



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2012
11:00 A.M.
ROOM 312

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 72/ SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 135
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S EFFORTS TO
STIMULATE THE STATE'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY, INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY
AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT, AND PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY.

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Resolution No. 72/House Concurrent Resolution No. 135. The purpose of this resolution is to express support for the Department's efforts to stimulate the State's Agriculture industry, increase and diversify agricultural output, and promote food security. We are very grateful for your strong support of our new Agricultural Development and Food Security program and strongly support this resolution.

The goal of the Agricultural Development and Food Security program is 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, will take a coordinated effort with the agricultural, transportation, and business industries, research organizations, and other federal and state agencies. Although the objectives appear simple and straightforward, the complexities can only be solved with cooperation and cohesive industry strategies and planning.

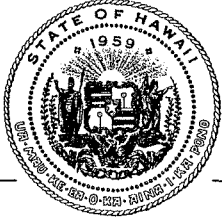
This program takes a holistic approach from farm-to-market, including subsystems which are not necessarily under the Department of Agriculture's (Department) purview, but critical to the development of agriculture. The overall concept overseen by the Department includes subsystems or subprograms such as but not limited to farm inputs, labor, infrastructure, biosecurity, food safety, sustainability, market development, and research and development.

Industry plays a prominent role in defining priorities; however, it is vital during this time of limited resources that the Department of Agriculture, the agriculture industries, the research institutions, and federal, state, county and private partnerships combine their resources and expertise due to the multitude of needs and complexity of issues. And yet, despite these complexities, all of our farmers and producers share these basic needs beyond infrastructure (land & water) and labor.

- Distinguish "Hawaii grown" in both local and export markets.
- Increase availability of improved cultivars to farmers.
- Assistance in pest management.
- Increase access to local, domestic, and international markets by removing trade barriers and improving access to quarantine treatments and resolving transportation issues.

We look forward to reporting on the progress of our initiatives.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on this measure.



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

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

OFFICE OF PLANNING

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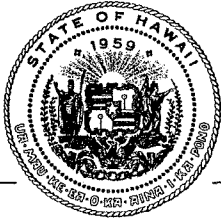
Statement of
JESSE K. SOUKI
Director, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Friday, April 13, 2012
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of
SCR 135
**EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S
EFFORTS TO STIMULATE THE STATE'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY,
INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT, AND PROMOTE FOOD
SECURITY.**

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the House Committee on
Agriculture.

The Office of Planning supports SCR 135 which supports the Department of
Agriculture's efforts to stimulate and diversify Hawaii's agriculture industry and to promote
food security in the islands. SCR 135 is consistent with the Administration's New Day Plan
to stimulate an agricultural renaissance in Hawaii that would increase production and
consumption of locally produced foods.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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To: House Committee on Agriculture **From:** Teri Hee, Secretary

Date: April 12, 2012

Re: SCR135__BED-OP_04-13-12_AGR **CC:**

Testifier:	WRITTEN ONLY
Committee:	AGR
Date/Time of Hrg.	Friday, 4/13/12 @ 11:00 AM, Rm. 312
Measure No.	SCR135 – EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S EFFORTS TO STIMULATE THE STATE'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY, INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT, AND PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY.
No. of Copies to Committee:	5 copies to Room 424



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April 13, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SCR 135
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S EFFORTS
TO STIMULATE THE STATE'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY, INCREASE AND
DIVERSIFY AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT, AND PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY

Room 312
11:00 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 135 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 this resolution.

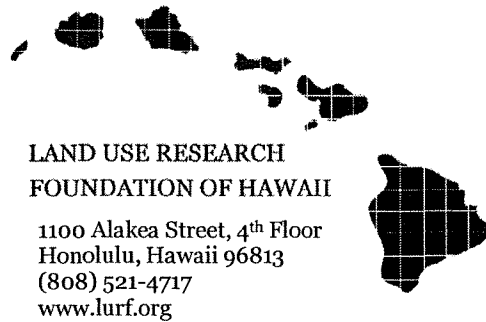
Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 11:36 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR135 on 4/13/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 4/13/2012 11:00:00 AM SCR135

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Warren Watanabe
Organization: MCFB
E-mail: warrenmcfb@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/11/2012

Comments:



April 11, 2012

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Support of Senate Concurrent Resolution (“SCR”) No. 135, Expressing Support for the Department of Agriculture’s Efforts to Stimulate the State’s Agriculture Industry, Increase and Diversify Agricultural Output, and Promote Food Security.

Friday, April 13, 2012, 11:00 a.m., in Conference Room 312

My name is Dave Arakawa, and I am the Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF), a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF’s missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii’s significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of SCR 135**, and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations, and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii. This resolution supports the need to establish an agricultural development and security program to improve the economic viability of the State’s agricultural industry.

SCR 135. The intent of this Resolution is to support the establishment of an agricultural development and food security program that seeks to increase agricultural sustainability and improve the economic viability of the State’s agriculture industry.

LURF’s Position. Agricultural security is vital for the safe and secure production, processing, sale, distribution, importation and consumption of food products and agricultural commodities in Hawaii. This Resolution is intended to assist in the establishment of an agricultural development and food security program which is needed to help the State’s agricultural industry meet food safety objectives and standards, and effectively increase the State’s self-sufficiency, job opportunities and product exports, thereby diversifying the State’s economy.

LURF understands that such a program is necessary on a local level in order that the State may, amongst other things, ensure that local food safety regulations and certifications conform to governmental and other uniform requirements and standards. This development of practices and standards of agricultural safety transparent to all is needed in Hawaii in order that members of the agriculture industry may voluntarily request certification by the DOA, verifying compliance with the standards. Adoption of such standards and policies will provide a practical

House Committee on Agriculture
April 11, 2012
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means for the State to support agriculture, and is necessary for the State to attain increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Based on the above, LURF **supports SCR 135**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of the Resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to express support regarding this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 10:20 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SCR135 on 4/13/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 4/13/2012 11:00:00 AM SCR135

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Javier Mendez-Alvarez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 4/11/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 5:16 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: anthuriumz@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR135 on 4/13/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 4/13/2012 11:00:00 AM SCR135

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wynnie Hee
Organization: Individual
E-mail: anthuriumz@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/11/2012

Comments:

YES, I want my legislators to support agricultural food production. And please remember, GMO seed crops are NOT food for the people of Hawaii to eat. I saw the documentary film, King Korn, about GMO corn. It tastes like sawdust. It is meant to be processed into a multitude of corn products like high fructose corn sweetener or for cattle feed.