the state/USDA could provide low/no interest loans to farmers. The start up costs for irrigation make it prohibitive for most would-be farmers; we need to provide assistance to get these farms going!

It is heart-breaking to read of more agricultural land being turned over to development. It's actually being turned over to destruction, because the land is destroyed after it's had housing developments and condominiums built on it. TRULY developing the land would mean making it accessible for more food to feed all of us, keeping it in a natural state, and keeping the higher elevations free of any development at all, to maintain our watersheds.



Well, I could go on for hours about the reasons to support this bill. I encourage you to do so, and to support any others that will bring Hawaii back from the brink of disaster we face today. We have the resources to feed everyone right now. Please use them wisely.

Aloha,

Patti Valentine

4-6151C Kuhio Highway

Anahola, HI 96703

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** Jeffrey Vesci [landloper@me.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:10 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

I have lived on Kauai for two years now and was shocked to see how much of our food was shipped here. I believe there are some real concerns if we continue down this road. We are an island and vulnerable to natural disasters not utilizing our land to grow our own food makes no sense to me. Please stand on the side of common sense and vote accordingly.

One vote

Jeffrey M. Vesci

## hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** laura [laura808@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 7:49 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

To whom it may concern:

Regarding HB 2703, I support this bill because right now Hawaii is wildly unsustainable. If we were to be cut off from the rest of the world there wouldn't be anywhere near enough food to sustain the population of our islands for more than a week.

Hawaii used to grow 50% of it's own food. In the last half century we have paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left. Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 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. And above all: to be effective the target needs enforcement provisions – it's essential that the threat of a reclassification moratorium remain in the bill.

Please support HB 2703!

Laura Watkins  
60 N. Beretania St. Apt. 3602  
Honolulu, HI 96817

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** joy wall [rainforestjoy@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 9:03 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

I support this bill and want to encourage our food self sufficiency in whatever way possible. Thank you for your support and consideration in this important economic and humanitarian matter for feeding Hawaii's people. Respectfully submitted, Joy Wall, RN

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 10:33 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** alohabillw@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Bill Waring  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [alohabillw@aol.com](mailto:alohabillw@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 1/28/2012

**Comments:**

I mistakenly hit "Oppose" when I first submitted testimony. Pardon my error. I SUPPORT this legislation and urge you to vote FOR it.

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** Jim Williams [kohalajim@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 11:06 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Please support HB2703. This bill offers many opportunities for the entire state.  
Employment and sustainability into the future is the most obvious benefit.  
Please do the right thing.  
Mahalo

---

Jim Williams  
Green Flash Service  
808-889-5888  
[kohalajim@gmail.com](mailto:kohalajim@gmail.com)

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 11:54 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** kiaraztutu@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Rayan Wilson  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [kiaraztutu@yahoo.com](mailto:kiaraztutu@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

### Comments:

I support this bill because it is sensible and proactive. We must be self-sufficient and protect our agricultural lands instead of building more homes and businesses. Our aina already has MORE than enough of those and we would like to look at alternative ways to protect the land and reject more money making and wasteful projects. We should be thinking about the future of the aina from this point on and not about adding more homes and businesses. Let's work with what we have already and strive to improve our conditions.

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Leslie Witten [lesliewitten2@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 2:29 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Aloha,

I am writing in regards to the upcoming bill that supports legislative changes to facilitate Hawaii growing more of it's own food. This is an essential development to create a sustainable Hawaiian community that promotes the health and welfare of its people. Legislators should be working proactively in this sector to secure food supplies for its people as well as counteract the wave of dietary issues plaguing the health of its citizens. Additionally, legislature should address and correct the issues surrounding the following:

- We used to grow 50% of our own food.
- In the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left
- In the event of a strike or natural disaster we have enough food to last about a week. That makes us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.
- As we replaced locally grown produce with imported processed food we unleashed a wave of diet related disease like diabetes and obesity.
- Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 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.
- And above all: to be effective the target needs enforcement provisions – it's essential that the threat of a reclassification moratorium remain in the bill.

Thank you for your support.

Leslie Witten

Sent from my iPhone



**hashem3 - Casey**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:29 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** momileong@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703.

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Michele Leong  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [momileong@gmail.com](mailto:momileong@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:20 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** shannonkona@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Shannon Rudolph  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [shannonkona@gmail.com](mailto:shannonkona@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

**Comments:**

I support the Department of Agriculture in its attempt to develop a food sustainability standard to promote local food production to help diversify the local economy.

## hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Noah V. Pomeroy [nvpomeroy@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:53 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Dear Representatives' Committee on Agriculture ,

HB 2703 is a step in the right direction toward reducing Hawaii's dangerous dependence on imported food; please support it. More food grown locally means better health, security and employment for our people. Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 jobs. Hawaii will be stronger if we grow more of our own food. Aside from cultural, economic and health benefits of more locally produced food, it just tastes a whole lot better than food that's been sitting on a ship for a week!

Thanks for your consideration and representation,

Noah Pomeroy  
Resident of District 24

- We used to grow 50% of our own food.
- In the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left
- In the event of a strike or natural disaster we have enough food to last about a week. That makes us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.
- As we replaced locally grown produce with imported processed food we unleashed a wave of diet related disease like diabetes and obesity.
- Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 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.
- And above all: to be effective the target needs enforcement provisions – it's essential that the threat of a reclassification moratorium remain in the bill.

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:53 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** theede@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Teri Heede  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [theede@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:theede@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:  
Mahalo ahead of time for supporting this important legislation,

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:46 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** kipikoa1@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Steven Tayama  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [kipikoa1@hotmail.com](mailto:kipikoa1@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:  
GREAT IDEA!

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:29 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** truly.joannies@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Joan Pan  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [truly.joannies@gmail.com](mailto:truly.joannies@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

**hashem3 - Casey**

---

**From:** Laurie Baron [lbaron@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:06 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Policy Ninja Testimony Update

From: Laurie Baron

2143 Haena Dr  
Honolulu, Hi , 96822

Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Aloha Chair and committee,

I am strong supporting HB 2703 RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

I appreciate this bill as it protects our access to agriculture lands while supporting an increase in local food production.

We are all in agreement that Hawaii must learn to provide more of our own food in the future, and this bill provides a sound method of doing so.

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,  
Laurie Baron  
Honolulu, Hawaii

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 8:17 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** sjglenn@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Scott Glenn  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [sjglenn@hawaii.edu](mailto:sjglenn@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I support this bill's goal and means to achieve it. Standards are proving effective for helping Hawaii reach its clean energy goals. Food and energy are the two basic components of life and civilization. We should strive to be as self-sufficient in both as much as we can.

Thank you for considering my testimony.  
Scott Glenn



hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Mary Spadaro [mlspadaro@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 8:04 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

I have been following agriculture sustainability issues in Hawaii for the past few years. I am gardening and growing food myself because I have come to view our dependency on food that must be shipped to Hawaii as expensive, unsustainable and even dangerous. I also remember a time when we grew a lot of food here and Hawaii was a better place to live.

If food is going to be affordable for the majority of Hawaii residents, or the 99%, we must revitalize local agriculture, and I am not talking about interests like Monsanto that is in the business of selling genetically modified seeds. We need to grow food here; the good that grows well in Hawaii. We need to protect our ag lands, our water supply, and help to educate consumers and build a stronger market for locally-grown produce and meats. We need to bring back the facilities for processing foods here.

This bill does not specifically do any of these things, but it is a first step in the right direction. At the least, it will start putting everyone on the same page. Please pass HB2703

Sincerely,  
Mary Spadaro  
533-2172

## hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 7:42 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** shawnjamesleavey@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM-HB2703.

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Shawn 'Alika James Leavey  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [shawnjamesleavey@gmail.com](mailto:shawnjamesleavey@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

**Comments:**

Mahalo i ko 'oukou ma kokua a kako'o i ka hana ho'oulu ma Hawai'i nei!!

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 7:31 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** onipaa.porter@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ethan Porter  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [onipaa.porter@gmail.com](mailto:onipaa.porter@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 7:01 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** stargazz16@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Marie Haumesser  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [stargazz16@aol.com](mailto:stargazz16@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 8:36 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** jenlucien@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jennifer Lucien  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [jenlucien@hotmail.com](mailto:jenlucien@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Dear Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee;

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure. Creating a good foundation for local agriculture within DOA will support the overall planning and vision required to implement important self-sufficiency. It is worthy goal that strengthens our economy but requires the initial investment. Please support local farmers growing local food for local people.

