



LATE TESTIMON

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

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2012
8:00 a.m.
Room 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 2703 RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2703. The Department of Agriculture would like to express strong concerns with the proposed bill.

This bill creates a new chapter in the Hawaii Revised Statutes, requiring the Department of Agriculture to:

- Establish an information base on local production and consumption of food, from which to gauge achievement of a food sustainability standard;
- Identify food commodities to be targeted for assistance so as to increase their local market share; and
- Propose penalties if the food sustainability standard is not met.

The food sustainability standard as proposed in this measure requires the collection and compilation of in-shipment data. This is necessary because imports and exports from/to the U.S. mainland are not available from existing federal or state sources. Import and export data from/to other foreign destinations are available from the U.S. Department of Commerce.



The Department of Agriculture previously collected and compiled in-shipment data for fresh fruits and vegetables (FFV). This in-shipment data, used in conjunction with local production data, give us reliable estimates of the proportion of locally grown FFV sold in the local market. Currently, no in-shipment data is available as all staff members in the program were directly affected by the 2009 reduction-in-force. The Department is working with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to develop a collaborative system to gather and analyze relevant dates and to present findings to the community at large.

The prohibition section of this bill has the effect of severely diminishing the utility of county land use planning when it is held hostage to the ability of the DOA to ensure annual increases in food sustainability standards. Agricultural production is subject to many events such as inclement weather, diseases and pests, failure to be price competitive and lower consumption. To penalize planned land reclassifications because of these fluctuations is an unreasonable outcome, therefore this section should be deleted.

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

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



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

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

February 1, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2703
RELATING TO FOOD SELF SUFFICIENCY

Room 312
8:00 AM

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

I am Dean Okimoto, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

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

During the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Convention that was recently held in Honolulu, the President of AFBF told nearly 6,000 farmers and ranchers from across the country, we are the 1% providing for the 99%. This clearly articulates the reality of agriculture today. Highly productive farmers and ranchers are able to provide for many, providing opportunities for people to pursue career choices without having to worry where their food comes from. These farmers and ranchers also support not only their families but provide employment and support other businesses in the community.

This measure defines the sustainability standard as the volume of food sold that is grown in the State. There is no measure of economic viability of farms and ranches. Sustainability means for the long term. Measures at any one point in time cannot provide a full picture of sustainability. Major production without addressing issues such as the ability of the system to recover from downturns from pest and disease outbreaks

04/11/2017 11:41

as well as weather is not sustainable. People must realize all the barriers that confront agriculture on a daily basis, from being viable and sustainable, issues such as cost of land, water availability, labor costs as well as availability, transportation costs, invasive species...after all of this then we come to marketing. These issues must all be dealt with if we are to consider increasing sustainability. Measures of sustainability must take these matters into consideration.

HFBF has concerns with the prohibition section of this bill. We believe that HB 2703 ignores State and County land use planning and punishes landowners by penalizing planned land reclassifications if annual food sustainability standards are not met.

We do agree with the need for data. The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service has been the collector and repository of agricultural data and annually publishes the Hawaii Agricultural Statistics. Much of the data requested in this measure is already available. However, due to cutbacks, their ability to collect and analyze data has been severely curtailed. What is needed is a restoration of capacity for the Department to collect data ...not just food but all agricultural data. We understand some of the positions are being restored, however, County level data previously available may no longer be possible. This information is important as it guides access to funds and other critical matters for agriculture.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this matter.



LATE TESTIMONY

M & H Kaneshiro Farms

ISLAND FRESH PORK

To the House Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
And Committee Members

For Hearing February 1, 2012
Conference Room 312, 8:00 AM

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 2703

Working daily chores on the farm, I have a lot of opportunity to think. I think about what's going on in our own farm business, as well as the larger community, the country, and the world. I see us resisting making the hard choices. So many take the fast and easy path. It's natural. But just like providing for our pigs, what's best for them is not what's easiest for us. We go out of our way to do what's best. Sometimes it takes the strong arm of the law to force the change. And when forced to~ for the greater good~ we can change, and we do! Then we get used to the change, it becomes the norm, and it's good. As an island community, it's imperative that we preserve our important agricultural lands, set goals, and increase local food production!

