

SB2692

Testimony



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2012
2:45 PM
ROOM 229

SENATE BILL NO. 2692
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 2692. The purpose of this measure is to create an agricultural development and food security program within the Department of Agriculture. We strongly support this measure.

The goal of this measure is intended to integrate programs in order to develop Hawaii's agriculture and food security. Hawaii's agriculture has transformed from sugar and pineapple to diversified agriculture and now faces such complexities as diversified export markets, increased pest pressure, global competitiveness, sustainability, food safety, food security and self-sufficiency.

To move the agriculture industry forward and meet the needs of the industry, a coordinated effort with the agricultural, transportation, and business industries, research organizations, and other federal and state agencies will be required. Although the objectives appear simple and straightforward, the complexities can only be solved with cooperation and cohesive industry strategies and planning.



This program takes a holistic approach from farm-to-market, including subsystems which are not necessarily under the Department of Agriculture's purview, but critical to the development of agriculture. The overall concept overseen by the Department includes subsystems or subprograms such as farm inputs, labor, infrastructure, biosecurity, food safety, sustainability, market development, and research and development. The Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is the government agency best positioned to oversee the development of agriculture, with active participation from the agriculture industry, transportation, the University of Hawaii-College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), public and private research entities, and other Federal and State agencies.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on this measure.

The Pacific Resource
PARTNERSHIP



Testimony of C. Mike Kido
External Affairs
The Pacific Resource Partnership

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

Tuesday, January 31, 2012
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 229

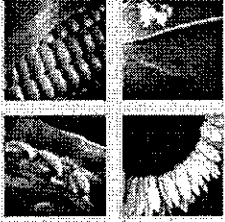
Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Agriculture Committee:

My name is C. Mike Kido, External Affairs of the Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP), a labor-management consortium representing over 240 signatory contractors and their members.

PRP supports SB 2692 - Relating to Agriculture which creates an agricultural development and food security program within the Department of Agriculture. The Act authorizes the Department of Agriculture to develop, coordinate and fund, and integrate new and existing programs, facilities, and projects in order to promote the development of agriculture and food security within Hawaii.

PRP believes by encompassing all aspects of agriculture from farms to markets, will develop and improve agriculture in Hawaii.

Thank you for allowing us to comment and we kindly requests your support on SB 2692.



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti
SB 2692 – Relating to Agriculture
The Senate Committee on Agriculture
Tuesday, January 31, 2012
2:45 p.m., Room 229

**HCIA 2010-2012
Board of Directors**

President
Fred Perlak

Vice President
Laurie Goodwin

Treasurer
John Anderson

Secretary
Allka Napier

Directors At Large

David Gilliland
Cindy Goldstein
Adolph Helm
Kirby Kester
Steve Lupkes
Mark Phillipson
Mark Stoutemyer
Alan Takemoto

Past President
Adolph Helm

Executive Director
Alicia Maluafiti

Position: Support

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, a nonprofit trade association representing Hawaii seed farmers.

We support SB 2692 as an attempt by the State Department of Agriculture to provide a comprehensive and strategic approach to addressing many of the challenges facing agricultural viability and sustainability in Hawaii. Seed farmers – like many other commodity groups including the landscape, floral and coffee farmers – may not be growing crops or produce that contributes to meeting our food security goals. But that does not diminish the important role that we play in providing Hawaii with important export markets that elevate Hawaii as a global competitor.

We believe that the HDOA understands, embraces and values all forms of agriculture. SB 2692 would allow the HDOA to move forward a program and plan that is important to the agricultural viability and sustainability – above and beyond just food.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

91-1012 Kahl'uka Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Tel: (808) 224-3648
director@hciaonline.com
www.hciaonline.com



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

January 31, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2692
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 229
2:45 PM

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

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

HFBF is in strong support of SB 2692, creating an agricultural development and food security program within the Department of Agriculture.

During the 2010 Legislative Session, HFBF did something we have never done before. Historically, the organization has advocated for reduction in taxes. Yet, we realized that change was needed. Investments in agriculture were lagging and critical infrastructure repairs were not happening. Consistent funding for expansion in source development for water and infrastructure for expansion of agricultural production was needed. We therefore supported the expansion of the Environmental Revolving Fund to include Agricultural development and Food Security.

This measure establishes a program in the HDOA to identify the use of these funds. The public desires transparency in use of public funds. This measure provides that process by listing the various activities that will fall under the scope of this fund.

We respectfully request your strong support of this measure.

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



Poamoho Organic Produce
PO Box 728
Waialua HI 96791
808-637-4555
info@poamoho-organic.com

January 29, 2012

To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Re: Hearings on January 31, 2012, 2:45 pm, Rm #229
Subject: Testimony regarding SB2692

Aloha Committee Chair and Committee Members,

I am an organic farmer on the North Shore of Oahu and President of the Hawaii Center for Organic Farming. Please accept my testimony on the subject Bill.

SB2692 tasks the Department of Agriculture (DoA) to establish an Agriculture Development and Food Security Program. I appreciate and support the purpose of this Bill that will address many of our Ag issues and I have some comments and concerns.

Agriculture Development is an important step towards Sustainability and requires a new look at old problems and, above all, advocacy. The legacy of our DoA has been regulatory, not advocacy; so the opportunity for "new-think" will be limited unless new doors are open to new ideas.

Food Sustainability should be defined in the text of the Bill to eliminate confusion and solidify intent. For many of us farmers, food sustainability refers to ensuring the continuous and uninterrupted flow of imported foods. It is the exact opposite of food-self-sufficiency i.e. growing local food for local consumption, which appears to be the true intent of this Bill.

Mahalo,

Al Santoro

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:50 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: howard@nalo-meli.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2692 on 1/31/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 1/31/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2692

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Howard McGinnis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: howard@nalo-meli.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
Strongly support this bill.