

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2012
10:30 AM
Conference Room 224**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 134

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO IMPLEMENT AN
INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO PROMOTE THE PURCHASE OF HAWAII-GROWN
AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 134. The purpose of this resolution is to request the Department of Agriculture to implement an incentive program to promote the purchase of Hawaii-grown agricultural commodities. The Department supports the intent of this resolution as it supports the efforts the Department has been making in this endeavor.

The resolution, in part, requests the Department of Agriculture to work with growers and producers and state agencies, as well other agencies to establish a program that provides for the purchase of agricultural products grown in Hawaii by schools, hospitals, and other appropriate consumers. The Market Development Branch of the HDOA, through the "Buy Local, It Matters" and "Seal of Quality" programs, works to increase the purchase of locally grown products by consumers and businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



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April 19, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SCR 134
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO IMPLEMENT AN
INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO PROMOTE THE PURCHASE OF HAWAII GROWN
AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

Room 224
10:30 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 is **in strong support** of SCR 134 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.

We respectfully request your strong support of these resolutions.

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

hashem1 - Julie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 10:22 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SCR134 on 4/19/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 4/19/2012 10:30:00 AM SCR134

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Javier Mendez-Alvarez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 4/17/2012

Comments: