



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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
MARCH 28, 2013  
Room 308  
2:00 P.M.

SENATE BILL NO. 326 SD 1 HD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairpersons Wooley and Bellati and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 326 SD 1 HD1. This bill creates and appropriates general funds for a good agricultural practices task force to develop food safety guidelines for locally farmed products. The Department supports the intent of this bill.

On January 16, 2013, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published in the Federal Register the proposed regulations on Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption, which identifies science-based minimum standards for the safe growing, harvesting, packing and holding of produce of farms. The FDA also published the proposed regulations on Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food, which applies to facilities that manufacture, process, pack or hold human food.

In all likelihood, the expertise of an experienced facilitator will be required to carry out the aims set forth by this bill and the Department would be happy to work with appropriate staff to develop a proposed budget for this effort.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.





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

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
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March 28, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 326, SD1, HD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 308  
2:00 PM

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, 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 supports of SB 326, SD1, HD1, which creates and appropriates funds for a good agricultural practices (GAPs) task force to develop food safety guidelines for locally farmed products.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed two new food safety rules that will help prevent foodborne illness. The proposed rules implement the landmark, FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and are available for public comment.

Many of Hawaii's farmers are extremely concerned about potentially onerous requirements stemming from these proposed FSMA rules. The proposed FSMA rulemaking speaks to flexibility applicable to types of production and size of operation. It is not a one size fits all. Currently farmers are faced with multiple certification requirements that tend to be a one size fits all format. Third party certifiers located on the mainland are costly and retailers often have different requirements.

The task force will provide the mechanism for our farmers to collaborate with stakeholders to identify GAPs that are product and location appropriate, and assure food safety. Food safety involves not just the farmer but the entire supply chain. As the regulating body tasked with ensuring food security for Hawaii, HDOA is the logical entity to lead this task force.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our testimony on this important matter.

**SB326**

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lyn Howe	Individual	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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**SB326**

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Harriet Witt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB326**

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laureen Elizabeth	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a member of HFUU and support actions to support farmers who grow our food locally!

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**SB326**

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hugh Starr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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