

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Monday, March 25, 2013
10:35 A.M.
Conference Room 312**

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 140
HOUSE RESOLUTION 110
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO
AWARD GRANTS TO FARMERS WHO IMPLEMENT NATURAL FARMING**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 140/HR 110. The Department supports the intent of this resolution but would request that funding be identified that would be used for the grant program.

There are grants currently offered by the state that are available to farmers who implement natural farming. The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, for example, is offered to projects that solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops and a proposal for the farming of Vietnamese Taro and Thai Basil would be eligible. The Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education is another federal grant program that is currently offered to farmers and associations.

A grant program specific to the Cho global natural farming methodology could be implemented by the Department should funding be identified.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 2:33 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: lynhowe1946@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR140 on Mar 25, 2013 10:35AM

HCR140

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 25, 2013 10:35AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments: I strongly support this bill. By supporting farmers to use The Korean Natural Farming method would increase the health of our soil, food and people. It is a sustainable method that is now widely used on Hawaii Island for meat and agriculture farming with great success, increased production, disease and pest suppression and pono land use. Thank you

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: Sunday, March 24, 2013 8:56 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR140 on Mar 25, 2013 10:35AM

HCR140

Submitted on: 3/24/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 25, 2013 10:35AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: i support urgent passage of bill to stimulate grow and expand natural and organic agriculture in hawaii.

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