

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
JESSE K. SOUKI
Director, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Thursday, February 21, 2013
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
SB 937 SD 1
RELATING TO HAWAII FOOD RESILIENCY.

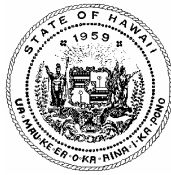
Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

The Office of Planning has the following comments on S.B. 937 SD 1 Relating to Hawaii Food Resiliency. S.B. 937 SD 1 proposes a food resiliency initiative program to reduce Hawaii's dependence on imported foods.

The *Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy* prepared by the Office of Planning (OP) in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture seeks to increase the amount of locally grown food consumed by Hawaii residents, increase the production of locally grown food and recommends policy and organizational support toward food self-sufficiency. According to a College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii study, food import replacement has positive economic impacts including retaining money in the state which has a multiplier effect, and increasing tax revenues and jobs.

OP defers to the Department of Agriculture on the establishment of a program and positions and the appropriation of funds for a food resiliency initiative program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
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February 19, 2013

TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

For Hearing on Thursday, February 21, 2013
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 211

BY
BARBARA A. KRIEG, DIRECTOR

Senate Bill No. 937 S.D. 1
Relating to Hawaii Food Resiliency

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TO CHAIRPERSON DAVID IGE AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The purpose of SB 937 SD 1 is to, among other things, establish a food resiliency branch within the Department of Agriculture.

The Department of Human Resources Development has no position on the outcome of this bill, but offers **comments** regarding the establishment of a food resiliency administrator and staff. We recommend that the exemption of these positions from civil service be discretionary instead of mandatory, and recommend the following replacement language be used.

Page 9, lines 20 and 21:

“The position shall be a full-time position that may be exempt from chapter 76.”

Page 10, line 7:

“The positions may be exempt from chapter 76.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



Email: communications@uluponoinitiative.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Thursday, February 22, 2013 — 2:45 p.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Supports SB 937, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Senator Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally grown food, increase renewable energy, and reduce/recycle waste. Ulupono invests in projects that have the potential to create large-scale, innovative change.

Ulupono supports SB 937, which develops a statewide program designed to develop a more sustainable and self-sufficient food supply system in Hawai'i. The task force and new branch of the State Department of Agriculture would be designed to encourage production and consumption of locally grown and locally raised food to decrease the overwhelming reliance on imported food. The proposal envisions a variety of ways to boost agriculture, including marketing and research.

Ulupono supports this proposal to establish as another way to help our community grow more fresh, healthy local food. Ulupono sees that putting more local food on local plates can best be accomplished by bringing people and organizations together who can work on the entire food value chain in a systematic way. We believe that working together we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kyle Datta
General Partner