



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY
Tuesday, February 9, 2016 – 2:45 PM - Room 229

LATE

RE: SB 2641 – Relating to Public Utilities – In Support

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

The Local Food Coalition supports SB 2641, which requires the PUC to establish preferential rates for the purpose of energy that is used or consumed for agricultural activities. It also requires the PUC to require electric and gas utilities to develop energy storage technology incentive programs for agricultural customers' sites.

The Local Food Coalition is pleased to support proposals designed to help grow more local food. There are other states that offer preferential rates for agricultural activities. California has an Agricultural Energy Efficiency Program as part of the state's Long Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan, which was adopted by the California Public Utilities Commission in 2008. The state's four largest utilities offer agricultural rates.

We also support the requirement to develop energy storage technology incentive programs as that can be a valued component in further supporting lower energy costs for agricultural enterprises. Energy storage allows the utility to add more clean renewable energy that will reduce energy costs for all ratepayers.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawai'i's food supply.

We ask for your favorable consideration of SB 2641. Thank you.

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- 4 Ag Hawai'i
- Hawai'i Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association
- 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