

SB 1145

LATE

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 1:42 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: farmfreshhawaii@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1145 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM
Attachments: ~\$pport ltr of sb1145.doc

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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1145

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Juanita Kawamoto Brown
Organization: Individual
Address: 1926A Fern St. Honolulu, Hawaii
Phone: 808-330-6224
E-mail: farmfreshhawaii@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:
I strongly support senate bill 1145

nishihara5 - Randy

From: justine espiritu [espiritu.justine@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 11:10 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: SB 1145 - RELATING TO AGRICULTURE. ("Food Sustainability Bill")

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SB 1145 - RELATING TO AGRICULTURE. ("Food Sustainability Bill")

Thursday, Feb 3, 2:45pm

State Capitol Conference Room 229, Senate Committee on Agriculture

This letter is to show support for SB 1145 which requires the State to attain certain food sustainability standards by enumerated deadlines. I want to see the department of agriculture monitor the State's progress with respect to achieving the food sustainability standards. I support granting the department of agriculture authorization to impose penalties for the State's failure to reach the respective food sustainability standard deadlines. I support the idea that the department of agriculture should report to the legislature annually. I also support an appropriation to the department of agriculture to effectuate the purpose of this Act.

I appreciate that his bill recognizes that Hawaii is dangerously dependent on imported food and sets specific goals for food self-sufficiency by requiring 20% of food sold in Hawai'i be local by December 2020, increasing to 40% by December 2040. Please pass this bill in order to hold the State accountable to these goals!!!

Justine espiritu

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 11:43 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: kent@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB1145 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM
Attachments: SB1145testimony.doc

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Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1145

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: George Kent
Organization: Individual
Address: 6303 Paauilo Place Honolulu, Hawaii 96825
Phone: 396 9422
E-mail: kent@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

While I welcome the call for increasing food production in Hawai'i, I think Senate Bill 1145 needs to be refined.

Regarding the opening paragraph, many people say that Hawai'i imports about 85 percent of its food, but there is a need to clarify whether the figure refers to all food or only some (e.g., fresh produce), and it is not clear whether the measure is in terms of value, volume, weight, or something else. The basis for this estimate needs to be explained

If the primary concern is possible disruptions in imports of food, increasing local food production might be helpful, but there are other measures that should be considered as well. There is a need for serious contingency planning to deal with sudden cutoffs, slow cutoffs, partial cutoffs, etc. There is a need to consider possible storage arrangements, and rationing arrangements for extreme situations.

Increasing local food production would create new employment opportunities and increase the local circulation of food dollars. However, estimates should be made about the likely costs. Hawai'i now imports most of its food because that is cheaper than producing it locally. With Hawaii's high land and labor costs, increasing localization could lead to higher food prices.

Most food dollars go to food processors, not farmers. Are we anticipating a sharp increase in Hawaii's food "manufacturing" capacity?

Are we assuming radical changes in diets and lifestyles? Maybe not everyone would welcome such changes.

The bill asserts, "more local food ensures Hawaii would be more resilient to potential climate change impacts such as sea level changes, less rainfall, warmer temperatures, and severe storm events." Why would this be true? Does this refer to climate change events in

Hawai'i or elsewhere? In my view, resilience requires maintaining multiple sources of food, so that with unexpected changes it would be possible to jump from one source to another.

It would be useful create good indicators for Hawaii's food self-sufficiency. However, setting a specific goal regarding where we should be on that measure seems rather arbitrary. In my view the fundamental goal should be to ensure good nutrition for all of Hawaii's people under all conditions. It is not clear how setting a goal in terms of a particular percentage of food self-sufficiency would get us to where we should be in terms of nutrition.

The title proposed for the new law is Food Sustainability. However, the discussion in the bill is mainly about food self-sufficiency. The two concepts should be defined, and the relationship between them should be explained.

The bill says the state's Department of Agriculture should devise a method for measuring the amounts of food sold and grown in the state. How should that be done? This should be just one element in a broader plan to monitor Hawaii's overall food system, including imports, exports, production, processing, marketing, and consumption patterns.

The bill says the Department of Agriculture should plan and adopt the necessary incentives to ensure that the sustainability goals are met. How much would this cost? Would that department have the resources and the legal capacity to provide subsidies for particular kinds of agriculture operations?

The concluding Description speaks of having the Department of Agriculture impose penalties. This was not explained in the preceding text. Penalties against whom, in what form? This suggests an extreme expansion of the authority of that department.

