

**LATE**



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

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272  
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org)  
[www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 21, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 524  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211  
9:00 AM

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, 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 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 and 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.



**LATE**

LAND USE RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

1100 Alakea Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 521-4717  
[www.lurf.org](http://www.lurf.org)

February 20, 2013

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

**Thursday, February 21, 2013, 9:00 a.m., in CR 211**

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.