Mahalo for passing this measure.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lucien

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:22 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** amarshall18@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703.

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Angela Marshall  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [amarshall18@gmail.com](mailto:amarshall18@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 10:36 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** reply73@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Anne Marsh  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [reply73@yahoo.com](mailto:reply73@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I oppose this action, based upon the fact that, there are just too many people who have over populated the Hawaiin islands already; and thus, have caused less land to be available for farming and other uses.

We here on the big island of Hawaii, are also currently experiencing a permentant, long term drought; because what still remains of our Hamakua Forest Reserve watershed, is almost nonexistent, due to the County of Hawaii's own policy to continue to increase the amount of forest reserve land to be made available for, [and into] farm land [and its own need for food production] within the County of Hawaii, itself!

This is so, that the county can continue to accommodate its already, gross over population of people on the island.

The County of Hawaii, also has a policy to progress in the continuation of leasing out, and the selling off, of Hamakua Forest Reserve, watershed lands.

At this time, we are currently, over farmed, in accordance to the amount of land mass that is available to us to live on.

In addition, the other remaining County of Hawaii lands are being sold off to developers for cash money, in order to continue to cover the ever increasing financial expenses of the County of Hawaii.

Furthermore, there are highly endangered species of wild nocturnal animals on the islands, and within the remaining watershed areas of Hawaii [and the state], that are now being pushed out by over-developement, over-hunting, over-population, and over farming.

In addition, we are also currently, experiencing a nocturnal carnivore wildlife crisis on the big island of Hawaii that is growing in ever more increasing, epidemic preportions.

People have been killed and eaten by these very same animals, and many people are unaccounted for by their friends and family members, who are still missing on the big island of Hawaii.

These animals can not be trapped or killed, since they are extremely valuable to scientific research, education, and to the world's last remaining wildlife populations on earth.

Unfortunantely, their home land is being destroyed, and is being made into farm land for humans.

They are in need of state and US federal government protections, by the state and US federal government.

If we are going to have enough food to eat as humans on any one of Hawaii's islands, then we must start thinking of drastically reducing our own human population within the Hawaiian islands, in order for these islands to be able to accomodate a certain number of people, so that there is enough land [as well as food] for both man and beast to survive on; and, live off of.

Sincerely,  
Anne Marsh,

Joy Leilei Shih, M.A.S.  
3267 Mokihana Street  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
(650) 380-5482  
joyshih@hawaii.edu

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Feb 1, 2012, 8:00 am  
(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2703

Aloha Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

My name is Joy Leilei Shih and I am a graduate student researcher in marine biogeochemistry at the University of Hawaii. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2703.

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 well being. 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.

I respectfully request that the committee advance this important measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Joy Leilei Shih



Regarding HB2703  
RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

To the Honorable Chairperson of HB2703,

I support HB2703, RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY and recommend that it moves forward to becoming a law.

I am so glad to hear that the State of Hawaii is realizing our plight in the event of a natural catastrophe or a shipping strike. Oahu has been fortunate to not have had the amount of damage that Kauai faced in our last two hurricanes. Since much of our state's goods pass through Oahu, all islands would be affected by shortages. Being that Kauai's population is smaller than Oahu's and the Aloha Spirit still prevails there, the residents rebounded very well amidst their calamity. I doubt that same recovery and Aloha Spirit will be evident in a large city like Honolulu.

As we look towards improving our food self-sufficiency, please also consider the amount of land that needs to be reserved for farming and the amount of water needed to farm our land throughout each island. The land used for farming should not be an after thought or soil that is not the best for farming. It should be the best for farming. Consider the ancient Hawaiian's use of land and the location of various activities that ensured survival; it is an appropriate model for self-sufficiency. Today, we place houses on our resources as we have turned sugar cane land to residential property or placed houses on beach fronts that block ocean access for fishing. With regard to water, we need to consider available and new technologies to desalinate our sea water, that would bring it to a level that would be useable for farming; we have a lot of seawater.

Thus, all the farming (agricultural and livestock) cannot be on one island and farming needs to occur so that each island will be able to sustain their residents. Also, we must encourage existing farmers to pursue farming for our future. A farmer needs to be able to sell products at competitive prices and also be profitable.

This has been a discussion amongst my peers and I have been a proponent of food self-sufficiency for Hawaii long before the introduction of HB2703. When Governor Neil Abercrombie was new in the U.S. House of Representatives, I had brought to his attention the need to provide the lands needed to feed the future people of Hawaii.

It has been unfortunate, that our modern technologies in creating future foods (remember Tang? The drink that went to outer space) don't always make healthy foods. I am glad that HB2703 is being discussed in our Legislature. May it become law!

Sincerely submitted,

Bernard Yuen  
Honolulu, HI 96816

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Pualani Ramos [auntiepualani@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 9:22 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Dear Representatives,  
Please support HB 2703.

Hawaii needs to become more food independent. We are terribly vulnerable presently, as most of the food we consume is imported.

One weeks worth of food in reserve for our entire islands is simply not enough. Things could get very ugly if the planes and barges cannot reach us for a protracted period of time.

Hawaii is certainly capable of being self sufficient regarding our food supply. We have fertile land, water and plenty of sunshine; but we need to rethink our present land use policies. Farming should be make a precedent and our land use policies must reflect this.

Eating is really important. Eating healthy food grown locally is REALLY IMPORTANT. Our good health is really important.

As legislators you are charged with looking our for our people's best interests and setting policy to insure our basic needs are met.

Everyone has to eat.

This bill is a very little step towards a sustainable food supply for Hawaii; but it is a start.

Please lend your kokua and support this bill.

Mahalo,  
Pualani Ramos  
Enchanted Lake; Kailua, O'ahu.

**Pualani Ramos**  
**Na Pualani Learning Ohana**  
**Bucket Gardens & Na Pualani Preschool**  
**1361 Nanawale Place**  
**Kailua, HI 96734**  
**808-262-3253**

**hashem3 - Casey**

---

**From:** Donna Mitts [ohanadonna@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:03 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

I have been a farmer and garden educator for the past 12 years. I support HB 2703 and encourage your support as well. Food security is vitally important for the future of Hawaii.

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:30 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** ezeisenpress@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Zoe Eisenpress  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [ezeisenpress@gmail.com](mailto:ezeisenpress@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Chloe Edinger  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [chloeedinger@hotmail.com](mailto:chloeedinger@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

As a young person raised on the Island of Maui I have witnessed the conversion of agricultural land for huge housing projects and commercial property without realizing the vulnerability we have created for ourselves. In case of any emergency or sociopolitical disturbance, we have no means to provide food for the population of Hawaii. A cradle for life we should reinvest in the islands' (once) fertile soils and food producing capacity. We as a state are currently a hallmark of unsustainable business practices and organization, depending solely on imports for essentially of all of our goods. If we have any chance of preventing utter catastrophe when the supply chain breaks down, we need to start producing more food on Hawaiian soil. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Chloe Edinger

**hashem3 - Casey**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:36 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** kuwada@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Bryan Kuwada  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [kuwada@hawaii.edu](mailto:kuwada@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

**hashem3 - Casey**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:20 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** justinlanglais@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Justin Langlais  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [justinlanglais@gmail.com](mailto:justinlanglais@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

**hashem3 - Casey**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:01 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** patbak1@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Byron W. Baker  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [patbak1@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:patbak1@hawaiiantel.net)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

**Comments:**

It is a sad commentary on our economic condition that we have allowed ourselves to become completely dependent on imports for our food supply, particularly since we have the resources and opportunity to reverse the situation. Replacing just 10 per cent of imports with produce grown in the islands would generate more than 2300 jobs and exchange healthful local produce for processed foods that are linked to diet-related disease. HB 2703 would mandate a doubling of local food production by 2020, enforceable by moratorium on reclassification of agricultural land to urban use. I urge you to support this bill.



January 31, 2012

Hawai'i State Legislature

Re: HB2703 -- RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The new land Pele is creating in Ka'u is nowhere near ready for agricultural use, let alone development, and won't be for a number of decades.

