



LATE

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February 3, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 624
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 224
1:15 pm

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 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.

Hawaii Farm Bureau supports 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 to submit a report to the legislature prior to the regular session of 2018.

The Governor challenged agriculture to double food production by 2020 to meet the public's desire for greater self-sufficiency. Through various measures, there is an effort to encourage interest in and expansion of farming. However, for many reasons, this is not easy an easy task.

Land, water, labor, infrastructure, transportation, invasive species, marketing, FSMA, regulations, R&D are just some of the issues that need to be addressed if we want to increase the viability of our farmers and ranchers while increasing Hawaii's agricultural capacity.

Many studies to identify actions to increase Hawaii's food security have been conducted over the years. However, actual systematic implementation steps have been erratic. As the Governor proposed doubling food production by 2020, the development of a strategic plan is critical in order to achieve this goal.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this important subject.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 1:09 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB624 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM

SB624

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Comments Only	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) SUPPORTS THE INTENT of SB 624, and has the following COMMENTS: (1) that the DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, rather than the Board of Agriculture (Board) is better suited to perform the requirements included in this measure. The Department has the employees and the experience, not the Board; (2) that this effort should include collaboration with farmers and agricultural land owners; and (3) that the Legislature should provide adequate funding tot he DEPARTMENT to fulfill the requirements of this bill. LURF respectfully urges the favorable consideration of this measure by this Committee.

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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