



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2014

9:40 A.M.

Room 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1990
RELATING TO HAWAII GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

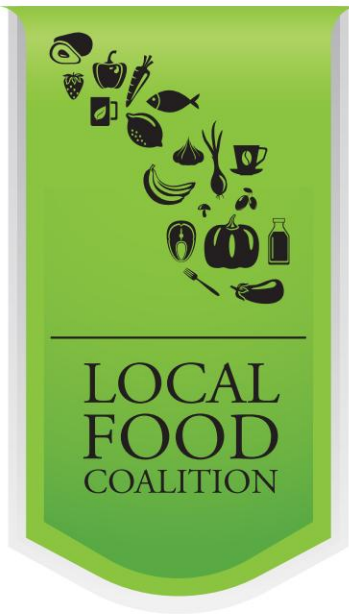
Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1990 relating to Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices. This bill establishes a Hawaii good agricultural practices program to develop science and risk-based good agricultural practices that reasonably reduce the potential for on-farm food-borne illness; educate and train Hawaii farmers on good agricultural practices, and develop a consumer information program for home practices on treatment and handling of fresh and processed agricultural food products. The Department supports the intent of this bill but would suggest waiting for the recommendations from the good agricultural practices task force.

Act 106, SLH 2013 created a good agricultural practices task force to identify and develop good agricultural practices and preventative measure guidelines in the food supply system to improve the overall safety of locally grown food. The task force is tasked to identify and develop good agricultural guidelines for agricultural producers and report its recommendations to the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Monday, February 3, 2014 – 9:40 a.m. – Auditorium

The Local Food Coalition Supports HB 1990, Relating to Hawai'i Good Agricultural Practices

Dear Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am general partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Honolulu-based impact investment firm, which is working to improve the quality of life for Hawai'i residents by investing in projects that create more locally grown food, increase renewable energy and reduce/recycle waste. We are representing on behalf of the Local Food Coalition, which is an organization comprising farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawai'i's food supply.

The Local Food Coalition supports HB 1990, which establishes the Hawai'i good agricultural practices program. As the number of small farms in Hawai'i has grown in importance during the last ten years, this trend is necessitating the development of a Hawai'i good agricultural practices program. The program's intent is to reduce the potential for contamination of food products on farms via science-based guidelines that support safe farming practices, including considerations for various farm sizes, techniques, and crops. Currently, food safety certification audits are costly for many Hawai'i farmers and preventing more local food from entering the marketplace.

There is a lot of uncertainty around food safety issues. Therefore, we are hopeful that this bill can develop programs to educate and train local farmers in best practices to meet food safety requirements. Furthermore, we are supportive of a consumer information program to teach the public about safe handling of agricultural products.

As part of the Local Food Coalition, Ulupono is very pleased to support proposals designed to help grow more local food. Our group's members came together last year with one common goal: to promote the local production of food in a sustainable and economically sound manner to benefit Hawai'i's people through the revitalization and expansion of our state's agricultural sector. This year the Coalition is continuing to pursue this comprehensive approach because it is the most effective way for Hawai'i to develop its resources for diversified food production, as well as lessen its dependence on importing that which can be grown, raised and processed locally.

The Coalition includes the Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation, the Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council, Inc., Hawai'i Farmers' Union United, 4 Ag Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association, the Kohala Center, Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association, Hawai'i Food Industry Association, Hawai'i

4 Ag Hawai'i

Hawai'i Aquaculture &
Aquaponics Association

Hawai'i Association of
Independent Schools

Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council

Hawai'i Farm Bureau
Federation

Hawai'i Farmers' Union
United

Hawai'i Food Industry
Association

Hawai'i Food
Manufacturers Association

Kohala Center

Malama Kaua'i

Maui School Garden
Network

Ulupono Initiative

The Local Food Coalition Supports All Forms of Agriculture.

Association of Independent Schools, Maui School Garden Network, Malama Kaua’i, and Ulupono Initiative.

We believe that working together we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner
Ulupono Initiative

Email: communications@ulupono.com



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 6, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2394
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Room 312
9:40 AM

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,832 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau **strongly supports** HB 1990, "Relating to Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices." While Hawaii's farmers recognize the critical importance of food safety, the current system of third-party food safety certification is unwieldy, expensive, and often impractical for the many small and diverse farms that make up the major part of Hawaii's food producers.