With Hawai'i's 7-10 day supply of food, if the barge stops coming we don't have enough food to weather supply-chain interruptions from the mainland either due to labor disputes or natural disasters. Our beloved State needs this provision desperately. What we don't need is more ag land converted to residential until we can support the residents we now have.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Brenda L. Cloutier  
Hilo, HI 96720

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:42 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** bisaki@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Bianca Isaki  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [bisaki@gmail.com](mailto:bisaki@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:58 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** giuliagulia@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Julia Wieting  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [giuliagulia@gmail.com](mailto:giuliagulia@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:57 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** carmille.lim@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Carmille Lim  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [carmille.lim@gmail.com](mailto:carmille.lim@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

### Comments:

Dear Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the committee:

I respectfully submit my testimony in support of HB2703, a bill which seeks to double local food production in Hawaii by the year 2020. This bill would encourage a more robust economy based on increasing the number of jobs available, and the by extension, increasing the number of healthy people functioning in our community.

"Fifteen years ago, Hawaii had a combined obesity and overweight rate of 42.2 percent. Ten years ago, it was 49.4 percent. Now, the combined rate is 57.5 percent."(1) As we replaced locally grown produce with imported processed food, we contributed to a significant increase of diet-related disease like diabetes and obesity.

Not only would replacing 10% of imported food with local produce would create (and maintain!) more than 2,300 local jobs, it would also encourage better eating habits based on healthier food options available.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2703.

With kindest regards,  
carmille lim

(1) "New Report: Hawaii is Fifth Least Obese State in the Nation." Trust for America's Health. July 7, 2011.  
<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/obesity2011/release.php?stateid=HI>

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** Bill Schnitzer [bills@servco.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Requiring the state to use its land for agriculture is a great idea but requiring private citizens to use their private property in any certain way is totally un-American.

**William F. Schnitzer**

**PO Box 419**

**Puunene, 96784**

**hashem3 - Casey**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:55 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** Jessidevera@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM  
**Attachments:** HB2703 bill

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jessica DeVera  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [Jessidevera@yahoo.com](mailto:Jessidevera@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

To the House of Representatives of Hawaii and local community members,

We must ask the question, "What do we have"? As we are done here with this meeting, we will all go home as usual, think about what fancies us for dinner and forge for what we are "ono " for. Let's say tonight, we are in the mood for the opulent, local plate of hamburger steak with gravy, rice and salad (if we are guilty we will skip the mac salad and indulge in fresh green salad). With every bite, we are consuming a portion of an expensive import tax, beef preserved for shelf life, gravy spices that financially supports extensively advertised companies from mainland or Asia; then we complete our meal with a salad that takes money out of our own pockets the pockets of our local farmers. These local farmers that have the capabilities to produce large quantities of fresh, tasty produce for the islands. These local farmers work on the same land that fed thousands and thousands of people for thousands of years. These local farmers work on quality soil that embodies the microorganisms that surround us and support our bodies (immune systems, etc) in our environment.

As importation becomes more expensive and our state struggles with fiscal decisions, we look to our community and realize what was abroad wasn't better. We were just acted on what someone made accessible. The accessibility has dissipated. As environmental and fiscal studies occur, we start to realize that our food in our own backyards is better, all the way around.

With that in mind, we now have opportunities for local farmers, local businesses, and developing industry for not only feeding ourselves but perhaps for exportation. Hawaii has a reputation for great produce all over the world. It's time that we start acting on "what we have" here.

Sincerely,

Jessica Devera

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:10 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** keoni@kmahelona.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Keoni Mahelona  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [keoni@kmahelona.net](mailto:keoni@kmahelona.net)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

**Comments:**

This is a no brainer; in fact, let's be aggressive and reach this goal by 2015! Imua e nā pōki'i o Hawai'i.



## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:11 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** waikikinani@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Phyllis Frus  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [waikikinani@gmail.com](mailto:waikikinani@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

### Comments:

We need this bill to pass to ensure food security for our aina. Not long ago we grew 50% of the food we need; now it is less than 10%. This measure would ensure that targets are met-- that we double that amount by 2020--thus we would be on our way. If we don't meet that goal, all reclassification of large tracts of land from agriculture to urban would be stopped until the standard is met. The development of our last productive ag land must be halted in order to improve the local economy (we wouldn't send all that money away to import food if we grew it here). Furthermore, this bill will lead to more local jobs, something else we have been sending off-island. I know the committee understands how important it is to have enforcement provisions for this target; thus it is essential that the threat of a reclassification moratorium remain in the bill.

Therefore I trust you will do the right thing in keeping the bill strong.  
Thank you for your time.

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** Alana Bryant [8alana8@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:16 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

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 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 nui,  
Alana

--

Alana L. Bryant

President, GW Hawai'i Club  
Admissions Assistant, Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
George Washington University  
[abryant8@gwu.edu](mailto:abryant8@gwu.edu)  
(808) 429-0479

Save paper, save money - you may not need to print this e-mail.

**hashem3 - Casey**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:15 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** melanie.abecassis@wanadoo.fr  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: melanie abecassis  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [melanie.abecassis@wanadoo.fr](mailto:melanie.abecassis@wanadoo.fr)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

**Comments:**

It is critical for the State to reduce our dependency on imported food, to increase our local supply of fresh produce and of livestock. We need to increase the State's resilience, and this bill would be a great step in that direction.  
I fully support HB2703.

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 8:42 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** aly2104@columbia.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Amy  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [aly2104@columbia.edu](mailto:aly2104@columbia.edu)  
Submitted on: 1/29/2012

**Comments:**

Local production of food will increase local jobs and boost economy for small businesses. It will decrease our dependence on imports and all our communities to become more sustainable. Decreases in shipping will also help to lower our environmental impact due to carbon emissions from cargo shipments. Local ingredients will also raise awareness of healthy eating and nutrition.

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** Catia [chkh@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 4:24 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

- We used to grow 50% of our own food.
- • In the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left
- • In the event of a strike or natural disaster we have enough food to last about a week. That makes us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.
- 
- As we replaced locally grown produce with imported processed food we unleashed a wave of diet related disease like diabetes and obesity.
- • Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 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.
- • And above all: to be effective the target needs enforcement provisions – it's essential that the threat of a reclassification moratorium remain in the bill.

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Helen [hbonmaui@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 7:49 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2703

Aloha Representatives,

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts on this important bill.

*We have a chance to spark a farming renaissance in Hawai'i and keep more dollars in our state.*

- We used to grow 50% of our own food.
- In the last half century we've paved 53% of our farmland and huge developments threaten the best of what's left
- In the event of a strike or natural disaster **we have enough food to last about a week**. That makes us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions.
- As we replaced locally grown produce with imported processed food we unleashed a wave of diet related disease like **diabetes and obesity**.
- Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 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.*

Mahalo nui loa,

*Helen,  
Makawao,Hi*

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 12:26 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** nlowen@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Nicole  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [nlowen@gmail.com](mailto:nlowen@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:  
please pass this measure.

**hashem1 - Julie**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 2:45 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** neil@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Neil  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [neil@hawaii.edu](mailto:neil@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

**Comments:**

This bill has the admirable goal of reducing Hawaii's dependence on imported food, but I think it will have unintended consequences in the form of increased bureaucracy and subsidies. There is a better way: simply remove the GE tax on fresh vegetables, fruits, meats and fish, and increase the GE tax on preserved or processed foods and beverages. In addition to reducing Hawaii's dependence on imported food, the desirable consequences of such a change are: (a) farming in Hawaii will be more profitable, thus attracting more land into agriculture; (b) Hawaii's people will eat more fresh, locally-grown food, and less processed food, which will reduce the incidence of heart disease, diabetes, and other degenerative diseases related to poor nutrition; (c) increased revenues from the GE tax, which can be used to fund local health-care systems and education regarding nutrition; (d) an increase in Hawaii's balance of payments with the U.S. mainland and other nations.



**hashem3 - Casey**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:46 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** tyneski@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2703

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Tyneski  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [tyneski@gmail.com](mailto:tyneski@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

**Comments:**

WE NEED TO REVERT BACK TO THE DAYS OF OLD HAWAII WHERE WE GREW MORE THAN 50% of our food.

