

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**FEBRUARY 11, 2013
9:00 A.M.
ROOM 229**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 508
RELATING TO THE PROCUREMENT CODE**

Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 508. This bill proposes to exempt from the procurement code any contract by governmental bodies to procure fresh meat and produce, and animals and plants for use by any governmental body. The Department is in support of the intent of this bill but would prefer the language in House Bill 769 which was developed in tandem with the State Procurement Office.

The Department has a strong belief in the importance of buying locally grown agricultural commodities to promote the availability of fresh produce for our local communities and for the resulting economic benefits of supporting local agricultural businesses. As a result of the work of the working group formed as a result of House Concurrent Resolution 167 (2011) the Department with the State Procurement Office in crafting HB 769 which will achieve the goal of allowing agencies to more efficiently purchase items such as fresh meat and produce that are highly perishable and vary in availability, quality, and quantity. If the language of this bill can be amended to reflect the language in HB 769 we would be in full support.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.





**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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e-mail: state.procurement.office@hawaii.gov
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TESTIMONY
OF
AARON S. FUJIOKA
ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE

February 11, 2013

9:00 a.m.

HB 508

RELATING TO THE PROCUREMENT CODE.

Chair Wooley, Vice-Chair Onishi, and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 508. This bill establishes an exemption for 'fresh meat and produce' and 'animals and plants' in HRS chapter 103D, Hawaii Public Procurement Code.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports this bill. For many years the SPO has held the position that formally procuring these items is problematic for agencies, is not an efficient process, and does not benefit Hawaii businesses. This exemption will allow agencies to simply purchase these items that are highly perishable, vary in availability, quality and quantity, to acquire from best available sources on an as needed basis. In the spirit of competition, the SPO encourages governmental bodies to continue allowing informal price comparisons as is practical.

Thank you.



Email: communications@uluponoinitiative.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Monday, February 11, 2013 — 9 a.m. — Room 423

Ulupono Initiative Supports HB 508, Relating to the Procurement Code

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 Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally grown food, increase renewable energy, and reduce/recycle waste. Ulupono invests in projects that have the potential to create large-scale, innovative change.

Ulupono supports HB 508, which amends the state procurement process required for government entities to acquire locally grown foods to help support local food and agriculture businesses while increasing availability of fresh food to government-run institutions. This move would help put fresh, healthy produce into schools, hospitals, correctional facilities and other institutions. This would help to level the playing field for local food producers competing with larger out-of-state operations. It would do so while providing a more consistent source of fresh local food through government operations that serve a diverse range of our citizens — from schoolchildren to the elderly or those in frail health.

The bill exempts purchase of unprocessed or minimally processed Hawai'i-grown food by any governmental body from the Hawai'i Public Procurement Code. By exempting fresh meats, produce, plants and animals, this measure can help increase revenue for local farmers/producers by providing access to larger institutions, helping to create jobs and increase Hawai'i's food self-sufficiency.

Ulupono has joined with a diverse group of organizations who have come together for the first time as the Local Food Coalition to support proposals designed to help grow more local food. The coalition brings together farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations. The idea is that putting more local food on local plates can best be accomplished by bringing people and organizations together who can work on the entire food value chain in a systematic way. 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

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2013 7:56 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB508 on Feb 11, 2013 09:00AM*

HB508

Submitted on: 2/9/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 423

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

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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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2013 5:19 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: cochonlibre@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB508 on Feb 11, 2013 09:00AM

HB508

Submitted on: 2/9/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 423

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Comments Only	No

Comments: Animal Rights Hawai'i opposes any special circumstances that support the foundering livestock industry. This would throw more taxpayer money into a money pit that continues to ask for more of our scarce resources.

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Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
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www.hfbf.org

February 11, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 508
RELATING TO THE PROCUREMENT CODE

Room 423
9:00 a.m.

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi, 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 1,950 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 provides the following comments and suggestions to HB 508 seeking to amend the Hawaii Procurement Code relative to agricultural products.

The suggested change will bring the Procurement Code to where it was before HFBF modified the language resulting in the current code. The changes were suggested because our farmers and ranchers were having a difficult time entering into state contracts. As we modified the code it was clear that education at all levels, not just our farmers and ranchers but at the procurement offices was needed. While HFBF attempted to move in this direction the training was never accomplished.

Something needs to be done. We respectfully request that the proposed measure be amended to include 1) clear metrics that can determine the success of the procurement code with the exemption and 2) a sunset date which will force reevaluation of this section and to address change if farmers and ranchers still are not within the system.

HFBF respectfully requests your support with amendments needed to fulfill the State's vision for increased self sufficiency and sustainability. HFBF is willing to work with your staff to craft the necessary language for HD1. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2013 12:28 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB508 on Feb 11, 2013 09:00AM

HB508

Submitted on: 2/10/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 423

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

Comments: Removing meat and produce from procurement codes is a good first step toward creating the pathways that our institutions can use to purchase locally produced fresh foods. This increased ability to procure these foods, will result in increased an increased market share for Hawaii's growers, ranchers, and ultimately grow the agricultural economy for Hawai'i. At the same time the institutions receiving these foods will be able to serve more nutritious meals, whether in schools, hospitals, or other state institutions. Taking the necessary steps to create a smooth pathway and remove challenges is vital to our future.

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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