

LATE

SB 327

Testimony



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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

January 31, 2013
2:45 P.M.
ROOM 229

SENATE BILL NO. 327
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 327. This bill proposes to amend Hawaii Revised Statutes 226-7 to make a strong and clear policy statement to support the purchase and consumption of locally grown products.

There has been a growing disconnect between people and the understanding of where their food comes from that has resulted in an increase in health problems and a decline in food security. Moving towards increasing the purchase of locally grown agricultural products will have the effect of increasing access to fresh agricultural commodities and also supporting our local agricultural industry and ensure we are moving toward a more food secure way of living. The proposed amendments to the Hawaii State Planning Act reflect the desire of the Department of Agriculture to emphasize the importance of supporting local agriculture in the movement towards greater food safety, food security, and self-sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