The recently passed Food Safety Modernization Act directs the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to create new, stronger regulations to prevent bacterial contamination of produce and to improve traceability of farm products. FDA's proposed regulations were distributed for public comment in early 2013, and FDA is currently in the process of reviewing the comments it has received. Nationwide, and particularly in Hawaii, there is a great deal of concern among farmers and farm organizations regarding the impact of the new rules. Farmers are confused as to which rules apply to their individual farms, what practices will satisfy the new rules, and what the cost of these practices will be. Further, Hawaii's climatic, social, and economic circumstances differ from those on the U.S. mainland, as do many of Hawaii's food crops, so criteria established for the U.S. as a whole may not be appropriate for Hawaiian conditions.

FSMA allows states to establish food safety criteria, provided that the alternative procedures can be shown scientifically to be at least as safe as the procedures prescribed by FDA's standards. HB 1990's proposed program would encourage the Department of Agriculture to develop science- and risk-based good agricultural practices that should meet these standards, while allowing for the diversity of crops, farm sizes, and farming practices present in Hawaii. It also would provide education

and training for farmers to learn and implement these practices. The certification program would likely be more practical, more cost-effective, more farmer-friendly, and better suited to Hawaii's unique situation than the current patchwork of third-party certification and impending, but uncertain, new regulations. The ultimate result should be more, and safer, local food for Hawaii's consumers.

We therefore urge you to pass HB 1990 and help Hawaii's farmers continue to produce safe, wholesome produce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter of importance to Hawaii's farmers



February 5, 2014

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture.

The Maui School Garden Network is a member of the Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui. It was first started in the fall of 2008 and currently includes 41 out of 46 K-12 schools on the islands of Maui and Lāna'i as well as 15 partner organizations including the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at UHMC and the Sustainable Living Institute's Community Garden program on the campus of UHMC.

MSGN supports HB 1990 which calls for the establishment of the Hawai'i Good Agricultural Practices Program through the State Department of Agriculture. We believe the establishment of this program will serve to support a much needed increase in local produce for our children's health as well as:

- (1) Provide opportunities for expanding STEM programs including science elaborations in chemistry, biology, earth science, and physics through our K-12 school garden programs.
- (2) Offer expanded markets for the distribution of locally grown fruits and vegetables to two of our major distributors that service our schools in particular, Kula Produce and Watanabe Vegetable Processing. Both agencies would like to see an increase in GAP Certification for our Maui farmers as well as a much needed increase in auditors.
- (3) Provide increased opportunities for all of our farmers (especially our young farmers) to expand their markets locally in order to create a viable economic future in the areas of agriculture and natural resources for them. Our school garden farm to school networks on all our islands have done a good job of promoting career interest in these areas through the creation of living labs on the school campuses.
- (4) The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Network has already produced a garden poster, "Fresh, Healthy, and Safe: Best Practices for Growing and Using Produce Grown in Hawai'i School Gardens PreK-8" that puts the 16 page CTAHR-University of Hawai'i at Mānoa document, "Student and Food Safety: Best Practices for Hawai'i School Gardens" document into language understandable to our teachers and their students. This is posted in all our school garden sites.
- (5) Provide an opportunity for Hawai'i's schools with garden programs to pursue GAP certification. Presently nine of Maui's schools have indicated an interest in doing so.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Ms. Lehn Huff
Maui School Garden Network
P.O. Box 458
Haiku, Hawaii 96708
msgn@hawaii.rr.com
(808) 250-8323 Cell

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 10:22 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1990 on Feb 6, 2014 09:40AM

HB1990

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for AGR on Feb 6, 2014 09:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	The Kohala Center-HISGN	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for this excellent beginning to create the much needed Hawai'i Best Practices for Food Safety.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 12:44 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: fmencher@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1990 on Feb 6, 2014 09:40AM

HB1990

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for AGR on Feb 6, 2014 09:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frederick M. Mencher	Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association supports HB 1990. Hawaii needs a program to establish good agricultural practices that are practical, science-based, and appropriate for Hawaii's unique conditions. We encourage you to pass this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 10:01 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tasia@maoorganicfarms.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1990 on Feb 6, 2014 09:40AM*

HB1990

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for AGR on Feb 6, 2014 09:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tasia yamamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 2:21 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1990 on Feb 6, 2014 09:40AM*

HB1990

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for AGR on Feb 6, 2014 09:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 5:53 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: lynhowe1946@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1990 on Feb 6, 2014 09:40AM*

HB1990

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for AGR on Feb 6, 2014 09:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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