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Statement of  
**JESSE K. SOUKI**  
Director, Office of Planning  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
Thursday, February 14, 2013  
9:05 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of  
**SB 327 SD1**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports SB 327 SD1, which would amend the Hawaii State Plan, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 226 to support the purchase and consumption of locally grown products. Proposed amendments will affect policies for agriculture and the priority guideline for diversified agriculture and aquaculture.

OP's recently released *Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy* 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 products 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.