

# **SB 327**

## **Testimony**



# DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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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 AGRICULTURE  
AND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**  
Thursday, January 31, 2013  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

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

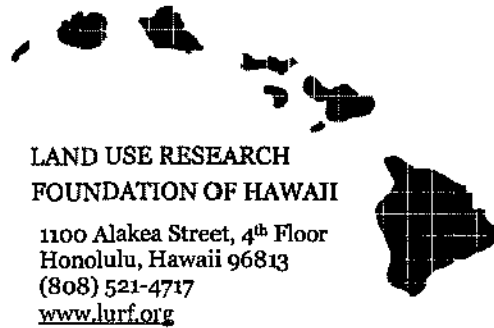
Chairs Nishihara and Solomon, Vice Chairs Kouchi and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Water and Land.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports SB 327, 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.

OP offers a minor technical amendment to the language on page 4, lines 17 and 18 of the bill. We recommend the following changes “...including the increased purchase of Hawaii grown foods by grown products by residents, [and institutions such as public schools, prisons, hospitals, and the military] businesses, and governmental bodies as defined under section 103D-104.”. This proposed amendment ensures that the policy commitment is targeted in the broadest sense.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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January 29, 2013

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture

Senator Malama Solomon, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Water and Land

**Testimony in Support of SB 327, Relating to Agriculture (Amends the Hawaii State Planning Act objectives and policies for the economy to support the purchase and consumption of locally grown products).**

**Thursday, January 31, 2013, 2:45 p.m., in CR 229**

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 327** on behalf of members and 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. The bill conveys the need for collaboration amongst diverse sectors of the community - business, government, and agricultural stakeholders - and the importance for them to work together cooperatively to improve the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry.

**SB 327.** This bill amends the Hawaii State Planning Act objectives and policies for the economy to encourage and support the purchase and consumption of locally grown products.

**LURF's Position.** This bill is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes [HRS], Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution, "to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands." As noted in HRS Section 205-41, the intent of Act 183 (2005) was to develop agricultural incentive programs to promote agricultural viability, sustained growth of the agricultural industry, and the long-term use and protection of important agricultural lands for agricultural use.

Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be pointless without implementation of these inducements which require the cooperation and support of agricultural and business organizations, as well as government agencies, which this bill is intended to cultivate, and promote.

By recognizing the need to encourage the purchase of locally grown products and the significance of the interrelationships between private and public sectors to develop and improve the local agriculture industry; and by better identifying the objectives and address the needs of the State, this bill significantly helps the local agricultural industry and supports the promotion of economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii. As such, LURF is in **strong support of SB 327**.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of this measure.