Sincerely Yours,

Valerie Kaneshiro

M & H Kaneshiro Farms
4173 Noho Rd.
Koloa, HI 96756



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 1, 2012, 8:00 A.M.
(Testimony is 2 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2703

Aloha Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with 9000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, strongly *supports* HB 1145 SD1. This measure creates a vision of food self-sufficiency and sets metrics to ensure compliance over time. It further identifies and connects compliance and land use planning within the State.

The Hawaii State Constitution, article XI, section, is explicit about the need to “conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase self-sufficiency,” and the obligation to “assure the availability of agricultural suitable lands.” Despite this rather clear directive, Hawai‘i has moved in the wrong direction. We import approximately ninety per cent of our food. Currently, Hawaii has a fresh supply of produce for no more than ten days. Ninety per cent of the beef, sixty-seven per cent of fresh vegetables, sixty-five per cent of fresh fruits, and seventy per cent of all milk consumed in the state are imported.

Further, over the past 50 years, approximately 53% of Class A and B lands have been reclassified to urban use. On Oahu alone, almost 4,000 acres of prime farmland have been reclassified in the past 20 years.

Our current strategy for increasing diversified agriculture and promoting self-sufficiency plainly isn't working. The definition of stupidity is doing the same thing over again and expecting different results. Plainly Hawai‘i needs to look at new solutions.

HB 2703 sets a new vision. It creates a specific targets and requires annual reporting. A similar concept helped pump prime Hawai‘i's clean energy industry. Hawai‘i's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards were a key part in starting the clean energy movement. Tangible goals with metrics that define success effectively brought previously bickering parties together to solve Hawai‘i's dangerous dependence on foreign oil.

Just fifty years ago half our food was produced locally. We can aspire a return to that level of self-sufficiency through self-enforcing standards that encourage collaboration between landowners, farmers, and the State.

Relying on DOA estimates, this concept could generate a billion dollars in new sales for our businesses, stimulate \$300 million in new household earnings, create more than 14,000 new jobs with living wages, and pump \$39 million in new tax revenues into our state coffers.

Enforceability of the Food Sustainability Standards is necessary. For example, Hawai'i adopted a goal of reducing its waste production by 50% by the year 2000 (a goal that has been essentially ignored). Without enforcement, stakeholders will not have a reason to treat the standards with the level of seriousness necessary to ensure compliance. Enforcement, particularly tied to one of the problems hamstringing food production, is a means to bring everyone to the table for positive solutions.

HB 2703s an opportunity to create a self-sustaining vision of Hawai'i's future. We hope this Committee will allow it to proceed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:16 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: info@schha.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: Annie Au Hoon
Organization: Kewalo Hawaiian Homestead Community Association
E-mail: info@schha.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:56 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: anthuriumz@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: Yes
Submitted by: Wynnie Hee
Organization: Individual
E-mail: anthuriumz@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I want to be able to buy food that is produced locally because it's so logical and ecological (reducing energy use for transportation & refrigeration). Plants are good: they take in CO2 & give off oxygen. And please don't count GMO seed production as local food production because it is NOT food for us.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:30 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: cdesiato@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: Caterina Desiato
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cdesiato@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:37 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: shelleymuneoka@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB2703 food security standards.txt

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

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shelley Muneoka
Organization: Individual
E-mail: shelleymuneoka@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

For future reference, is what's typed in this box submitted as official testimony? Could someone please e-mail me a response at the above e-mail address. Mahalo nui!

