

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2013

RE: S.B. No. 937
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2013
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Agriculture, to which was referred S.B. No. 937 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HAWAII FOOD RESILIENCY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish a statewide food resiliency initiative that is recognized and supported by the Legislature and will achieve measurable goals of food self-sufficiency in a reasonable timeframe;
- (2) Establish a Food Resiliency Branch in the Department of Agriculture to coordinate, promote, and implement the food resiliency initiative according to the initiative's stated benchmarks and goals;
- (3) Establish a task force to set forth the specific benchmarks for the food resiliency initiative to achieve and a time in which to achieve those benchmarks; and
- (4) Provide adequate resources to support the food resiliency initiative.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, League of Women Voters, and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture and Office of Planning.



Your Committee finds that Hawaii is dangerously dependent on imported food. It is estimated that Hawaii's current inventory of fresh produce would supply consumers in Hawaii for no more than ten days. The State's reliance on out-of-state sources of food places residents at risk of food shortages in the event of natural disasters, economic disruption, and other external factors beyond the State's control. Your Committee further finds that an increase in the production and sale of Hawaii-grown agricultural commodities would contribute to the economy and create a significant number of jobs. It is estimated that increasing the amount of locally grown food by as little as ten percent would keep hundreds of millions of dollars circulating within Hawaii's economy and create thousands of new jobs. Finally, your Committee finds that increased availability of local food typically ensures access to fresher, later-picked produce with greater vitamin content and higher nutritional value. Therefore, increasing Hawaii's inventory of locally produced food will improve residents' health.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 937, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 937, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture,

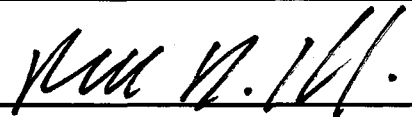


CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture
AGL

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB937	AGL, WAM	2/12/13		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (C)	✓			
KOUCHI, Ronald D. (VC)	✓			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.	✓			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	✓			
THIELEN, Laura H.	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn				✓
SLOM, Sam				✓
TOTAL	5			2
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes