

LATE

SB 1284

Testimony

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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LATE

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE, AND WATER AND LAND
Thursday, January 31, 2012
Room 229
2:45 p.m.

SENATE BILL NO. 1284
RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Chairpersons Nishihara and Solomon and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 1284. Senate Bill 1284 creates a new chapter in the Hawaii Revised Statutes, requiring the Department of Agriculture to develop a food sustainability standard to increase agricultural self sufficiency. The food sustainability standard requires the State to double the amount of food grown in Hawaii in 2015 by the year 2025. Compliance with this standard is to be a consideration in any decision that may impact the State's capacity to achieve the standard. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure and has already been pursuing efforts in this regard.

The food sustainability standard as proposed in this measure requires the collection and compilation of in-shipment data, a function formerly found within the Marketing Analysis and News Branch that was abolished during the 2009 reduction-in-force program. This in-shipment data, used in conjunction with local production data, gave us reliable estimates of the proportion of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables sold in the local market. These baseline metrics are needed in order to determine what doubling the amount of food grown in Hawaii entails. As such, the Department has secured a grant from Ulupono Initiative to develop food security baseline metrics and is



already in the process of issuing a Request for Proposal to fulfill those grant requirements.

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Finally, the Department believes that to achieve and sustain any level of food self-sufficiency as proposed in this measure will involve the activities of the Department of Agriculture and other State departments, the counties, the collective efforts of citizens, businesses, and public/private organizations, and changes to the ways that agriculturally-important resources such as prime agricultural lands and irrigation water sources are valued, allocated, and reclassified.

We thank you for this opportunity to present our testimony.

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We thank you for this opportunity to present our testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: cherubbliss@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1284 on Jan 31, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 4:24:50 PM

LATE

SB1284

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Jan 31, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cherub Silverstein	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I am writing to you as concerned citizen of Hawaii, a farmer, an educator and a consumer. As a farmer who distributes products throughout the islands I know first hand what comes in and goes out at the docks every day. I am often scared when I see how much is shipped in and I know that this can change. Everybody needs access to food and I believe we all need to be intentional in the planning process to make sure that is a reality, even when the ships no longer deliver food from afar. Mahalo nui, Cherub Silverstein

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Dear Mr. Nishihara and members of the Ag Committee,

My name is Brilana Silva, resident of Pearl City, and I support SB1284. Among a number of benefits of passing this bill, I will highlight just a few. First and foremost is the economic impact on our local economy. Doubling our food production, according to a 2008 UH study, would give a \$313 million jolt to the state economy, create \$47 million in profits, provide \$6 million in state tax revenues and create more than 2,300 jobs.

Hawaii currently only grows 8% to 10% of the food we eat, according to the US Department of Agriculture. This leaves us incredibly vulnerable to supply disruptions. Not to mention that Opinion polls repeatedly show this issue is one of the top political concerns of voters in Hawaii. They also show that local people are prepared to pay a little more than for imported food because they place a premium on locally grown food.

Our state constitution states in Article XI, Section 3 that "The State shall conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands." I urge you to push this bill along and support SB1284.

Mahalo,

Brilana Silva

I'm writing in support of SB 1284.

I believe its important to the state of Hawaii to set standards of local food production instead of relying heavily on imports and having a blind eye into local production. The first step to making food self-sufficiency a reality is providing funds to research and distribute information on the sale of Hawaii-grown products and then to develop a standard for which to guide other efforts.

DATE

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To: Senate Ag Committee

From: Ashley Lukens
Department of Political Science
University of Hawaii at Manoa

My name is Ashley Lukens and I am testifying in support of SB 1284. I am a PhD candidate and instructor in the Department of Political Science at UH Manoa and UH West Oahu. My research focuses on food policies at the state and municipal level. Based on my research of the policies put forward by the more than 150 food policy councils across the US, SB 1284 stands out as a unique and effective policy model for growing local food systems and local economies.

I feel that creating jobs, rebuilding and diversifying local businesses, and stopping the hemorrhaging of billions of dollars from our economy to other markets is the most important thing we can do for the State of Hawai'i. By some measures as much as \$3 billion is sent out of state every year to pay for food imports and the 2008 Hawai'i Department of Agriculture White Paper on Food Self-Sufficiency stated that replacing just 10% of food imports with local produce would generate over 2,300 new jobs.

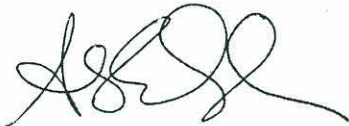
SB1284 will create jobs, has the potential to keep hundreds of millions of dollars circulating in our local economy, and is one of the most important steps we can take to rebuild and grow our local agriculture industry. To achieve these goals, this bill establishes food sustainability as a statewide priority and creates a framework for enabling the growth of agricultural production focused on livestock and crops for local consumption in Hawai'i.

According to the US Department of Agriculture, only 8% of the food purchased in Hawai'i is produced in-state. That situation leaves us dangerously vulnerable to supply disruptions and global economic volatility. It is the responsibility of the state to ensure that Hawaii can grow a sufficient amount of food, particularly in the event of national disaster or an increase in transportation and thus imported food costs.

Lets grow our economy and the state's tax revenue by supporting local farms and local businesses!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Signed:



Ashley Lukens

Date: 1/31/13

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Cc: Kmt.amos@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1284 on Jan 31, 2013 14:45PM*
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SB1284

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey amos	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1284 on Jan 31, 2013 14:45PM*
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SB1284

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Jan 31, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tia pearson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB1284

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.538.6616 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

January 31, 2:45 P.M.
(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1284

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Chair Solomon, and Members of the Committees:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with 10,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, *strongly supports* SB 1284. This measure creates a vision of food self-sufficiency, gives the Department of Agriculture resources to do planning and strategize new solutions, and sets metrics to ensure compliance over time.

The Hawaii State Constitution, article XI, section, is explicit about the need to “conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, [and] increase self-sufficiency.” Despite this rather clear directive, Hawai'i has moved in the wrong direction. We import approximately ninety two percent of our food. Currently, Hawaii has a fresh supply of produce for no more than ten days.

Our current strategy for increasing diversified agriculture and promoting self-sufficiency plainly isn't working. Hawai'i needs to look at new solutions.

SB 1284 sets a new vision. It creates a specific targets and requires annual reporting. A similar concept helped pump prime Hawai'i's clean energy industry. Hawai'i's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards were a key part in starting the clean energy movement. Tangible goals with metrics that define success effectively brought previously bickering parties together to solve Hawai'i's dangerous dependence on foreign oil.

This makes economic sense. Relying on DOA estimates, this concept could generate a billion dollars in new sales for our businesses, stimulate \$300 million in new household earnings, create more than 14,000 new jobs with living wages, and pump \$39 million in new tax revenues into our state coffers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

January 31, 2013

To: Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Agriculture

From: Alani Apio
Kanu Hawaii Board Member

LATE

Aloha, Senators,

I would like to register my enthusiastic support of SB 1284. This legislation has the potential to be "Great Legislation" in the grandest sense.

There has been, and will be, testimony that speaks to the innumerable societal benefits that will come from passing this legislation and setting statewide goals for local food production. Indeed, these benefits have been researched, studied and quantified. Passing this legislation will pave the way for significant job creation, further diversify our local economy, and allow us to begin recapturing the hundreds of millions of dollars that are lost as purchases of out-of-state food bleed money from our citizens and local economy. Additionally, rebuilding a robust local food system will help secure ourselves in the face of natural and man-made disasters. And, finally, expanding our agricultural base will enable us to keep important lands in agriculture, deeply supporting both our natural environment and human well-being.

All this being said, for me, there is a deeper and more important reason for passing this particular legislation: it will send, over time, a deep, resonating signal to all of Hawai'i's citizenry that this issue—local food production—is of great importance to us all. This type of legislation, akin to the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative, acts as a powerful signal to all of our citizens, bringing societal focus to what is most pressing and important and, indeed, what should demand our daily, personal attention.

Although we can debate the efficacy and details of the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative, there is certainly no debate over the fact that that agreement set in motion the state's transition off of oil. Furthermore, the MOU with the federal Department of Energy signaled to all of us that transitioning off of oil in all the ways that we use it is an important act. Thus, we now have a booming solar and PV industry and, per capita, the highest number of electric vehicles on the road in the U.S.—with more infrastructure to support those industries being installed daily. I submit that signing that MOU was a state-wide signal to all that government was serious about tackling this issue and, thus, we should all be actively involved in doing our own part.

In closing, this is an opportunity for you, and for all of us collectively, to set in motion a tremendous legacy for our keiki, mo'opuna and for all the generations to come. This legislation is a way to signal to everyone in Hawai'i that it is time for us to retake control of a deeply important part of our collective destiny: the ability to feed ourselves.

Mahalo nunui,

Alani Apio