

# **SB 937**

## Testimony

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
Governor



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

**RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013  
2:55 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

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

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 937. The purpose of this bill is to develop a new branch within the Department and a task force headed by the Department to address the issue of food resiliency within Hawaii. The Department supports the intent of the bill but believes that creating a new branch within the Department will not be necessary to achieve the stated purpose of food resiliency.

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. Rather than creating a new branch, 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 SB 1088 would greatly support the goal of food resiliency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**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 AGRICULTURE**  
Tuesday, February 12, 2013  
2:55 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of  
**SB 937**  
**RELATING TO HAWAII FOOD RESILIENCY.**

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Senate Committee on  
Agriculture.

The Office of Planning has the following comments on S.B. 937 Relating to Hawaii Food Resiliency. S.B. 937 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. OP agrees that increasing food self-sufficiency will support the growth of Hawaii's economy.

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.

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB937 on Feb 12, 2013 14:55PM\*  
**Date:** Saturday, February 09, 2013 7:59:09 AM

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**SB937**

Submitted on: 2/9/2013

Testimony for AGL on Feb 12, 2013 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

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Committee on Agriculture  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara Chair; Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 12, 2013, 2:55 P.M.

**SB937 RELATING TO HAWAII FOOD RESILIENCY**

**TESTIMONY**

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

Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Kouchi, 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.

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

ICE OF HEARING



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DATE: Thursday, January 31, 2013

TIME: 2:45 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229

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**Date:** Monday, February 11, 2013 7:08:41 AM

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**SB937**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for AGL on Feb 12, 2013 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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