LATE TESTIMONY

Anthony Aalto
3946 Lurline Drive • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816
808.732.5960

January 31, 2012

To: House Agriculture Committee
Re: Hearing on February 1st 2012, 8:00 am, Rm #312
Subject: Testimony regarding HB2703

Aloha Chair Tsuji and members of the committee

My name is Anthony Aalto. I am a resident of Honolulu, a taxpayer and a voter, and I thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I strongly support this bill and I urge you to do the same.

The latest numbers from the US Department of Agriculture show that Hawai'i grows just 8% to 10% of all the food that we consume.

In the event of a natural disaster we have enough food stockpiled at any one time to last about a week.

This situation leaves us dangerously vulnerable to supply disruptions and is unsustainable.

The Abercrombie administration has committed to boosting the amount of food we grow, but has so far done nothing practical to advance such an agenda. And, even as this committee considers a food sustainability standard, the Land Use Commission is considering development proposals that would plant houses on the two most productive food farms in the state – the Hono'uli'uli farmlands threatened by billionaire Donald Horton's so called Ho'opili scheme and the Mililani makai farmlands threatened by billionaire David Murdock's so called Koa Ridge scheme. Between them these two farms produce some 40% of all the fresh produce currently grown in the state. To allow them to be developed would be absolute lunacy, but without further direction from the Legislature to make food production a priority, there seems to be no way to stop the LUC from giving these egregious developments a green light.

According to the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii, in the last 50 years we have already paved more than 53% of our prime A and B farmlands. The development model that has sprawled across our best farmlands has made H1 and H2 the second most congested freeways in the nation at rush hour, causing families of moderate means to lose money on wasted gas and, more importantly, to lose precious family time together.

The model has also sharply increased our contribution to the global warming that makes us more vulnerable to sea level rise than any other state in the nation. And it has started to impact our biggest industry – complaints about suburban sprawl are now the number one complaint of tourists.

As imports have replaced locally grown fresh produce, our diet has come to rely increasingly on processed foods. This has, in turn, sparked an epidemic of diet related disease such as diabetes and obesity, which has placed enormous strains on our health system.

This bill seeks to create a framework in which to begin to address these multiple, over-lapping problems. The target of doubling food production by 2020 was arrived at after consultations with experts at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, with the Hawai'i Farmers Union United, which has more than 500 members, with the owner of our largest organic farm, with officials at our largest organic food retailer, with members of the Hawai'i Food Policy Council, and with experts at the Kokua Hawai'i Foundation which has been so instrumental in establishing our successful farm to school program. They all agree that doubling our food production by 2020 is an ambitious goal, but an achievable goal.

However, no such goal is meaningful without some sort of consequence if we fail to meet the target. To vote for this bill while stripping the threat of a development moratorium would be as easy, and no more significant than voting for mom and apple pie. The proposed consequence is a halt to all major land reclassifications from agriculture to urban. This not only makes sense in policy terms, it is a down-payment on the constitutional obligations laid out in Article XIII.

The reason this issue is tied to land use patterns is simple: if you ask the produce purchasers at Foodland supermarkets, Whole Foods supermarkets, Costco, Kyo-ya hotels, even Subway fast food franchises, they will all tell you that they want to buy more locally grown produce but are unable to do so, and when they ask the farmers who are their suppliers why they do not grow more, the number one answer is always the same: lack of land.

Our biggest landholders persist in pursuing a failed development model of vast suburban estates sprawling across our best farmland. As long as they are allowed to continue on this path, in defiance of the constitution, our food supply will continue to become ever more vulnerable.

This bill is not a magic bullet. It is not a panacea. It will do nothing in immediate, direct terms to solve a single problem that farmers face. However it will lay down a marker. It will commit the state, by statute, to make this issue a priority and it will provide the context for a range of measures, regulations and new bills to start to make food self-sufficiency a reality.

