

SCR137

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH THE
HAWAII GOOD AGRICULTURAL
PRACTICES PROGRAM.**

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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

March 31, 2015
3:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 414

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 137
AND
SENATE RESOLUTION 82**

Chairperson Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 137 and Senate Resolution 82, which is requesting the department to establish the Hawaii good agricultural practices program and to develop and support good agricultural practices for Hawaii farms growing food products.

The department currently has the authority and conducts voluntary audits of farms and facilities on good agricultural practices. This activity is conducted through a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and an agreement with PrimusLabs, a private certifying agency.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is currently reviewing comments received on the revised provisions on the Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing and Holding Produce for Human Consumption, under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The USDA is also working with the FDA to ensure that the USDA's Good Agricultural Practices program is aligned with the FSMA regulations.

Additionally, the department has been working in partnership with the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical of Agriculture and Human Resources, who provides



education and training of farmers implementing good agricultural practices. Future plans include developing a consumer-based program to provide information on recommended safe handling practices, and simpler, more efficient method of record keeping and traceability for the farmers.

We plan to continue our efforts in advocating and assisting in educating our farmers on good agricultural practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 31, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SCR 137/ SR 82
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH THE HAWAII
GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES PROGRAM

Room 414
3:00 PM

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

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB strongly supports SCR 137/ SR 82, which requests the Department of Agriculture to establish the Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices Program.

While Hawaii's farmers recognize the critical importance of food safety, the current system of third-party food safety certification is unwieldy, expensive, and often impractical for the many small and diverse farms that make up the major part of Hawaii's food producers.

The recently passed Food Safety Modernization Act directs the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to create new, stronger regulations to prevent bacterial contamination of produce and to improve traceability of farm products. FDA's proposed rules were distributed for public comment in early 2013, and due to the large number of comments received, the FDA revised their proposed rules. Public comment for the revised proposed rules were distributed and comments were due in December 2014. The comments for the revised proposed rules are currently being reviewed by the FDA.

Nationwide, and particularly in Hawaii, there is a great deal of concern among farmers and farm organizations regarding the impact of the new rules. Farmers are confused as to which rules apply to their individual farms, what practices will satisfy the new rules, and what the cost of these practices will be. Further, Hawaii's climatic, social, and economic circumstances differ from those on the U.S. mainland, as do many of Hawaii's food crops,

so criteria established for the U.S. as a whole may not be appropriate for Hawaiian conditions.

FSMA allows states to establish food safety criteria, provided that the alternative procedures can be shown scientifically to be at least as safe as the procedures prescribed by FDA's standards. The proposed program would encourage the Department of Agriculture to develop science- and risk-based good agricultural practices that should meet these standards, while allowing for the diversity of crops, farm sizes, and farming practices present in Hawaii. It also would provide education and training for farmers to learn and implement these practices. The certification program would likely be more practical, more cost-effective, more farmer-friendly, and better suited to Hawaii's unique situation than the current patchwork of third-party certification and impending, but uncertain, new regulations. The ultimate result should be more, and safer, local food for Hawaii's consumers.

We therefore urge you to pass SCR 137/ SR 82 and help Hawaii's farmers continue to produce safe, wholesome produce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter of importance to Hawaii's farmers.

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR137 on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM*
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 10:07:53 PM

SCR137

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Simon Russell | Hawaii Farmers Union United | Support | No |

Comments:

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Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 11:37:36 PM

SCR137

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

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| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eva Lee | Tea Hawaii & Company | Support | No |

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Cc: rob@counterculturehawaii.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR137 on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM*
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 11:10:15 PM

SCR137

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Robert Barreca | Counter Culture Food + Ferments | Support | No |

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR137 on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM*
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 12:43:51 PM

SCR137

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ann M. Fontes | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR137 on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 6:41:35 AM

SCR137

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Mahalo for supporting this Resolution! Ms. Barbara Barry

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR137 on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 8:22:29 AM

SCR137

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ben Hambright | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Great idea! Food is the key to pretty much everything.

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SCR137

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bonnie Marsh | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 1:22:05 PM

SCR137

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dan Gardner | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: This legislation should appeal to everyone's common sense. To improve the self sufficiency of Hawaii to produce it's own food, Island food sources need to be increased and safety of those sources should be a top priority!

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SCR137

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Denise Key | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 9:15:49 AM

SCR137

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eloise Engman | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 11:53:35 AM

SCR137

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jacqueline S. Ambrose | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Please pass the resolution to have a Good Agricultural Practices program within the Department of Agriculture that will certify farmers for food safety compliance.

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR137 on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM*
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SCR137

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

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| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| James Land | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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SCR137

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

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| Kenneth A Likout | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 8:34:23 AM

SCR137

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Louisa Wooton | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Aloha kakou Chair Ruderman and Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, We are writing to ask your support of this important resolution to develop within the Dept. Of Agriculture a program that will support Good Agriculture Practices. As you know, the federal Food Safety Modernization Act will soon be implemented and, without a doubt, impact farming in Hawai'i. A solid program within our Dept. of Agriculture that addresses GAP is of great importance. Whatever is needed to establish and fund this program, it is hoped that your committee will be able to move this ahead. Me ka ha'a ha'a, The Wooton Family Kaua'i Kunana Dairy and Farm Kilauea and Moloa'a Kaua'i

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SCR137

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

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| Mark Shaw | Individual | Support | No |

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SCR137

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| Maureen Garry | Individual | Support | No |

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SCR137

Submitted on: 3/27/2015

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|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michelle Matson | Individual | Support | No |

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SCR137

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

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| Patrick Harley Simmons | Individual | Support | No |

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SCR137

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

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| Tanja Miller | Individual | Support | No |

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SCR137

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

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| Tracy E Mills | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: We need to have a Good Agricultural Practices program within the Department of Agriculture that will certify farmers for food safety compliance.

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SCR137

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

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| Valerie Barnes | Individual | Support | No |

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