

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH
MARCH 14, 2013
Room 312
11:30 A.M.

SENATE BILL NO. 326 SD 1
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. 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
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March 14, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TESTIMONY ON SB 326, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 11
9:05 AM

Chair Wooley, Chair Bellati, Vice Chair Onishi, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committees:

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 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 FMSA 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.



March 12, 2013

Representative Jessica Wooley, Chair
Representative Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health

Support of SB 326, SD1, Relating to Agriculture (Creates and appropriates funds for a good agricultural practices task force to develop food safety guidelines for locally farmed products).

Thursday, March 14, 2013, 11:30 a.m., in CR 312

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of SB 326, SD1** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii. This bill articulates the need to establish a task force in order to mitigate the risks involved in food production by identifying good agricultural practices and preventative measure guidelines to ensure safe food throughout the State's agricultural industry and the farm-to-consumer food supply system.

SB 326, SD1. This bill authorizes the establishment of a good agricultural practices task force to identify good agricultural practices and preventative measure guidelines in the food supply system to improve the overall safety of locally grown food.

LURF's Position. Agricultural safety is vital for the safe and secure production, processing, sale, distribution, importation and consumption of food products and agricultural commodities in Hawaii. This bill will result in the establishment of a good agricultural practices task force which is needed to help the State's agricultural industry identify good agricultural practices and preventative measure guidelines in order to meet food safety objectives and standards, and effectively comply with any applicable governmental rules, regulations and guidelines.

LURF understands that such a task force and the practices and guidelines established thereby are necessary on a local level in order that the State may, amongst other things, improve the overall safety of locally grown food, and ensure that local food safety regulations and certifications conform to governmental and other uniform requirements and standards.

This push toward good practices and acceptable measures of agricultural safety which are transparent to all is needed in Hawaii. Establishment of the task force will provide a practical means for the State to support agriculture, and will assist the State in its effort to attain increased food self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Based on the above, LURF **supports SB 326, SD1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to express support regarding this measure.