



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2014
9:40 A.M.
Capitol Auditorium

HOUSE BILL NO. 1991
RELATING TO PROCUREMENT

Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1991. 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 supports this bill.

The Department strongly believes 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 allows 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.





**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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TESTIMONY
OF
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE

February 3, 2014 9:40 A.M

HB 1991

HB 1991 RELATING TO PROCUREMENT

Chair Wooley Vice-Chair Onishi, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1991.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports this bill, which establishes an exemption for 'fresh meat and produce' and 'animals and plants' in HRS chapter 103D, Hawaii Public Procurement Code.

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.



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Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting HB 1991 Relating to Procurement
House Committee on Agriculture
Scheduled for Hearing Monday, February 3, 2014, 9:40 AM, Auditorium

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.

Thank you for an opportunity to testify in **support** of House Bill 1991, which would exempt fresh meats and produce from the state procurement code.

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.

House Bill 1991 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.

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 12:22 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1991 on Feb 3, 2014 09:40AM*

HB1991

Submitted on: 2/1/2014

Testimony for AGR on Feb 3, 2014 09:40AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	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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