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Statement of
JESSE K. SOUKI
Director, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thursday, March 28, 2013
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
SB 327 SD 1 HD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports SB 327 SD 1 HD 1 Relating to Agriculture. HD1 contains amendments encouraging purchase and use specifically of Hawaii-grown food and food products, rather than Hawaii-grown products generally.

The report *Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy* prepared by OP in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture identifies the establishment and codification of a buy local produce and support local agriculture policy in HRS Chapter 226 as a key action item. A policy commitment regarding the consumption of locally grown foods is critical to an effective campaign to increase our State's food security and food self-sufficiency for Hawaii's people, and expand markets for Hawaii's farmers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Hawaii Farm Bureau
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March 28, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 327, 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 with amendments SB 327, SD1, HD1, advocating the increased use of locally grown agricultural products in the State of Hawaii.

We agree with the language, however, request that "food and food products" be replaced with "products".

While the preamble to this document focuses on "food" for schools, we must be cognizant of what it will take to deliver this result. It will take a diverse agriculture - not just food but of all kinds. Without support of flowers, landscape plants, and other types of agriculture, affordable and RELIABLE food needed for public institutions cannot happen.

The HDOA is currently releasing a moth to control fireweed across the State. Fireweed has threatened our local livestock industry due to its toxicity. How was it introduced? There are many of us that believe it came from the hydromulch along state highways as it was there that it was first observed. Having a local turf industry that could provide hydromulch services would help curtail future such introductions. This shows the synergy between "food" and "landscape" and the potential for economic development.

Leis are a classic example. How many leis are purchased by state and other government entities? Are they all local? What about flower arrangements and plants in offices and hotels ... are they of the silk variety? Flowers and plants have been

identified by the HDOA as among the riskiest imports that can threaten our watersheds and ability to grow food crops.

This is a timely measure to recognize the importance of a diverse agricultural industry for the health and future of Hawaii. This policy statement should then be included in every agricultural measure that comes before the Legislature and agencies that impact the industry as this will only be of value if implemented.

We respectfully request your support of this measure with the amendment of “products” in place of “food”. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

SB327

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	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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