

# **SB 524**

## Testimony

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Tuesday, January 29, 2013  
Room 229  
2:45 p.m.

SENATE BILL NO. 524  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 524. Unfortunately, I will not be able to represent the Department of Agriculture at the hearing today. This is due to my responsibilities as Chair of the Board of Agriculture to convene the Board of Agriculture meeting which has been planned for many weeks to address several important issues that require board action.

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 as evidenced by the prioritized staffing and programmatic initiatives established by the Department particularly for the utilization of "barrel tax" monies.

The Department prefers to address the proposed initiatives as indicated in the Department's budget.



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



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Tuesday, January 29, 2013

by

Maria Gallo, Dean and Director  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### **SB 524 – Relating to Agriculture**

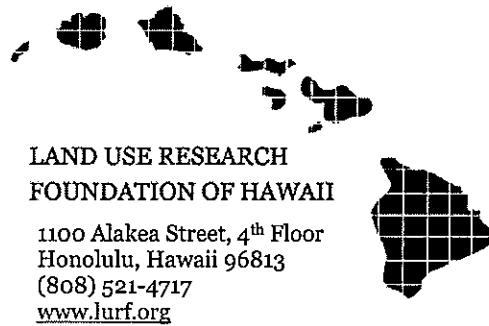
Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, my name is Maria Gallo. I am Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and I am submitting testimony today in support of SB 524 on behalf of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 524, "Relating to Agriculture," for the purpose of establishing an agricultural development and food security program. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of the bill provided it does not adversely affect our UH priorities as set in our budget request, most notably in health and safety and repairs and maintenance issues.

As noted in the text of SB 524, food security and sustainability are extremely important issues for the State of Hawai'i. The Interim Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) participated in drafting the report from the State Office of Planning entitled "Increased Food Security and Food Self-sufficiency Strategy: A State Strategic/Functional Plan Prepared in Accordance with HRS Chapter 226 Hawai'i State Plan and the Hawai'i Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy." SB 524 would provide the funding necessary to facilitate implementation of the recommendations in that report.

Within our available resources, including any resources provided by SB 524, CTAHR and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa are prepared to lend our full support to the implementation of these recommendations. To assist in this implementation, we have provided preliminary budget information to the Chair of the Board of Agriculture for those recommendations in the report in which CTAHR would be most involved.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 524.



LAND USE RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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January 23, 2013

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

**Support of SB 524, Relating to Agriculture (Establishes an agricultural development and food security program).**

**Tuesday, January 29, 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 524** 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.** This bill authorizes the creation of an agricultural development and food security program; establishes state planning objectives to increase demand for, production of, and access to locally grown foods; and makes appropriations accordingly.

**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, 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**.

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

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB524 on Jan 29, 2013 14:45PM  
**Date:** Monday, January 28, 2013 10:39:58 AM

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**SB524**

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for AGL on Jan 29, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lani's Goats		Support	Yes

Comments: We run and operate a goat distribution facility in central Oahu. An ideal location and we are established on privately owned lands distributing thousands of island grown grassfed goats each year. Providing employment to our workers-ranchers- and cowboys and supplying an awesome food source "delicacy" for thousands of hawaii's people. However- we dont bother anyone yet out 2 neighboring squakers and stalkers are determined to stop our distribution operation. The Newtown Association have complained that we are in violation of their codes and covenants claiming that we have non-domesticated farm animals in kennels. Yet we have hundreds running around on property because our property is part of a forest and mixed zoning urban/conservation exists surrounded by Agriculture. The association claims we are in violation. This kind of mentality jeopardizes the efforts of new laws and wastes legislatures efforts and times. Perhaps a fine should be implemented to those who contradicts our states efforts in sustaining agriculture. I support this bill and any other bills that will help to ensure Hawaii's food safety and help to utilize our islands resources. Lani Kaaihue Lani's Goats Located in Waimalu Valley-Aiea [Www.waimaluvallyranch.com](http://www.waimaluvallyranch.com) 808-852-9663 Yee- Haw!!

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Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Clarence Nishihara, Chair, Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 29, 2013, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 229  
SB524, Relating to Agriculture

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Legislative Committee Member, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Kouchi, 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.

The League believes that SB524 is an important step to that end and urges you to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



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**SB524**

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for AGL on Jan 29, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronald Weidenbach	Hawaii Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association	Support	No

Comments: The HAAA supports this important legislation. We ask, however, that subsection (4)(b) be amended to state in the second part of of this subsection "to enable and complete the transfer of agriculturally used lands from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture" so as to enable the transfer of lands that are not zoned or not entirely zoned agriculture but are actively used for agriculture.

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**SB524**

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for AGL on Jan 29, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sarah Townsend	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this and all bills that will make it easier for farmers in our state to stay in business. Hawaii's isolation and the cost of shipping make this type of financial support very important.

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