

SB 624



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Friday, February 3, 2017 at 1:15 p.m.

By

Rachel Novotny, Interim Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 624 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on SB 624, which requires the board of agriculture, in cooperation with the office of the governor, to develop a strategic plan to double local food production and exports by 2020; and requires the board of agriculture to submit a report to the legislature prior to the regular session of 2018 in order to codify the strategic plan and benchmarks.

The University of Hawai'i fully supports the Governor's goal of doubling local food production. As a member of the Board of Agriculture, we recognize the need for careful and rapid planning to achieve this goal. In October 2012, the Office of Planning issued the "Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy," part of a three-volume report by a multi-agency steering committee for food security and self-sufficiency. The strategy included specific recommendations to move Hawai'i forward in food security, and away from providing only 11% of our own food. We believe that this report would be useful as a basis for the specific planning effort requested in SB 624.

However, in order to collect the necessary data and information, and establish benchmarks, within the timeframe requested in SB 624, an intensive targeted effort by dedicated contracted personnel will be necessary. Thus, in order to accomplish the objectives of SB 624, we believe that an appropriation of funds to the Department of Agriculture should be included for this purpose. We would defer to the Department of Agriculture on fiscal details.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 624.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 1:46 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB624 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM

SB624

Submitted on: 1/27/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments: Without a Strategic Plan, there will be little hope of action on this ambitious and visionary plan by Governor Ige. Let's help the Governor and the state create both a Strategy and Action Steps with responsibility to assure that this worthy vision is supported! Ka Ohana O Na Pua has been supporting agricultural education in Hawai'i since 1991.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:06 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: ablukens@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB624 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM*

SB624

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Lukens	Hawaii Center for Food Safety	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 10:10 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: robert@hawaiisustainable.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB624 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM

SB624

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Bence	Hawai'i Sustainable Farms LLC	Support	No

Comments: We support SB 624 and the goal of growing more food here for here. We appreciate any assistance from the government towards achieving food self sufficiency for our state.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 4:27 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: alan@prloffice.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB624 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM*

SB624

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 2:55 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: sd3@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB624 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM*

SB624

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 11:09 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: raphiell@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB624 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM*

SB624

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raphiell Nolin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 9:24 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: jen.mather@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB624 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM*

SB624

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Mather	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 6:18 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: sunnysavage@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB624 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM

SB624

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sunny Savage-Luskin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We cannot be crippled by inaction any longer. The world is changing rapidly and the future of food imports to the island are in question. It is time to step up to save future unrest due to food insecurity.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 5:06 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: bmurphy420@mail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB624 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM

SB624

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Murphy	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, I support Increased Local Food Production; however the goal should be much higher! Importing 80% of our food is dangerous to our security! With 36,000 acres of agricultural land newly available on Maui, food production should skyrocket, but NOT with GMO's! The demand for organic products is already skyrocketing, along with the price. Local stores cannot stock enough organic products to meet local demand. To be competitive, Hawaii must move ASAP to organic farming methods, for the health of our people, and the wealth of our economy. GROW ORGANIC!

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Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 4:20 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: mary@mauivortex.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB624 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM

SB624

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Overbay	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, I support SB624 relating to RELATING TO Agriculture; Increased Local Food Production; Strategic Plan; Board of Agriculture; however the goal should be much higher! Importing 80% of our food is dangerous to our security! With 36,000 acres of agricultural land newly available on Maui, food production should skyrocket. Hawaii must move ASAP to organic farming methods, for the health of our people, and the wealth of our economy. GROW ORGANIC!

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Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 10:52 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB624 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM

SB624

Submitted on: 1/28/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair and Committee, I strongly support this Bill. We must not wait one more year to fund increasing food production on islands. This is not rocket science. We cannot eat the gmo corn seed crops that big AG is promoting as farming in Hawaii. This is not real food, nor is it sustainable farming. Mahalo, Ms. Barbara Barry

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DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**FEBRUARY 3, 2017
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 624
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 624, which proposes to develop a strategic plan that identifies benchmarks for increased food production in Hawaii and increased exports of food crops and value-added products from Hawaii. The Department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget and offers comments.

The Department recognizes the importance of metrics in determining local food production in the State. Strategic planning will allow the State to identify attainable goals for the State as it moves into a diversified agricultural economy. With that, it is important to note that the Board of Agriculture is not the best entity to lead this effort, but rather the Department of Agriculture should be responsible for undertaking this effort. The Department would also like to note that strategic planning is complex and often controversial, therefore the Department asks for resources to allow for planning as the Department lacks the expertise to do this work.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