Once again, I urge you to pass this measure.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:18 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jamie.nakama@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: Jamie Nakama
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jamie.nakama@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:29 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ainapaikai@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: Kamakaniokaaaina Paikai
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ainapaikai@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony before the House Committee on Agriculture

By Scott A. Matsuura
SPJ Consulting LLC
P.O. Box 17885, Honolulu, HI 96817

Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 8:00a
Conference Room 312

HB 2703 Relating to Food Self Sufficiency

The Honorable Clift Tsuji, Chair; Mark J. Hashem, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

My name is Scott Matsuura, Partner with SPJ Consulting LLC and thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on HB 2703 Relating to Food Self Sufficiency.

I am here today in opposition to HB 2703 and humbly request that you defer action on this bill or remove section 4 Prohibitions. HB 2703 sets significant self sufficiency goals for Hawaii by establishing a food sustainability standard for 2020 equaling at least doubling of the amount of food grown in Hawaii in 2013. The Department of Agriculture is provided responsibilities relating to the measuring and analyzing of data relating to agricultural commodities and along with DBED&T, identify key food commodities that are targeted for assistance in the development of increased local market share; planning and providing incentives to ensure that the food sustainability standard is met or exceeded.

All of the tools provided to the Department of Agriculture will assist the agricultural community in its efforts toward food sustainability and are positive means of seeking to promote rather than penalize efforts towards Hawaii's long term economic stability and food security. Section 4, flies in the face of such positive efforts and seeks to penalize one part of the equation of self sustainability. This is truly not the positive message of moving forward but one of divisiveness and placing blame far before positive efforts can be made towards our goal of self sufficiency.

Therefore, I humbly request that Section 4 be deleted from HB 2703 or that HB 2703 be held in Committee.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion on this matter.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:17 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: metroben@me.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: Ben Robinson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: metroben@me.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
Aloha!

I SUPPORT this measure to provide a "checks and balance" system for agricultural sustainability in Hawaii. By providing a system that encourages and measures the amount of locally-grown and distributed agricultural products in the marketplace and utilizing land reclassification restraints for goals not met, we can help ensure that Hawaii becomes more sustainable.

MahaLo!

Ben Robinson, Honolulu

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:15 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ileanahaunani@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: Ileana Haunani Ruelas
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ileanahaunani@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I support this bill - which provides the potential for:

1. Increased Economic Benefit for Hawaii - Replacing just 10% of imported food with local produce would create more than 2300 jobs.
2. Mindfully investing in the health of our Communities - -As we replaced locally grown produce with imported processed food we unleashed a wave of diet related disease like diabetes and obesity.
3. And helps to guard our precious farmland in this state - through the moratorium on reclassification of land. Let's not pave over, and develop our precious aina that can help to create a sustainable Hawaii.
4. This measure is also strategically protecting our resiliency. 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.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Christine Ahia [cahia@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:20 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Support for HB 2703

Aloha,

I'm writing to encourage support for increasing our local agriculture and food production. With the abundance of rich soil and a prior history of self-sufficiency, it behooves us to increase and further develop local farms and produce. As a state in such an isolated location, the importance of being able to supply food for residents can't be understated. And, the more we can produce locally will benefit our health and economy. Hawai'i Island has many acres of former sugar cane land that could be used for farming. Let's work to ensure that we increase sustainability by raising food production to meet the statewide needs.

Mahalo for your time,
Christine Ahia

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:23 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jmurison@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: Jessica
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jmurison@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Adam Bensley [abensley80@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:33 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Policy Ninja Testimony Update

From: Adam Bensley

2393 Waiomao Road
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96816

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 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.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Elise Davis [elimomidavis@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:52 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Policy Ninja Testimony Update

From: Elise Davis

45-417 Puahuula Place
Kaneohe, Hawaii, 96744

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 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.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Ron Whitmore [whitmo17@msu.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:53 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Policy Ninja Testimony Update

From: Ron Whitmore

113 Alae St.
Hilo, HI, 96720

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I strongly support HB 2703 RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY.Â

50 years ago, we produced 50% of our own food.Â Since then, we've paved over 50% of our farmland.

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.

