

LATY

SB 681

Testimony



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti

SB 681 – Relating to Food Security
The Senate Committees on Agriculture and
Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Thursday, February 7, 2013
2:45 p.m., Room 229

LATE

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Position: Support with Amendments

Aloha Chairs Nishihara and Espero, Vice Chairs Kouchi and Baker, and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, a nonprofit trade association representing Hawaii seed farmers. We are in strong support of SB 681 to establish a temporary food security task force and ask you to consider an amendment to include a representative of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association.

As the largest agricultural commodity in the state, the seed farmers' participation on the task force would be invaluable because they have expertise in various agronomic areas (above and beyond biotechnology) that would be important to developing the plan and helping to address most objectives listed in section (f) of the bill including:

1. Addressing lands to be cultivated in an emergency: Collectively, the seed farmers own or lease 25,000 acres of agricultural land of which only approximately 8,000 acres are in production at any point in time.
2. Identify irrigation equipment and infrastructure needs: Seed farmers have invested heavily in repairing and maintaining irrigation systems on their lands.
3. Identify the best crops to grow: Seed farmers grow both traditional hybrid as well as genetically engineered crops, and many produce non-GE fruit and vegetable seeds that are being grown by farmers worldwide.
4. Identify current agriculture operations or companies to assist in growing crops: Seed farmers employ 25 percent of the entire agricultural workforce in the state.

Finally, as multi-national companies, they have an extensive international network of information and resources that could contribute to development of the plan.

HCIA appreciates your consideration and applauds your effort to address this important need. In an emergency, we share your concerns about how we are going to feed our families. Mahalo.

MONSANTO CO.
94-520 KUNIA ROAD
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

February 7, 2013
2:45 PM

LATE

TESTIMONY ON SB 681
RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY

Chair Nishihara; Chair Espero and committee members:

My name is Fred Perlak, Vice President of Research and Business Operations for Monsanto Hawaii. We support SB 681 which establishes a temporary food security task force in the Department of Agriculture to develop an emergency food plan that addresses certain food security issues resulting from an emergency, catastrophic event, or quarantine.

As an island state and thousands of miles away from the U.S. mainland, we should be discussing emergency plans in case of catastrophic events. Our local food supply and distribution systems should be evaluated and discussed. All major businesses, organizations, and government agencies should be coordinating their efforts in a worst case scenario.

Thank you.

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Cc: dawn.m.bicoy@monsanto.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB681 on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM*
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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
Dawn Bicoy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB681

Submitted on: 2/7/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gina Franchini	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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
Joshua Nations	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass, very important.

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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
Scott McFarland	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Great bill. Please pass it!

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