

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS
Thursday, March 14, 2013
Room 312
9:00 a.m.**

**SENATE BILL NO. 524 SD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Wooley and Tsuji and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 524 SD1. The purpose of this measure is to implement selected recommendations of the "Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy" ("Strategy") report issued by the Office of Planning in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, by creating within Chapter 141, an agricultural development and food security program within the Department of Agriculture, pursuant to amendments to be made to the State Planning Law (Chapter 226, HRS). The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure provided that the funding for implementation of the programs remains as general funds as stipulated in SD 1.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony on this measure.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESTHER KIA'AINA
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWEISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committees on
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
and
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS**

**Thursday, March 14, 2013
9:00AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 524, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Senate Bill 524, Senate Draft 1 proposes to establish an agricultural development and food security program. Establishes state planning objectives to increase demand and access to locally grown foods. Establishes state planning objectives to increase production of locally grown foods. The Department of Land and Natural Resources ("Department") **supports** this measure but recommends that the bill be amended to include three critical elements.

- 1) Designate someone within the Department of Agriculture with direct responsibility to implement a food resiliency program. The position needs to be fully funded with a fully funded support staff to coordinate and implement the plans.
- 2) The program needs to outline specific tasks to be accomplished.
- 3) Any program and/or initiative for food resiliency must be able to measure progress through appropriate, comprehensible, specific and practical metrics, which both the farm community and the public can easily understand.

The Department **strongly supports** measures that will aggressively advance Hawaii's goal of food self-sufficiency.

Thank you.



League of Women Voters of Hawaii

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House Committee on Agriculture
Representative Jessica Wooley, Chair; Representative Richard Onishi, Vice Chair

House Committee on Economic Development and Business
Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair; Representative Gene Ward, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 14, 2013, 9:00 A.M., Conference Room 312
SB524, SD1 Relating to Agriculture

TESTIMONY

Nancy Davlantes, Legislative Committee Member, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chairs Wooley and Tsuji, Vice-Chairs Onishi and Ward, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB524, which makes appropriations to establish an agricultural development and food security program, establish state planning objectives to increase demand and access to locally grown foods, and establish state planning objectives to increase production of locally grown foods.

For more than 20 years, the League of Women Voters has supported a system of sustainable, regenerative agricultural production that moves toward an environmentally sound agricultural sector which includes promoting stewardship to preserve and protect human and natural agricultural resources.

The League believes that if agriculture is to be sustainable and regenerative in Hawaii, given its isolation from the Mainland, it must include increasing production of locally grown foods; encouraging the marketing, purchasing, and consumption of locally grown foods; and supporting an agricultural workforce and infrastructure. Together these efforts will move Hawaii toward more of a self-sufficient future.

While not as comprehensive as other sustainability bills introduced, the League believes that SB524 is an important **first** step to that end and urges you to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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March 14, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

TESTIMONY ON SB 524, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312
9:00 AM

Chair Wooley, Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, Vice Chair Ward, 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 SB 524, HD1 which seeks to implement the recommendations of the "Increased Food Security and Food Self-sufficiency Strategy" by establishing an agricultural development and food security program. It also seeks to establish state planning and policy objectives for the economy of increased demand for and access to locally grown foods and increased production of locally grown foods.

Food security, food self-sufficiency and growing agriculture are popular concepts seen in many of the measures before the legislature this year. This Legislative Session, there have been many bills introduced that support of Hawaii's Agricultural Industry. This year, HFBF has introduced a package of measures addressing the real needs of our farmers and ranchers all associated with increasing farm and ranch viability. These include infrastructure needs, permitting, and regulatory assistance.

This measure supports the growth of Hawaii's agricultural industry by establishing an agricultural development and food security program in the HDOA. This measure provides the process needed to implement the recommendations of the "Increase Food Security and Food Self-sufficiency Strategy".

HFBF respectfully requests that sufficient funding be provided to HDOA to implement these recommendations.

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 Clift Tsuji, Chair
Representative Gene Ward, Vice Chair
House Committee on Economic Development & Business

Support of SB 524, SD1, Relating to Agriculture (Establishes an agricultural development and food security program within the Department of Agriculture).

Thursday, March 14, 2013, 9:00 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 524, 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. 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 524, SD1. This bill authorizes the creation of an agricultural development and food security program within the Department of Agriculture ("DOA"); establishes state planning objectives to increase demand for, production of, and access to locally grown foods; and makes appropriations accordingly.

LURF's Position. SB 524, SD1, which is supported by the DOA, the Hawaii Farm Bureau and other recognized agricultural stakeholders, duly proposes to implement the recommendations of the *Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy*, the report prepared in October 2012 by the State Office of Planning in cooperation with the DOA, to increase the amount of locally grown food consumed by Hawaii residents..

This bill is also 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, business and educational organizations, as well as government agencies, which this bill is intended to cultivate and promote.

By recognizing the significance of, and need to advance the interrelationships between private and public sectors to develop and improve the local agriculture industry, and establishing a program to identify the objectives and address the needs of the industry, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii. As such, LURF is in **strong support of SB 524, SD1.**

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