Moreover, the current food distribution systems, which we rely on are leaving a heavy carbon footprint that will invariably lend itself to further climate change.Â Â

HB2703 puts us on the right path to food sustainability by mandating an increase in Hawaii's food self-sufficiency.Â

Having a greater abundance of local food sources will provide us greater resilience to natural disasters, dock strikes or other unforeseen emergencies.Â

This bill will also bring a lot of money back into our local economy..Â Replacing just 10% of our imported food with local produce creates more than 2300 jobs.

Please support HB2703.



LATE TESTIMONY

LAND USE RESEARCH
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

1100 Alakea Street, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 521-4717
www.lurf.org



January 31, 2012

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

Opposition to HB 2703, Relating to Food Self-Sufficiency. (Requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to develop a food sustainability standard to promote local food production and imposes a land use moratorium.)

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

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

LURF appreciates the opportunity to provide its position **in opposition to HB 2703** and offers encouragement to the various agricultural stakeholder groups who rightfully defend the goals of viable agricultural operations, and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii.

HB 2703. This bill proposes the creation of a new chapter in the Hawaii Revised Statutes requiring the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to develop a food sustainability standard (FSS) to promote local food production in order to help diversify the local economy. HB 2703 also includes a land use moratorium that, notwithstanding the IAL law, provides that after December 31, 2019, no discretionary approvals shall be granted by the State of the counties for a proposed reclassification of an agricultural or conservation district boundary of lands greater than twenty-five acres, if DOA determines that in any particular year that the food sustainability standard has not been achieved.

LURF's Position. Over the years, LURF has strongly supported agriculture, agriculture development, the IAL law and water for agriculture. LURF also supports food security and food self-sufficiency; however, we must **oppose the current form of HB 2703**, based on the reasons set forth below. Instead, we **strongly support HB 2430**, which has been proposed by the DOA and the Governor's package, because it is a measure that emphasizes cooperation and cohesive industry strategies and planning; a holistic approach from farm to market; and active participation from all of the stakeholders in the agricultural industry, transportation, the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, public and private research entities, and other Federal and State agencies; and implementing existing and future programs to develop Hawaii's agriculture and food security, rather than setting standards to be met and imposing moratoriums that punish landowners.

LURF opposes HB 2703 and supports HB 2430, based on the following:

1. **Trust the experts on Food Security and Sustainability.** DOA drafted HB 2430; and DOA has experience in agriculture. We are not sure who drafted HB 2703, and whether they have the experience in agriculture and agricultural operations.
2. **Purposes of measures:**
 - It appears that the main purpose and desired outcome of HB 2703 is to collect data to create a FSS, and then impose a moratorium to prohibit reclassification of lands if the FSS are not met. It does not include support for any agricultural programs, or call for a collaboration of agricultural stakeholders.
 - Purpose of DOA's HB 2430 is to create and implement a very broad agricultural development and food security program to grow the farm to market concept and increase interrelationships between private and public sectors to develop and improve agriculture in the state.
3. **Strategy to achieve food security and sustainability:**
 - HB 2703 is premised on the unreasonable belief that all you need to do to achieve Ag sustainability – is to set a FSS, and punish landowners, if that FSS is not met.
 - DOA's HB 2430 has a multi-faceted strategy, because it understands successful agriculture is very complex and involves many issues (agricultural infrastructure, labor, biosecurity, food safety, market development, research and development, agricultural lands, water and water treatment, pest management, food safety, etc.)
4. **Approach:**
 - **HB 2703 is exclusionary and punitive.** HB 2703 did not include large agricultural landowners were not included in process, blame them for not meeting the FSS, and then punish landowners! It is our understanding that the major agricultural landowners were not consulted in the drafting of HB 2703 and instead of being collaborative; the sole intent is to blame and punish large land owners, if certain FSS are not met. We understand that proponents of the bill refer to it as "hitting them with a stick!"
 - **HB 2430 calls for collaboration and understands that in Hawaii, all stakeholders must work together for the success of Agriculture.** DOA understands that to achieve food security, all stakeholders must work together to make Agriculture successful (collaborative effort, like the IAL law).
5. **Other issues:**
 - **HB 2703 is contrary to the IAL law and unfair to landowners who designated their lands as IAL**
 - **HB 2703 lacks any nexus.** If flooding, drought, storms, or pests cause the State to not meet the FSS, it calls for punishing landowners. There is no nexus (connection) between the two.
 - **HB 2703 ignores careful State and County land use planning.**

