

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
March 1, 2011
11:00 A.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 667 HD 1
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY

Chairperson Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 667 relating to food safety.
The Department of Agriculture supports the proposed bill.

The bill seeks to require the department of health, the department of agriculture and the department of business, economic development, and tourism to develop a detailed plan of action to simplify and consolidate permitting and licensing requirements for the production and processing of food production and processing facilities to comply with food safety requirements.

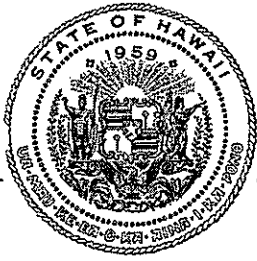
With the recent passage and signing of the Food Safety Modernization Act, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is now empowered to develop standards and rules intended to update and strengthen food safety regulations through the entire food supply chain.

The Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the various FDA committees, University of Hawaii, the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and the tourism industry is responsible for providing food safety certification audits at the farm, packer and distribution levels. It is imperative that any State plan is aligned with the newly evolving federal requirements in order to eliminate conflicts and provide clear direction to State



food supply businesses. Members of the department are involved with the development of federal food manufacturing and information technology submission standards. The department has also initiated electronic food traceability pilot projects in cooperation with a number of Hawaii's farms, distributors and retail outlets.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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RICHARD C. LIM
INTERIM DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
RICHARD LIM
Interim Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Tuesday, March 1, 2011
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB 667, HD1
RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY.

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

The Department supports the intent of HB 667, HD1, which directs the Department of Health to develop a detailed plan of action to simplify and consolidate permitting and licensing requirements for processed food production with the cooperation of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

While DBEDT will cooperate with the Department of Health, we must point out that DBEDT does not have the core competency to analyze and evaluate compliance and safety issues related to food production, food health and safety, and agricultural processing.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 1, 2011

Room 308

11 am

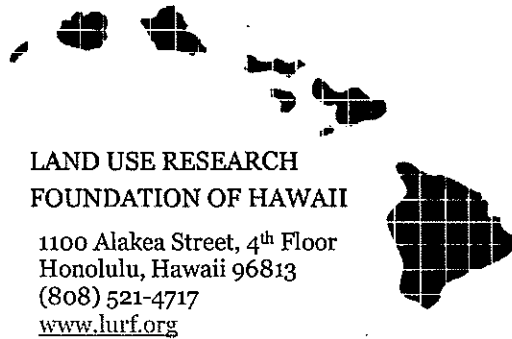
HB 667 HD1

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Farm Bureau, on behalf of our commercial farm and ranch families and organizations across the State, respectfully offers the following comments regarding HB 667 HD1, requiring that DOH, with the cooperation of DBEDT and DOA, develop a detailed plan of action to simplify and consolidate permitting and licensing requirements for the production and processing of food by food production and processing facilities to comply with food safety requirements.

HFBF is unsure about the exact purpose of this measure but we support any measure that will make it easier for our farmer and rancher members to obtain any required governmental permits. We assume that this bill is offered in anticipation of new requirements from the just-passed Food Safety Modernization Act that the FDA is expecting to implement over the next few years. If however, the purpose of this measure is ultimately to recommend new State policies or promulgate new State regulations concerning food safety at the farm level, we believe this would be premature, as any new State regulation may be duplicative or confounding of the new federal law.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



March 1, 2011

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair and Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Support of HB 667 HD1 Relating to Food Safety (Food Production/Processing Safety Plan; DOH Report).

Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. in CR 308

My name is Dave Arakawa, and I am the Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF), a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF **supports** **HB 667 HD1**, which requires State departments to work collaboratively to develop a detailed plan of action to simplify and consolidate requirements for the production and processing of food in order to comply with food safety requirements.

HB 667 HD1. This bill proposes to require the Department of Health (DOH) to work in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT), to develop a detailed plan of action to simplify and consolidate permitting and licensing requirements for the production and processing of food by food production and processing facilities to comply with food safety requirements recently promulgated by the passage of the Federal Food Safety Modernization Act. The bill provides that DOH may consult with any other state or federal agency it deems appropriate to develop the plan, and shall submit its report to the legislature, including any necessary proposed legislation no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2012.

LURF's Position. Food safety is vital for the safe sale, distribution and consumption of food products, including locally grown produce in Hawaii, and this bill will result in the development of a detailed plan of action and proposals for legislation necessary to simplify the permitting and licensing requirements for the processing of food by production and processing facilities to comply with food safety requirements.

LURF understands that such a plan and proposals are necessary on a local level in order that the State may ensure that local food safety regulations and certifications conform to the recently enacted Federal Food Safety Modernization Act (pursuant to which the Food and Drug Administration has been empowered to develop and strengthen nation-wide food safety standards and rules), and that State agencies have already initiated work on standards in cooperation with a number of Hawaii's farms, distributors and retailers.

Based on the above, LURF supports **HB 667 HD 1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.