Please and thanks you

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** Judith Flanders Flanders [jfpuna@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:51 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Policy Ninja Testimony Update  
**Attachments:** Testimony-Inside-â€"Hawaii-Policy-Portal.html

From: Judith Flanders Flanders  
Founders  
3003 Kalakaua Ave  
Honolulu, HI, 96815

Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012

I am in strong support for HB 2703 RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY. As a voting and tax paying resident of Hawaii, I am concerned with the state's current tendency to support land development for building over farming. The planet is very rapidly approaching a crossroads with world food supply and population. Neighbors just to our West are already feeling the pains of inadequate nutrition for their populations. Where there is currently an abundance of food in America and Hawaii, the global picture is changing and we have the opportunity to plan on arriving where we would like to be as our populations expand right now. As global citizens, we're also responsible for the result of our actions today. The current food distribution systems which we rely on are leaving a heavy carbon footprint that will invariably lend itself to further climate change. HB2703 lends itself to solutions on both of these fronts by putting us on the right path to food sustainability. It will prepare us to reduce our wasteful footprint while taking control of our course to a sustained nutrition rich Hawaii as global populations expand. Furthermore, having a greater abundance of local food sources will provide us greater resilience to natural disasters, dock strikes or other unforeseen emergencies. This bill will also bring a lot of money back into our local economy rather than squander it to a few un-supporting off island ventures.

Please do the right thing for yourself, your community and our future generations by supporting HB2703.

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** Tyler Mongan [tmongan@honuguide.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 9:14 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Policy Ninja Testimony Update

From: Tyler Mongan

1871 Paula Dr  
Honolulu, Hi, 96816

Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012

I am in strong support for HB 2703 RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY. As a voting and tax paying resident of Hawaii, I am concerned with the state's current tendency to support land development for building over farming. The planet is very rapidly approaching a crossroads with world food supply and population. Neighbors just to our West are already feeling the pains of inadequate nutrition for their populations. Where there is currently an abundance of food in America and Hawaii, the global picture is changing and we have the opportunity to plan on arriving where we would like to be as our populations expand right now. As global citizens, we're also responsible for the result of our actions today. The current food distribution systems which we rely on are leaving a heavy carbon footprint that will invariably lend itself to further climate change. HB2703 lends itself to solutions on both of these fronts by putting us on the right path to food sustainability. It will prepare us to reduce our wasteful footprint while taking control of our course to a sustained nutrition rich Hawaii as global populations expand. Furthermore, having a greater abundance of local food sources will provide us greater resilience to natural disasters, dock strikes or other unforeseen emergencies. This bill will also bring a lot of money back into our local economy rather than squander it to a few un-supporting off island ventures.

Please do the right thing for yourself, your community and our future generations by supporting HB2703.

## hashem3 - Casey

---

**From:** Jane Yamashiro [janeyamashiro2020@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:16 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Policy Ninja Testimony Update

From: Jane Yamashiro

6770 Hawaii Kai Drive #1205  
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96825

Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012

I am in strong support for HB 2703 RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY. The history of Hawaii has been a totally self-sufficient economy with well-maintained sustainable practices (ahupuaa). Over the last half century we moved into and out of a plantation agricultural economy system. In the last couple of decades, we in Hawaii have been accustomed to eating food from other places and not focused on self-sufficiency.

Things have changed dramatically over the past few years because of global trends, primarily the cost of oil. We now have to rethink our strategies on feeding ourselves.

HB2703 lends itself to solutions on both of these fronts by putting us on the right path to food sustainability. It will prepare us to reduce our wasteful footprint while taking control of our course to a sustained nutrition rich Hawaii as global populations expand. Furthermore, having a greater abundance of local food sources will provide us greater resilience to natural disasters, dock strikes or other unforeseen emergencies. This bill will also bring a lot of money back into our local economy rather than squander it to a few un-supporting off island ventures.

As leaders of our state, I urge you to have HB2703.

## hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** djrx.cares@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 1:28 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Hawaii food sustainability

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

It is important that we start to grow our own food so that we are more independent of exported food and that we can feed ourselves We need to create a local grown sustainable food supply.