Based on the above, LURF **opposes HB 2703**, and respectfully requests that this bill be held in this Committee. LURF however, **strongly supports HB 2430**, and respectfully urges that this Committee favorably consider and pass HB 2430.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding this measure.

LATE TESTIMONY

February 1, 2012

Honorable Representatives,

My name is Angela T. Hoppe-Cruz and I am the Education Resource Specialist at MA`O Organic Farms located in Lualualei Valley, Waianae. I am writing in support of HB 2703 as it pertains to the creation of sustainable economic development translating into two thousand and three hundred jobs as well as an increase of healthy locally produced vegetables, livestock and dairy.

In my current capacity I supervise and manage 40 young interns that operate one of the largest organic farms on the island of O`ahu. I see first hand the positive impacts local agriculture has on our economy and the health of our community. Interns who work part time earn between 500-700 dollars a month a total of 20-30 thousand dollars a month. These dollars cycle back into our community. With access to our produce they are able to subsidize their household grocery budgets thus saving money that again cycles into other spheres of our economy rent, entertainment etc... and eat more healthfully! The research reports that replacing ten per cent of current food imports will create two thousand three hundred jobs. If we multiply what our interns earn at a part time basis by two thousand three hundred jobs we could potentially generate 1, 150,000 at 500 dollars and 1, 610,000.00 at 700 dollars! Now that makes "cents"!

I fully support HB2703 in that it provides creation of sustainable economic workforce and is a healthy alternative to "development" as we know it. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to e-mail or call me at 808-366-5777/808-696-5569. My e-mail is angela@maoorganicfarms.org.

Mahalo nui for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Angela T. Hoppe-Cruz

Kathy Kato

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:51 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kjtagon19@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: judy taggerty
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kjtagon19@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Hawaii use to be self sufficient and can be again. Our location makes it vital to be able to sustaining ourselves completely. We should and can provide food for our state with out needed outside assistance. We should be working toward that goal. Mahalo

LATE TESTIMONY

Amy K. Brinker

248 Kaiulani Avenue #4
Honolulu, HI 96815
Phone: 808-230-0085
E-Mail: [Your E-Mail]

February 1, 2012

House Committee on Agriculture
Room 312, 8:00 a.m., HB 2703

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem and Members of the Committee,

I submit this testimony in *support of HB 2703*, which would create a new HRS chapter requiring DOA to develop standards to increase our local food production. When people discuss local food production, a comparison to the total self-sufficiency of pre-contact Hawaii often begins the conversation; many complaints and solutions are offered thereafter about our food system. It is my sincere hope that we return to that foundational comparison and consider two things: 1) the circumstances of that time demanded total self-sufficiency, and 2) the strong people of the time shaped society to meet those demands.

May this committee moves this bill forward, shaping our society by choice rather than demand.

Sincerely,

Amy K. Brinker
808-230-0085

Kathy Kato

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:13 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dexter@kokuahawaiiifoundation.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: Yes
Submitted by: Dexter Kishida
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dexter@kokuahawaiiifoundation.org Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. As Hawaii's 2050 plan provides general direction, this bill presents a sharper direction for food production in Hawai'i.

While having a young family, I am not against development, but am for smart development. We as a very isolated state do need to work toward more food security, as well as the need to diversify our economy and create jobs.

Working for an Oahu Farm to School Program I am acutely aware of the need of more local foods for local consumption.

