

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014
11:00 A.M.
Room 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 1990
RELATING TO HAWAII GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1990 relating to Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices. This bill establishes a Hawaii good agricultural practices program to develop science and risk-based good agricultural practices that reasonably reduce the potential for on-farm food-borne illness; educate and train Hawaii farmers on good agricultural practices, and develop a consumer information program for home practices on treatment and handling of fresh and processed agricultural food products. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this bill but would suggest waiting for the recommendations from the good agricultural practices task force.

Act 106, SLH 2013 created a good agricultural practices task force to identify and develop good agricultural practices and preventative measure guidelines in the food supply system to improve the overall safety of locally grown food. The task force is will identify and develop good agricultural guidelines for agricultural producers and provide a report of its recommendations to the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 20, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1990
RELATING TO HAWAII GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Room 308
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

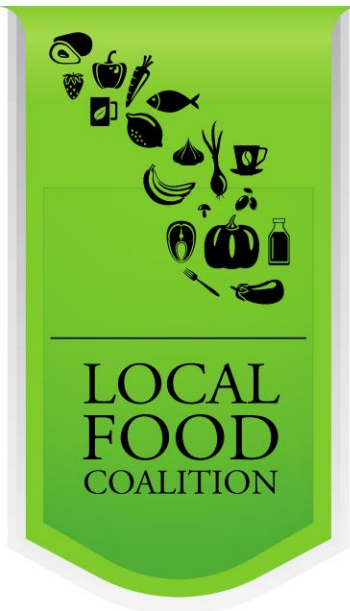
I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,832 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports HB 1990, which creates a Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices standard.

Farmers and ranchers face many regulatory challenges ranging from soil preparation to post harvest handling. Field management and post management practices impact farm and ranch food safety compliance. Currently, information is scattered and difficult to access by new farmers. New and immigrant farmers and ranchers may not be aware of existing regulations and standards. Establishment of a set of standards that can be easily accessed will be a great help to the industry.

The proposed Food Safety Modernization Act has a provision for submittal of state variances to address unique situations. This can only occur because the State has procedures in place for submittal. The GAP process will provide a good basis to meet the needs of our growers that face unique situations. For example, our farmers grow multiple crops in very small parcels with harvest boxes containing various crops from different areas of the farm. Food safety inspectors have admitted that they could not see how certification could be accomplished under these conditions. A strong GAP process to ensure the safety of the product along with a practical traceability process would help our farmers.

HFB is ready and willing to work with HDOA and Legislature to make this work. We respectfully request your strong support of this measure.



4 Ag Hawai'i

Hawai'i Aquaculture &
Aquaponics Association

Hawai'i Association of
Independent Schools

Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council

Hawai'i Farm Bureau
Federation

Hawai'i Farmers' Union
United

Hawai'i Food Industry
Association

Hawai'i Food
Manufacturers Association

Kohala Center

Malama Kaua'i

Maui School Garden
Network

Ulupono Initiative

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, February 20, 2014 – 11:00 a.m. – Agenda #1- Room 308

RE: HB 1990 Relating to Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices – In Support

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am general partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Honolulu-based impact investment firm, which is working to improve the quality of life for Hawai'i residents by investing in projects that create more locally grown food, increase renewable energy and reduce/recycle waste. We are representing on behalf of the Local Food Coalition, which is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawai'i's food supply.

The Local Food Coalition supports HB 1990, which establishes the Hawai'i good agricultural practices program. As the number of small farms in Hawai'i has grown in importance during the last ten years, this trend is necessitating the development of a Hawai'i good agricultural practices program. The program's intent is to reduce the potential for contamination of food products on farms via science-based guidelines that support safe farming practices, including considerations for various farm sizes, techniques, and crops. Currently, food safety certification audits are costly for many Hawai'i farmers and preventing more local food from entering the marketplace.

There is a lot of uncertainty around food safety issues. Therefore, we are hopeful that this bill can develop programs to educate and train local farmers in best practices to meet food safety requirements. Furthermore, we are supportive of a consumer information program to teach the public about safe handling of agricultural products.

