

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
MARCH 14, 2013
9:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**SENATE BILL NO. 937 SD 2
RELATING TO HAWAII FOOD RESILIENCY**

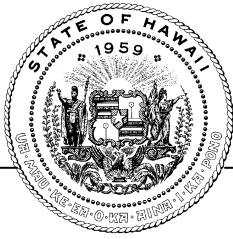
Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 937 SD 2. The purpose of this bill is to develop a food resiliency initiative to be guided by the Hawaii Food Resiliency Task Force. The Department supports the intent of this bill but expresses the need for resources to implement an effective effort.

The Department, through its existing branches and divisions, currently carries out the functions outlined in this piece of legislation. Given increased resources, the Department would be able to coordinate and report back to the legislature regarding the various efforts as outlined by the bill. Increasing the overall resources available to the Department through an increase in the revenues to the Agricultural Development and Food Security Special Fund as outlined in HB 857, which the House has passed, would greatly support the goal of food resiliency.

The Department is in support of the proposed Hawaii Food Resiliency Task Force to provide the desired framework to achieve the goals laid out in the food resiliency initiative. However, the Department believes the task force needs to be a statewide effort to fully realize the goals as set out by the Food Resiliency Initiative. This would involve professional facilitators and logistic expenses; the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan required funding that can be looked to as a model.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**OFFICE OF PLANNING
STATE OF HAWAII**

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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Statement of
JESSE K. SOUKI
Director, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Thursday, March 14, 2013
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of
SB 937 SD 2
RELATING TO HAWAII FOOD RESILIENCY.

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture.

The Office of Planning has the following comments on S.B. 937 SD 2 Relating to Hawaii Food Resiliency. S.B. 937 SD 2 proposes a food resiliency initiative program to reduce Hawaii's dependence on imported foods and proposes a task force to develop measurable benchmarks.

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.

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 7:10 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tracy.emills@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB937 on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM

SB937

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracy E Mills	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please Please Amend Page 6 Line 1 by adding: (6) Reduce chemical inputs of non-Hawaii origin for agriculture including soil amendments, fertilizer, and all varieties of pesticide. Food resiliency can be attained with sustainable methods using regenerative farming. We need to use soil enhancements with local materials such as compost, mulch and various indigenous micro-organisms (IMO). Methods such as cover-cropping and companion-planting will increase food resilience in Hawaii.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 6:23 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: susan@chefteton.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB937 on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM

SB937

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
susan campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support with Amendment: Amendment:Please Amend Page 6 Line 1 by adding: (6) Reduce chemical inputs of non Hawaii origin for agriculture including soil amendments, fertilizer, and all varieties of pesticide. Food resiliency can be attained with sustainable methods using regenerative farming. Soil enhancement with local materials such as such as compost, mulch and various indigenous micro-organisms as well as techniques such as cover cropping and companion planting will increase food resilience in Hawaii.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 1:06 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB937 on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM

SB937

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmer's Union United	Support	No

Comments: Amendment:Please Amend Page 6 Line 1 by adding: (6) Reduce chemical inputs of non Hawaii origin for agriculture including soil amendments, fertilizer, and all varieties of pesticide. Food resiliency can be attained with sustainable methods using regenerative farming techniques using local materials such as such as compost, mulch and various indigenous micro-organisms. Thanks for the great work ! Simon Russell Legislative Chairman HFUU

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 9:13 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mark@marksheehan.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB937 on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM

SB937

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mark sheehan	Haiku Aina Permaculture Init.	Support	No

Comments: This is an important bill. Resiliency is extremely important. We have been doing this on our 14 acres for 25 years! There are great technologies available to assist in keeping our lands from chemical contamination and increasing our ability to grow food for local consumption.

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Email: communications@uluponoinitiative.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Thursday, March 14, 2013 — 9:30 a.m. — Room 312

Ulupono Initiative Supports SB 937 SD2, Relating to Agriculture

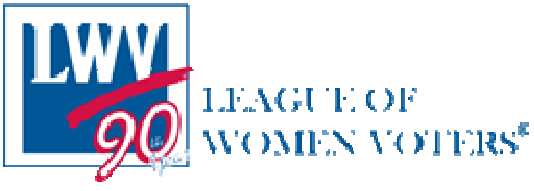
Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi and Members of the Committee:

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 SD2, which develops a statewide program designed to develop a more sustainable and self-sufficient food supply system in Hawai'i. The initiative 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. We support the state Department of Agriculture's proposed amendments as that would be the responsible agency for making this happen.

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



League of Women Voters of Hawaii

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813

www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7488 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

House Committee on Agriculture
Representative Jessica Wooley, Chair; Representative Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 14, 2013, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 312

SB937, SD2 RELATING TO HAWAII FOOD RESILIENCY

TESTIMONY

Nancy Davlantes, Legislative Committee Member, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Wooley, Vice-Chair Onishi, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB937 which develops a food resiliency initiative program, including a new branch in the department of agriculture, a task force, and would appropriate the necessary funds to accomplish this.

As we have testified on other bills on this issue, League of Women Voters has long 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.

Having a dedicated branch in the Department of Agriculture to oversee this initiative and a task force to set forth specific benchmarks, together with a timeline to achieve them, would provide the impetus needed for a coordinated effort with all governmental and non-governmental agencies and programs having similar goals. This would move the state to agriculture sustainability while improving the economic viability of Hawaii's agriculture industry.

The League is gratified to note the number of sustainability-related bills introduced this session, and we believe that this bill provides the transparency and accountability that citizens need and deserve while Hawaii endeavors to transition to a position of agriculture sustainability.

We urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 10:12 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Kumukahi77@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB937 on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM*

SB937

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dea Rackley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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March 12, 2013

Representative Jessica Wooley, Chair
Representative Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Testimony in Opposition to SB 937, SD2 Relating to Hawaii Food Resiliency (Develops a food resiliency initiative to be guided by the Hawaii food resiliency task force).

Thursday, March 14, 2013, 9:30 a.m., in CR 312

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 provide comments and concerns in **opposition to SB 937, SD2**, on behalf of its members, who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii.

SB 937, SD2. The purpose of this bill is to create a food resiliency initiative that will achieve measurable goals of food self-sufficiency in a reasonable time frame, and a task force to set forth the benchmarks to be achieved by the initiative.

Despite LURF's support of the bill's broad intent to establish a statewide food resiliency initiative in order to develop a more sustainable and self-sufficient food supply system in Hawaii, thereby encouraging production and consumption of locally grown and bred food to decrease reliance on imported food, LURF must oppose this measure based on the following:

SB 937, SD2 is Not Necessary to Achieve its Stated Purpose of Food Resiliency.

- According to the Department of Agriculture ("DOA"), the undertakings proposed in SB 937, SD2, are not necessary to achieve the bill's stated purpose of food resiliency. The DOA already currently carries out the contemplated efforts and functions outlined in the bill through its branches and divisions.
- The task force proposed by SB 937, SD2 is also problematic, as it could usurp, or duplicate the role and functions of the current Board of Agriculture. Moreover, there is a

major concern that the task force members proposed to be appointed pursuant to this bill will not even be required to have any background or experience in agriculture.

SB 937, SD2 is Not Supported by Stakeholders in the Agricultural Industry.

- This bill did not involve a collaborative process with a broad range of agricultural stakeholders, and came as a complete surprise to many of the large agricultural land owners in the State. SB 937, SD2 therefore does not have the support of Hawaii's agricultural industry. The DOA, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and the State's large agricultural stakeholders all have not testified in support of this measure.

Agricultural Stakeholders Support SB 524, SD1, In Lieu of the Current Bill.

- A related bill being considered by this Committee, SB 524, SD1, would achieve the stated purposes of the current bill (SB 937, SD 2), and has the broad support of agricultural stakeholders and the DOA. Similar to the objectives of the current bill, SB 524, SD1 establishes an agricultural development and food security program within the DOA; establishes state planning objectives to increase production, demand and access to locally grown foods; and in addition, makes appropriations to the DOA.
- With additional resources made available to the DOA through an increase in the revenues to the Agricultural Development and Food Security Special Fund through appropriations proposed by SB 524, SD1, the DOA would be able to coordinate and report back to the Legislature regarding its ongoing efforts as well as the matters outlined in SB 937, SD2 relating to food resiliency and security.
- It is clear that the efforts contemplated by SB 937, SD2 contemplate 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 food sustainability and the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry. SB 524, SD1, which is supported by DOA, the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, the agricultural industry, and large agricultural landowners, is better suited to achieve these purposes.

It is curious that while SB 937, SD2 proposes to establish a food resiliency initiative which will, amongst other things, "...Develop a plan, to be implemented from 2015 to 2030," it wholly ignores the DOA's ongoing research and development of food production metrics; requires the DOA to accept a **new** initiative and **new** task force **without prior discussion and consensus with the broad agricultural stakeholder community**; does not give major regard to the potential occurrence of natural disasters and other incidents beyond human control including droughts, floods and hurricanes, which would affect food production; and is completely oblivious to the most basic, compelling fact that according to the DOA's 2008 statistics, Hawaii's agricultural exports comprised about **85%** of Hawaii's farm and livestock sales (sugar cane, macadamia nuts, coffee, seed crops, floriculture, nursery products, cattle and calves), while local consumption amounted to about **15%** of sales.

Conclusion. It is LURF's position that in lieu of SB 937, SD2, alternative measures, such as **SB 524, SD1**, which would better address issues relating to increasing local food production, should be considered and enacted. Legislation such as SB 524, SD1, would ideally support the existing and expanding agricultural development and/or food security program within the DOA, through which new and existing programs and facilities could be developed and funded to

promote the establishment of agriculture and food security and resiliency within the State. Such a measure would emphasize cooperation and cohesive industry strategies and planning; a holistic approach from farm to market; and necessary, active participation from all of the stakeholders in the agricultural industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments, concerns in **opposition** to this measure.

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 7:45 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: barbc@ihug.co.nz
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB937 on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM

SB937

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barb Cuttance	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a farmer I strongly support this bill with the following amendment and request that you pass it: Please Amend Page 6 Line 1 by adding: (6) Reduce chemical inputs of non Hawaii origin for agriculture including soil amendments, fertilizer, and all varieties of pesticide. Food resiliency can be attained with sustainable methods using regenerative farming. Soil enhancement with local materials such as such as compost, mulch and various indigenous micro- organisms as well as techniques such as cover cropping and companion planting will increase food resilience in Hawaii. Barb Cuttance 14/266 Papaya Farms Road, Kapoho, Puna

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 3:38 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: scottspalapa@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB937 on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM

SB937

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for AGR on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Jepson	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Amendment:Please Amend Page 6 Line 1 by adding: (6) Reduce chemical inputs of non Hawaii origin for agriculture including soil amendments, fertilizer, and all varieties of pesticide. Food resiliency can be attained with sustainable methods using regenerative farming. Soil enhancement with local materials such as such as compost, mulch and various indigenous micro-organisms as well as techniques such as cover cropping and companion planting will increase food resilience in Hawaii.

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