# SB 991 Testimony



# State of Hawaii DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 1428 South King Street

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND HOUSING

FEBRUARY 7, 2013 2:55 P.M. ROOM 229

#### SENATE BILL NO. 991 RELATING TO PROCUREMENT

Chairpersons Nishihara and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 991. This bill proposes to exempt the purchase of fresh meats and produce, and animals and plants by any governmental body from the Hawaii Public Procurement Code. The Department is in strong support of this bill.

The Department has a strong belief in the importance of buying locally grown agricultural commodities to promote the availability of fresh produce for our local communities and for the resulting economic benefits of supporting local agricultural businesses. This bill was crafted in tandem with the State Procurement Office with the goal of allowing agencies to more efficiently purchase items such as fresh meat and produce that are highly perishable and vary in availability, quality, and quantity.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.





# 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 AND

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING

Thursday, February 7, 2013 1:55 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of SB 991
RELATING TO PROCUREMENT.

Chairs Nishihara and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Kouchi and Slom, and Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports the Administration's Bill SB 991, which would exempt the purchase of fresh meats and produce, animals, and plants by any governmental body from the Hawaii Public Procurement Code.

OP's recently released *Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy* identifies encouraging public institutions to buy locally grown foods as a key policy item. The current procurement process for these commodities is not efficient as they are highly perishable and vary in availability, quality, and quantity. An exemption will allow agencies to procure these local commodities to meet the required needs. A policy commitment to procure locally grown products is critical to an effective campaign to increase our State's food security and food self-sufficiency for Hawaii's people, and expand markets for Hawaii's farmers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



#### STATE OF HAWAII STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

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TESTIMONY
OF
AARON S. FUJIOKA
ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEES
ON
AGRICULTURE
AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING

February 7, 2013

2:55 p.m.

SB 991

#### RELATING TO PROCUREMENT.

Chairs Nishihara, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Kouchi, Vice-Chair Slom, and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 991. This bill establishes an exemption for 'fresh meat and produce' and 'animals and plants' in HRS chapter 103D, Hawaii Public Procurement Code.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports this bill. For many years the SPO has held the position that formally procuring these items is problematic for agencies, is not an efficient process, and does not benefit Hawaii businesses. This exemption will allow agencies to simply purchase these items that are highly perishable, vary in availability, quality and quantity, to acquire from best available sources on an as needed basis. In the spirit of competition, the SPO encourages governmental bodies to continue allowing informal price comparisons as is practical.

Thank you.



2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819 Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272 Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: <u>info@hfbf.org</u> www.hfbf.org

February 7, 2013

# HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING

# TESTIMONY ON SB 991 RELATING TO PROCUREMENT

Room 229 2:55 pm

Chair Nishihara, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Onishi, Vice Chair Slom and Members of the Committee:

I am Dean Okimoto, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,950 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF is provides the following comments and suggestions to SB 991 seeking to amend the Hawaii Procurement Code relative to agricultural products.

The suggested change will bring the Procurement Code to where it was before HFBF modified the language resulting in the current code. The changes were suggested because our farmers and ranchers were having a difficult time entering into state contracts. As we modified the code it was clear that education at all levels, not just our farmers and ranchers but at the procurement offices was needed. While HFBF attempted to move in this direction the training was never accomplished.

Something needs to be done. We respectfully request that the proposed measure be amended to include 1) clear metrics that can determine the success of the procurement code with the exemption and 2) a sunset date which will force reevaluation of this section and to address change if farmers and ranchers still are not within the system.

HFBF respectfully requests your support with amendments needed to fulfill the State's vision for increased self sufficiency and sustainability. HFBF is willing to work with your staff to craft the necessary language for HD1. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.



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Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting and Commenting on SB 991 Relating to Procurement
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing
Scheduled for Hearing on Thursday, February 7, 2013, 2:55 PM, Room 229

Thank you for an opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 991, which would exempt fresh meats and produce from the state procurement code.

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) law firm created to advocate on behalf of low income individuals and families in Hawai'i on civil legal issues of statewide importance. Our core mission is to help our clients gain access to the resources, services, and fair treatment that they need to realize their opportunities for self-achievement and economic security.

Increasing access to healthy foods is paramount to addressing food insecurity and hunger as well as obesity. State food procurement laws impact government workers, the general public, and populations for whom access to healthy foods is particularly important: students, hospital patients, and those living in institutions. Flexibility with food procurement policies will enable the state government to craft policies that will maximize the amount of fresh produce and meat served in its facilities.

Greater leeway in food procurement can also be used to support local farmers. Agencies can develop sound procurement policies that will promote the purchase of locally-grown produce and meat. We are particularly hopeful that the flexibility granted by this exemption will facilitate farm to school programs and increased purchasing of fresh produce to be served in public schools.

Senate Bill 991 creates a more sensible procurement code that exempts fresh produce and meat, enabling the state to pursue a food policy that can improve our local economy, increase food self-sufficiency, and promote public health.

From:

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To: Cc: AGL Testimony gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com

Cc: Subject:

\*Submitted testimony for SB991 on Feb 7, 2013 14:55PM\*

Date:

Tuesday, February 05, 2013 5:06:29 PM

#### SB991

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for AGL/EGH on Feb 7, 2013 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

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

#### Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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