As the bill is reworked, I recommend the creation of a food policy unit in the state government, to work together with the recently created community-based Hawai'i Food Policy Council.

nishihara5 - Randy

From: Jonathan Valdez [jonathanavaldez@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 12:46 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: Testimony for SB 1145 - RELATING TO AGRICULTURE
Attachments: Testimony on SB1145.doc

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Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM 5B1145
Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jonathan Valdez
Organization: Individual
Address: 92-1518 Aliinui Dr. Apt. 3 Kapolei, HI
Phone: 358-4275
E-mail: jonathanavaldez@gmail.com

Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM 5 Bill 1145

Jonathan Valdez
92-1518 Aliinui Dr. Apt. 3
Kapolei HI, 96707

LATE

In support of SB 1145 - RELATING TO AGRICULTURE
Committees on Agriculture
Hearing: February 3, Thursday at 2:45 p.m. Rm229

I am writing in strong support of SB 1145. As a graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in Food Science & Human Nutrition, local farmers and fresh produce makes people of Hawai'i tastier, healthier, stronger, and smarter than imported "fresh" produce because the fresh produce contains higher nutrients. The KEY to accomplish this is by supporting our local farmers and people of Hawai'i by supporting this bill.

The potential of supporting local farming extends further than that, by providing farmers the opportunity to work synergistically with restaurants, schools, and communities to bring cost down, while providing more nutritious foods.

It is also important for people to return to the land and understand food. In order to successfully return to the concept of food, it is vital that we have self-sustainability through our farmers by passing this bill.

It takes one step at a time, and I believe this bill is leading the people closer to saving money, while becoming healthier, stronger, and smarter.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Valdez

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 2:19 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: waxelson@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1145 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM
Attachments: HFU_SupportLetter_SB11545.txt

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Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1145

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wayne Axelson
Organization: Hawaii Farmers Union
Address: 271 Puumakani St Kahului, HI
Phone: 808-359-1121
E-mail: waxelson@mac.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

LATE

To: Honorable Members
Senate Committee on Agriculture

Re: SB1145 - Relating to Food Sustainability Standards

From: Hawaii Farmers Union

The Hawaii Farmers Union welcomes this opportunity to voice support for SB1145, introduced to create food sustainability standards for the state of Hawaii.

We strongly support the language in SB1145 describing the situation the State is now facing: "dangerously dependent of imported food", "imports approximately 85%", "lost opportunity for local economic growth" and "the State's prime agricultural lands are increasingly being consumed by development".

We applaud the recognition of the benefits local sustainable food production will bring: "economic diversification", "more resilient", "stimulate the local economy", "reduce Hawaii's carbon footprint" and finally "a healthier lifestyle and better nutrition".

However, the proposed timescale for action belies this sense of urgency.

We urge you to revise forward the time frame in section 2 that specifies the target percentages for net food sales in Hawaii that are grown in the State.

20% by December 31, 2020 - please make it 2013. This is only a 5% increase from our current average local food production of 15%. Perhaps you are unaware of efforts already underway that will likely achieve this correction on their own: 1) The school garden network, dedicated to putting an active gardening area in every school, recently went state-wide in its organizing efforts. 2) The growing movement for residential "Victory Gardens" and edible landscaping being promoted by sustainability groups all over the State. 3) Community Work Day's campaign to increase the availability of lands dedicated to community gardens. If these efforts, and others like them, are verbally supported by our state leadership, they can achieve this 5% increase with little or no State funding.

30% by December 31, 2030 - please commit to a 2015 target. The 15% increase in local production and consumption required could readily be achieved in 5 years by implementing the long-term agricultural lease agreements being planned for in the provisions of SB1155.

50% by December 31, 2040 - 2020 is an attainable target. This will give us 10 years to plan for and invest in the infrastructure changes necessary to support a fundamental shift towards local food production. Even a 50/50 split will provide a significant measure of food security for the population.

It took a hundred years for the people of Hawaii to drift into the dangerous position of importing, rather than growing, most of our food. Let's not make the mistake of acting as though we have that much time to set the balance right again.

Respectfully,

Wayne Axelson
Vice-president
Hawaii Farmers Union

nishihara5 - Randy

From: Mary Lacques [hokuokekai50@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 4:06 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: SB 1145 - RELATING TO AGRICULTURE In strong support

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Thursday, Feb 3, 2:45pm
State Capitol Conference Room 229, Senate Committee on Agriculture

Mary Lacques
P.O. Box 14
Haleiwa HI 96712

Aloha Chair Nishihara and Vice Chair Kahele,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB1145, which will keep the Department of Agriculture on a timeline for reaching food sustainability standard deadlines.

I think reporting to the legislature on an annual basis regarding our reckless dependence on imported food and the growth of our local market is only fair.

I thank you in advance for your foresight and dedication to our children and future generations.

Sincerely,
Mary Lacques