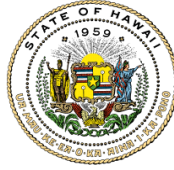


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STATE OF HAWAII
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STATE OF HAWAII ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB573

Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Chairperson Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

The Environmental Council (EC) is a citizen board appointed by the Governor. The council is charged by statute to monitor the progress of state, county, and federal agencies in achieving the State's environmental goals and policies.

The public we represent includes the 1.42 million residents of Hawaii¹ of which over 700 thousand are registered voters². The public we represent also drive the economy which provides over \$6.5 billion in tax collections³.

Last year we conducted a set of informational hearings related to agriculture in Hawaii. We solicited the public, farmers, and regulators on their opinions of the current regulatory structure and what needs to be accomplished to identify and target the hazards. We also reviewed existing regulations, studied more than 100 publications, and reviewed 600 scientific studies to develop a draft set of recommendations. We then solicited input from stakeholders to finalize the recommendations.

Both sides of the issue agreed with Recommendation 7 which states the following:
The Environmental Council recommends to the Legislature and agencies that additional resources be provided specifically for monitoring, enforcement, and education of pesticide use to appropriate agencies such as the HDOH, HDOA, and the University of Hawaii-College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

We believe this bill will provide the resources necessary to get boots on the ground to support good agriculture practices specifically related to pesticide use and so **we SUPPORT HB573**.

¹ <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/state/totals/2014/index.html>

² <http://hawaii.gov/elections/factsheets/fsvs505.pdf>

³ <http://files.hawaii.gov/tax/stats/stats/annual/14annrpt.pdf>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB573 on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 5:12:39 PM

HB573

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	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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**CHARLES STRUWE
FARMER
HAUULA, HAWAII**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Hearing on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 2:45 p.m., Room 414

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

My name is Charles Struwe. I am a farmer.

I strongly support the purpose of SB573; Request Passage With Reservation and offer comments.

I am one of Hawaii's 3 tenant Primary Operators of a Institutional, Research, Experimental, and American Indian Reservation Farms counted in the United States of America's 2012 Census of Agriculture, an attendee of the United States Department of Agriculture funded New Farmer Training Program provided by my fellow farmers at the Pacific Gateway Center, one of America's farmers being served by the Produce Alliance and a student at my alma mater the University Hawaii at Manoa (Fall, 1974 to Spring, 2015 and Bachelor of Business Administration, December, 1983) and I provide an Agricultural Education Program as allowed under statute that focuses on Food Borne Illness, Genetics, Traditional Food and Agricultural Crop Production in water and soil, Nutrition and the United States of America's Natural Resource Conservation Service Conservation Plan Conservation Practices Farming.

The purpose of HB573 is to "develop and support good agricultural practices by establishing a permanent Hawaii good agricultural practices program for farms growing local agricultural food products".

Good Agricultural Practices is the central subject for farmers producing "unprocessed" foods in the "Journey Level", level 2, of the professional level of the International Food Protection Training Institute Curriculum Framework which is the basic structure of the framework for the

United States of America's Food and Drug Administration's (USFDA) "Standards-Based National Curriculum Framework for Regulatory Food Safety Training in the United States". (1)

The Produce Safety Alliance, a partnership between the USFDA and The United States of America's Land Grant Universities, represented by Cornell University, recommended in the January, 2015 Newsletter that we farmers "begin (preparing for the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act's regulations). . . by attending a Good Agricultural Practices workshop to understand produce safety risks on (my) farm and what actions (I) can take to reduce those risks". (2) Those risks include the production of the pathogenic organisms listed in the second edition of the USFDA's Bad Bug Book (3) that cause foodborne illness. These pathogenic organisms are the focus of the United States of America's Interagency Food Safety Analytics Collaboration (IFSAC) which is a partnership of the United States of America's Center for Disease Control and Prevention (USCDCP), the USFDA, and the United States of America's Food Safety and Inspection Service (USFSIS). (4)

Please amend the stated purpose to make it clear that this program is for farmers. My suggested language is:

The purpose of this Act is to support Hawaii's farmers growing local food products by establishing, developing and implementing a permanent Hawaii good agricultural practices program for farmers ".

A Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices Program is needed by Hawaii's farmers growing local food products. However, while needed, it, alone, is not sufficient as can be seen in the USFDA's educational curriculum framework.

Therefore, with reservations based upon the above, I respectfully request that you pass this bill so that such a program will be established in the State of Hawaii and that you, at the earliest possible opportunity, establish a Foodborne Illness Prevention Education Program (the medical science), a Food Poisoning education program (the law) and a Food Safety Education Program (the practice) as well.

- (1) See Kaml, C., Fogarty, K. J., Wojtala, G., Dardick, W, Bateson, A, and Bradsher, J. (2013). The Development of a Standards-Based National Curriculum Framework for Regulatory Food Safety Training in the Unites, *Journal of Environmental Health*, Volume 76, Number 2, 38-42. See Figure 1 at page 41.
- (2) Produce Safety Alliance (2015), Newsletter, January, 2015, p. 2.
- (3) United States of America Food and Drug Administration. (2012), *Bad Bug Book: Handbook of Foodborne Pathogenic Microorganisms and Natural Toxins*. 292pp.
- (4) See Interagency Food Safety Analytics Collaboration (IFSAC) Project. (2015). Report: Foodborne Illness Source Attribution Estimates for *Salmonella*, *Eschrichia coli O157* (*E. coli O157*), *Listeria monocytogenes (Lm)*, and *Campylocacter* using Outbreak Surveillance Date. February, 2015. 12pp.