

SCR 50
Testimony

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**Tuesday, March 27, 2012
2:45 P.M.
Conference Room 229**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 50

**DECLARING SUNDAYS TO BE "EAT LOCAL, BUY LOCAL" DAY IN HAWAII AND
ENCOURAGING FAMILIES, RESTAURANTS, AND GROCERS TO BUY HAWAII-
GROWN FOODS, FLOWERS AND PRODUCE**

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR No. 50. The purpose of this concurrent resolution is to declare Sundays as a day to "Eat Local, Buy Local" and to encourage families, restaurants and grocers to promote Hawaii grown foods, flowers and produce. The Department of Agriculture supports the resolution and the promotion and purchase of local agricultural products, which moves Hawaii toward food sustainability.

The Department's comment is to include the "*Buy Local, It Matters*" message in the promotion as we have banners and posters that can be deployed to support the campaign to "Buy Local" on Sundays and to work towards the day when everyday is a day for families, restaurants and grocers to support local agricultural products

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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 50
DECLARING SUNDAYS TO BE "EAT LOCAL, BUY LOCAL" DAY IN HAWAII AND
ENCOURAGING FAMILIES, RESTAURANTS, AND GROCERS TO BUY HAWAII-
GROWN FOODS, FLOWERS, AND PRODUCE.

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 50, which designates Sundays as "Eat Local, Buy Local" Day.

The availability of locally grown agricultural products is important to our island State. The supply of locally grown products depends on consistent production from our farmers and ranchers which is reliant on purchase policies by consumers and the State. Hawaii's consumers are more aware than ever that buying local products supports Hawaii's farmers and ranchers while providing fresh and nutritious food to our residents. The State government is also a significant consumer and can play an important role in setting a policy example of consumer behavior by purchasing local.

We support initiatives such as SCR 50 that will promote the ability of our local farmers and ranchers to remain viable so our State can achieve self-sufficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support.

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:32 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR50 on 3/27/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/27/2012 2:45:00 PM SCR50

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alan Gottlieb
Organization: Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
E-mail: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

nishihara1 - Danille

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:13 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR50 on 3/27/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 3/27/2012 2:45:00 PM SCR50

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Penny Levin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

I support this resolution. Eat local; buy local should be every day, but one day a week is a good start. The more people who buy local, the bigger the market will become and the more affordable local produce will be - for all of us.

For those who consider Sunday's to be a day of rest and reflection, what better day to reflect on and participate in our local food diversity and self-sufficiency, and to be thankful for the many local small family farms and individual farmers who put food directly on our tables.