

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
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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 Committee on
FINANCE

Thursday, March 28, 2013
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

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

Senate Bill 524, Senate Draft 1 proposes to: (1) Establish an agricultural development and food security program, (2) Establish state planning objectives to increase demand and access to locally grown foods; and (3) Establish 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.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thursday, March 28, 2013
Room 308
2:00 p.m.

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

Chairperson Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

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.





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

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March 28, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 524, SD1
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 SB 524, SD1 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.

SB524

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
Lyn Howe	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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SB524

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tanja Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB524

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
Harriet Witt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB524

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
Laureen Elizabeth	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a member of Hawaii Farmers Union United and support measures to help farmers who grow our food locally.

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SB524

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
Hugh Starr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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