Thank you for your consideration.

LATE TESTIMONY

Kathy Kato

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:35 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: c.auhoy@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: Catherine Au Hoy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: c.auhoy@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Because of rising fuel costs and dwindling natural resources, it is crucial that the Hawaiian Islands become more self-sufficient, agriculturally and economically. A thriving sustainable food industry within our community would create jobs for local people, provide an educational resource for our keiki, limit urban development in diminishing rural areas, and create value and a sense of community for Hawaii's residents. Please mandate this so we can progress toward this worthwhile goal.

LATE TESTIMONY



To: House Ag Committee

From: Ashley Lukens, Board Member

My name is Ashley Lukens and I am here on behalf of the Hawaii Food Policy Council. I reside in Representative Hashem's district. I am also here as a PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science at UH Manoa. My research focuses on food policies at the state and municipal level. Although I could testify on the many environmental and economic merits of HB2703, today I want to focus on how the bill stands out in effectively legislating issues of food security and Hawaii's particular need for food self-sufficiency.

The first reason HB2703 effectively encourages food self sufficiency in the state of Hawaii is that the bill addresses not agricultural generally but food production for specifically. It gives the department of ag the capacity for measuring and evaluating production levels of Hawaii's food producers - metrics which we need moving forward.

The "teeth" of the bill (preventing the large scale conversion of agricultural lands) suggests that the state takes the measure and its intent for increasing local food production for local consumption seriously. It suggests that legislators understand that the trend of converting agriculture lands goes against our long term food self sufficiency interests. Given our geographic isolation, it is the responsibility of the state to ensure that Hawaii can grow a sufficient amount of food, particularly in the event of national disaster or an increase in transportation and thus imported food costs.

The final reason that this bill is important is that provides a broader framework within which legislators can develop future policies that more directly address the key barriers to local food production: ie water, land, and labor. The teeth of this bill gives the necessary incentive for developing this subsequent legislation.

There are over 150 food policy councils across the US, many of whom are looking to this bill as a model for food self-sufficiency legislation. We have the opportunity to lead the country in holistically addressing food self-sufficiency issues. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ashley Lukens".

Ashley Lukens

Organization: Hawaii Food Policy Council (HFPC)

Date: 1/31/12

hashem3 - Casey

From: Lindsay Princenthal [lindsay@airiaq.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:44 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Support for HB 2703

To Whom it May Concern,

We have a real chance to commit Hawai'i 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. The state of Hawaii use to grow 50% of our won 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,
Lindsay

hashem1 - Julie

From: Glenn Martinez [olomanagardens@me.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 1:36 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Fwd: Delivery Notification: Delivery has failed

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

LATE TESTIMONY

Begin forwarded message:

From: Glenn Martinez <olomanagardens@me.com>
Date: February 2, 2012 1:07:54 AM HST
To: AGRtestimony@capital.hawaii.gov
Cc: Natalie Cash <sistahcash@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Delivery Notification: Delivery has failed

From: Glenn Martinez <olomanagardens@me.com>
Date: February 1, 2012 10:54:20 PM HST
To: AGRtestimony@capital.hawaii.gov
Subject: Late testimony HB 2703

SUPPORT HB 2703

I am Glenn Martinez, President of Hawaii Farmers Union United.

We strongly support HB 2703.

Our only concerns are that it does not start for another one year.

The bill has a provision that limits conversions of AG land to other uses come 2020 if the Dept of Ag cannot verify or demonstrate that they the farmers of Hawaii have failed to double the production of food within the next seven years.

The fact the the Dept of Ag and the Farm Bureau are on record opposing this bill on behalf of LAND OWNERS is a sign of the times.

Neither organizations speak to or for the farmers, only LAND OWNERS!

In fact all opposition to this bill has to do with the deadline 7 years away.....this is shocking and disturbing.

The Farmers Union thinks that all land conversion should stop NOW, until such time as Hawaii