

SB 681

Testimony



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 7, 2013
2:45 P.M.
ROOM 229

SENATE BILL NO. 681
RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY

Chairpersons Nishihara and Espero, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 681. The purpose of this bill is to establish a temporary food security task force in the Department of Agriculture to develop an emergency food plan that addresses certain food security issues. The Department supports the intent of the bill but believes the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center at the University of Hawaii may be better suited to lead this task force.

By some estimates, Hawaii imports over 85% of its food which can be disastrous should a natural disaster of some kind disrupt imports in to the island. The Department agrees that this is a concern that should be addressed. However, while the Department does have expertise regarding agriculture, we lack the experience and network needed to lead a discussion on the proper security measures and protocols that should be undertaken in the case of an emergency or catastrophic event. The National Disaster Preparedness Training Center at the University of Hawaii incorporates a Whole Community Concept in developing and delivering training and education in areas of disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Their experience with governmental,



private, tribal, and non-profit entities would make them uniquely suited to lead a task force of the type described in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



HAWAII ORGANIC FARMING ASSOCIATION

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Dr. Melissa Yee

Wednesday, February 06, 2013

RE: S.B. 681 Food Security Taskforce

Chairman, Vice Chair, Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

HOFA, established in 1994 is an Association of Hawaii organic farmers, distributors, retailers, other organic industry members, and organic consumers. HOFA's vision is to create a sustainable future for Hawaii and our mission is to further organic and sustainable agriculture, land care, and lifestyles in Hawaii, thus giving meaning and life to our state motto: *Ua mau ke ea o ka aina I ka pono* "The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness".

HOFA strongly advocates that the growing of organic foods is best for Hawaii, its' land, the environment, and for the people, as it excludes the use of genetic engineering, irradiation, the use of toxic sludge, and the use of harmful chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, etc. We believe that farming in this way helps to provide food security for the people of Hawaii.

HOFA supports passage of this bill and asks that you vote in favor of it.

HOFA suggests that Section 2.(e). of the bill be amended to add HOFA (Hawaii Organic Farming Association) to the list of stakeholders that may participate on the task force.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Fergusson
President

Hawaii Organic Farming Association

Our Vision is to:

Create a sustainable future for Hawaii.

Our mission is to:

Further organic and sustainable agriculture, land care, and lifestyles in Hawaii, thus giving meaning and life to our state motto:

Ua mau ke ea o ka aina I ka pono "The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness".

Simon Russell
Hui 'O Mālama 'Āina
910-A E. Kuiaha Rd
Haiku, HI 96078

Aloha Honorable Senators,

I am writing to support SB 681. As the chair for the legislative Committee of the HFUU, it would be my honor to serve on the advisory board for food security. I have experience with natural disasters cutting the food supply off, as I went through Hurricane Iniki. It is of vital importance Hawaii is food secure before disaster strikes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Simon Russell
Owner and Farmer
Hui 'O Mālama 'Āina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: DAMAGICJUICE@GMAIL.COM
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB681 on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM*
Date: Sunday, February 03, 2013 2:33:26 AM

SB681

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGL/PSM on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
STANLEY RUIDAS	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: davidsher@iuno.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB681 on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 8:10:47 AM

SB681

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGL/PSM on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I would like to voice my concerns on SB 681 to establish a food security task force to develop an emergency food plan for the State that addresses certain food security issues resulting from an emergency, catastrophic event, or quarantine. Food security is a critical issue for Hawaii, and is a clear example of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing. With estimates from 85% to 90% of Hawaii's food currently being imported, it is clear we are on the wrong path and need to take bold measures to create a sustainable community. That would include preventing some of the best agricultural land in the state from being converted to urban development, namely Hoopili, not to mention other development plans not in our food-security best interests. In previous conversions I've had with Senator Espero, he recommended partnering with Monsanto as the solution to our food security problems. If that is the true intent of this bill, I would warn that this is not a solution, but would only contribute to the problem. We need to be supporting real farmers who are growing real food, not GMO crops that have lower yields and require much higher pesticide use. Please don't take a wonderful idea such as reducing our food security vulnerability and destroying it with non-solutions like Monsanto. The public has already made it abundantly clear that GMO is not the way to go! We are counting on you to do the right thing for the people of Hawaii. Respectfully, Sherry Pollack
Kahaluu

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Cc: slwsurfing@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB681 on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 9:23:40 AM

SB681

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGL/PSM on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: BIG ISLAND. We do not want to feed our CHILDREN GMO poison food under any circumstances!

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THE SENATE

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2013

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committee Members:

RE SB681 RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY

I would like to share my SUPPORT WITH RESERVATIONS regarding this bill, While I applaud this initiative, I find it to be short sighted as it fails to include our marine resources as an integral part of our island community's food security planning. We have a fleet of longline vessels organized under the Hawaii Longline Association (HLA), an unorganized but growing short longline fleet, and the traditional small boat fleet that brings the nearshore reef species, nearshore and offshore pelagic species and the deep sea bottomfish to market.

During calamities, it would be unconscionable to not have included these protein producers on the Committee and most importantly a primary consideration when preparing plans for our State's food security. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Yours,

Roy N. Morioka
Honolulu, HI 96821

Cc: Hawaii Longline Association

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: pennysfn@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB681 on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 8:59:53 PM

SB681

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for AGL/PSM on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Penny Levin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this measure. I recommend the Taro Security and Purity Task Force be added to the list of specified seats on this body. Taro is the primary staple starch crop in Hawaii. It is a hypo-allergenic food which becomes important for care of the oldest and youngest, particularly in hospital settings. Kalo also requires long term planning to provide for emergency food supplies. As a legislative body created to address issues of the survival and availability of kalo and taro farmers, the expertise of the taro task force will be valuable to planning for food security.

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Cc: pamelaboyar@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB681 on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM*
Date: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 10:01:21 AM

SB681

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGL/PSM on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Boyar	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Cc: foodsovereigntynow@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB681 on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 9:23:08 AM

SB681

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGL/PSM on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mitsuko Hayakawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am in support implementing an emergency food plan task force but DO NOT want biotech companies associated with this measure. They are NOT farmers. They are chemical companies posing as farmers. If you are to pass this bill please add an amendment for our TARO farmers and other local small farmers to provide us with food. Please also implement a plan to encourage our residents to grow their own gardens and be in the habit of buying from locally grown farms. We must move toward a more sustainable means of survival. GMO relies heavily on fossil fuels and is not sustainable. Please watch the video on You Tube "The Power of Community" that shows how Cuba learned to provide their own food without the use of oil. Mahalo for your consideration.

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: mendez@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB681 on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, February 02, 2013 12:18:24 PM

SB681

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for AGL/PSM on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: They should also consider the consequences of the effects of global warming and climate change on the islands.

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To: AGL Testimony`
Cc: maceyj001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB681 on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 12:02:15 PM

SB681

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGL/PSM on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Macey	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I must strongly oppose this bill unless amended to exclude GE chemical company participation.

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Cc: akamalmom@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB681 on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 9:17:54 AM

SB681

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGL/PSM on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this bill, because I don't trust that it won't create an advanced agenda for the bio-tech industry. Our legitimate food production farmers that use life-affirming practices need to be those cradled in food security.

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Date: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 11:26:27 AM

SB681

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGL/PSM on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brilana Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB681 on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 2:14:34 PM

SB681

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGL/PSM on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cora Piliwale	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I'm not interested in Monsanto's Emergency supply of Franken foods. Our communities can provide our own emergency foods. I oppose SB681 Cora Piliwale Waianae, HI.

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Date: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 9:53:34 AM

SB681

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGL/PSM on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Bishop	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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