As part of the Local Food Coalition, Ulupono is very pleased to support proposals designed to help grow more local food. Our group's members came together last year with one common goal: to promote the local production of food in a sustainable and economically sound manner to benefit Hawai'i's people through the revitalization and expansion of our state's agricultural sector. This year the Coalition is continuing to pursue this comprehensive approach because it is the most effective way for Hawai'i to develop its resources for diversified food production, as well as lessen its dependence on importing that which can be grown, raised and processed locally.

We are pleased that a good agricultural practices task force is underway and passage of this bill will complement their effort.

The Local Food Coalition Supports All Forms of Agriculture.

We believe that working together, we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner
Ulupono Initiative

Email: communications@ulupono.com



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February 20, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1990
RELATING TO HAWAII GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Room 308
11:00 AM

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HFB is ready and willing to work with HDOA and Legislature to make this work. We respectfully request your strong support of this measure.

FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 9:32 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1990 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM

HB1990

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	The Kohala Center	Support	No

Comments: As we move to build capacity for our farmers, increase institutional purchasing, increase markets and production, a workable GAP format is essential. Creating a "GAP Framework" for Hawaii is the first step toward building capacity for markets within our farming community. Farmers need clear and simple rules, and coaching along the way. I hope these systems are built into the rules and framework.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, 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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2029 Nuuanu Ave. #1510
Honolulu, HI 96817
February 18, 2014

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representatives Scott Y. Nishimoto and Aaron Ling Johanson,
Vice Chairs
House Committee on Finance
State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

I am sending this testimony to express my **support for HB 1990**, "Relating to Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices." In recent years, more and more buyers of agricultural produce have insisted that their local suppliers be food safety certified. Under the Food Safety Modernization Act, the Food and Drug Administration will soon establish nationwide criteria to prevent bacterial contamination of produce. Thus, local farmers will be under increasing pressure to become food safety certified.

As HB 1990 notes, the current practice of third-party food safety certification is impractical and expensive for many farmers in Hawaii, especially for the small farmers who make up the majority of Hawaii's agricultural producers. Hawaii needs a locally-based, practical food safety certification program that takes into account Hawaii's diversity of crops as well as Hawaii's unique climatic, social, and economic circumstances. I therefore support HB 1990, and encourage you to pass this important bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frederick M. Mencher". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Frederick M. Mencher

finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 3:37 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1990 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM*

HB1990

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, 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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LATE

1768 Kalawi Place
Wailuku (Maui), Hawaii 96793

February 19, 2014

Email Testimony

The Honorable Sylvia Luke
Chairwoman House Finance Committee
repluke@capitol.hawaii.gov
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

House Finance Committee hearing for House Bill 1990

Vincent Mina
President
Maui

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chairs Ling and Johansen, honorable committee members.

Simon Russell
Vice-President
Maui

HFUU is **in Support of HB 1990**; a State standard for Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and the work involved legislatively and administratively that will get us there.

David Case
Secretary
Kona

As more small farms sprout up across the state, we the Hawaii Farmers Union United are concerned about the over-regulation of the farmer by food purveyors distributors as well as government. Therefore, we ask that one set of standards (As determined by the Gaps Task force) be created for all food grown in Hawaii. We ask that consideration be taken so that Hawaii GAPs certified crops and other products are exportable to national and international markets. Furthermore, we ask that the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) as well as the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) work together to make a cohesive inspection regime (HDOA) and farmer GAPs compliance training (CTAHR).

Ray Maki
Treasurer
Kauai

We are grateful for the legislatively mandated GAPs Task Force currently working to solve this lack of food safety certification, and urge the legislature to work with them to fine-tune this bill over the course of the session, but in no way hinder it's passage. This question of food safety and associated cost to the small producer is critical, and we must move forward with a State of Hawaii food safety regime that works and is affordable for farmers.

Pamela Boyar
Member
Oahu

Respectfully submitted,

David Fisher
Member
Maui

Hawaii Farmers Union United

Simon Russell
Simon Russell

Steve Sakala
Member
Kona

Vice-President and Legislative Chair