

**SCR 133/ SR 70**  
**Testimony**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Tuesday, March 27, 2012  
2:45 P.M.  
Room 229

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ~~133~~ SENATE RESOLUTION 70  
CONVENING AN AGRICULTURE POLICY TASK FORCE TO REVIEW  
AGRICULTURAL POLICIES FROM OTHER STATES IN PROVIDING FOR HAWAII'S  
AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 133/  
Senate Resolution 70. The purpose of this resolution is to convene an agriculture policy  
task force to review agricultural policies from other states in providing for Hawaii's  
agriculture industry.

The Department believes strongly in the importance of good agricultural  
practices, water resources, air quality, and food safety. However, the Department  
wishes to highlight its lack of resources that would make it difficult to fully carry out the  
requests outlined in this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

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March 27, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SCR 133/SR 70  
CONVENING AN AGRICULTURE POLICY TASK FORCE TO REVIEW  
AGRICULTURAL POLICIES FROM OTHER STATES IN PROVIDING FOR HAWAII'S  
AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

Room 229  
2:45 PM

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele 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 is **in strong support** of SCR 133/SR 70 which supports a framework for policy support of the agricultural industry.

Hawaii's State Constitution, State Policies as defined in HRS 226, various County General Plans and most recently the Governor's Platform of a New Day all speak to the importance of agriculture to Hawaii's future.

At the same time, efforts are often disconnected, with many pointing to the Department of Agriculture to carry out this mission. There may have been a time during abundant resources that such an order may have been reasonable. However, times have changed and the demands on the Department expanded. Hawaii's support of agriculture cannot just lie in the Department's hands or that of the legislature but needs to be a collaborative public private partnership. Developing the relationships and commitments will be a significant first step to solidifying the foundation for Hawaii's agricultural future and therefore our level of self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Discussions by the parties identified in SCR 133/SR 70 to craft a comprehensive plan that has a broad foundation, supported by the individual department budgets and goals and legislative priorities in 2013-2014 will be a major breakthrough in providing actual

support to implementing the various policies speaking to supporting agriculture in the State.

We respectfully request your strong support of these resolutions.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

**nishihara1 - Danille**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:32 PM  
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**Subject:** Testimony for SCR133 on 3/27/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/27/2012 2:45:00 PM SCR133

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Alan Gottlieb  
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Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments: