

SB 2693

Testimony

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Tuesday, February 7, 2012
2:50 P.M..
ROOM 229

SENATE BILL NO. 2693
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL POLICY

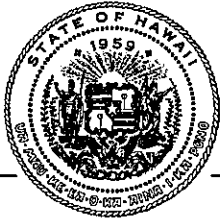
Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2693. This bill proposes to amend Hawaii Revised Statutes 226-7 to make a strong and clear policy statement to support the purchase and consumption of locally grown products.

There has been a growing disconnect between people and the understanding of where their food comes from that has resulted in an increase in health problems and a decline in food security. Moving towards increasing the purchase of locally grown agricultural products will have the effect of increasing access to fresh agricultural commodities and also supporting our local agricultural industry and ensure we are moving toward a more food secure way of living. The proposed amendments to the Hawaii State Planning Act reflect the desire of the Department of Agriculture to emphasize the importance of supporting local agriculture in the movement towards greater food safety, food security, and self-sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.





**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

OFFICE OF PLANNING

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR
RICHARD C. LIM
DIRECTOR
MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTYDIRECTOR
JESSE K. SOUKI
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824

Statement of
JESSE K. SOUKI
Director, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Tuesday, February 7, 2012
2:50 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of
SB 2693
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL POLICY.

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Senate Committee on
Agriculture.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports SB 2693, which would amend Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 226 policies and priority guidelines for agriculture to incorporate the promotion and increase in the consumption of Hawaii-grown foods and products as a state policy goal.

A key element of the Administration's New Day Plan is to stimulate an agricultural renaissance in Hawaii that would increase production and consumption of locally produced foods and increase food and energy security for the islands. A policy commitment to the consumption of locally grown products is critical to an effective campaign to address our State's dependence on food and other agricultural imports, increase food self-sufficiency for Hawaii's people, and expand markets for Hawaii's farmers.

OP offers a minor technical amendment to the language on page 4, line 6 of the bill. We recommend substituting “products” for “foods”. This makes the statement consistent with the bill’s other proposed amendments and ensures that Hawaii-grown agricultural production is supported in the broadest sense.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803

808.538.6616 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 7, 2012, 2:50 P.M.
(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2693, WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Aloha Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 9,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, *supports* SB 2693. This bill would incorporate policies that would support the purchase and consumption of locally grown food.

Although SB 2693 is a good bill, it could be amended to set bold and aggressive policy standards with specific measurement criteria over time. This bill could incorporate language from HB 2703. 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



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 7, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2693
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Room 229
2:50 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 supports the intent and provides the following comments on SB 2693, amending the Hawaii State Planning Act to include statements regarding purchase of Hawaii-grown foods.

Numerous studies and statements about the importance of local agriculture have been conducted over time. They all require resources. The current Hawaii State Planning Act contains many policy statements supporting agriculture. Despite these policy statements that supposedly support agriculture, agriculture continues to struggle to be recognized as a critical industry for long term sustainability. Farmers and ranchers need to grow and raise sufficient agricultural products in a reliable and affordable manner to change purchase practices.

Section 226-1, defining the purpose of this chapter states:

"...identify the goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for the State; provide a basis for determining priorities and allocating limited resources, such as public funds, services, human resources, land, energy, water, and other resources; improve coordination of federal, state, and county plans, policies, programs, projects, and regulatory activities; and

to establish a system for plan formulation and program coordination to provide for an integration of all major state, and county activities.”

These statements imply that the policies play a role in administrative and legislative decision making.

This year, the Hawaii Farm Bureau has introduced a package of measures addressing the real needs of our farmers and ranchers. Infrastructure, agricultural crime, permitting, regulatory assistance – all topics contained within the existing plan. Yet, we know we will struggle to have the measures passed and may face vetoes, as competing interests challenge our measures. What role do the existing plans play in this decision making process? We need deliverables that will help our farmers and ranchers today. The needs are known. We need to be pragmatic and address these needs rather than “plan” and not deliver what is already in the plan.

We do not disagree with the proposed language in the Plan. However, we are realistic in recognizing that plans do not necessarily deliver the desired outcome without commitment to deliver the implementation measures.

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

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 7:30 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: anthuriumz@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2693 on 2/7/2012 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 2/7/2012 2:50:00 PM SB2693

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Wynnie Hee
Organization: Individual
E-mail: anthuriumz@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Yes, please SUPPORT local farmers and increase consumption of local produce. It's logical (year-round growing season) and ecological (green jobs, reduce transportation & refrigeration costs).

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:48 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: rick.ck.barboza@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2693 on 2/7/2012 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 2/7/2012 2:50:00 PM SB2693

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rick Barboza
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rick.ck.barboza@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 3:56 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: redahi@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2693 on 2/7/2012 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 2/7/2012 2:50:00 PM SB2693

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: B.A. McClintock
Organization: Individual
E-mail: redahi@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

This is a good, common sense bill. If catastrophe were to strike we would have a major problem because we import between 85-92% of our food. Please pass this important bill.

Thank you for your time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 8:54 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: nihipalim001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2693 on 2/7/2012 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 2/7/2012 2:50:00 PM SB2693

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michele Nihipali
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nihipalim001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I support SB 2693 because it would promote food self-sufficiency by increasing the use of locally grown foods by governing bodies through amending the State's planning act. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 8:55 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: damiansempio@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2693 on 2/7/2012 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 2/7/2012 2:50:00 PM SB2693

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Damian Sempio
Organization: Individual
E-mail: damiansempio@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments: