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February 12, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 505  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312  
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, 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 is in strong support of HB 505**, which establishes an agricultural development and food security program and establishes state planning objectives to increase demand and access to locally grown foods

Food security, food self-sufficiency and growing agriculture are popular concepts seen in many of the measures before the legislature this year. This Legislative Session, there have been many bills introduced that support of Hawaii's Agricultural Industry. This year, HFB has introduced a package of measures addressing the real needs of our farmers and ranchers all associated with increasing farm and ranch viability. These include infrastructure needs, agricultural education, permitting, and regulatory assistance.

This measure supports the growth of Hawaii's agricultural industry by establishing an agricultural development and food security program in the HDOA. This measure provides the process needed to implement the recommendations of the *"Increase Food Security and Food Self-sufficiency Strategy"*.

HFB respectfully requests that sufficient funding be provided to HDOA to implement these recommendations.



February 10, 2015

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair  
Representative Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture

Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, Chair  
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Economic Development & Business

**Comments and Testimony in Support of HB 505, Relating to Agriculture  
(Establishes an Agricultural Development and Food Security Program within the  
Department of Agriculture).**

**Thursday, February 12, 2015, 8:30 a.m., in Conference Room 312**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission 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 appreciates the opportunity to express its **comments and support of HB 505** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii. The bill conveys the need for collaboration amongst diverse sectors of the community - business, government, and agricultural stakeholders - and the importance for them to work together cooperatively to improve the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry.

**HB 505.** This bill authorizes the creation of an agricultural development and food security program within the Department of Agriculture (DOA); establishes state planning and policy objectives to increase production of, and improved consumer access to locally grown foods; specifically identifies only the "*the soil amendments industry*" as an example of expansion of industries on the neighbor islands; and makes appropriations of unspecified amounts for the following:

- Establishment of an Agricultural Development and Food Security Program.
- Production of promotional materials relating to locally grown agricultural products, along with other endeavors, such as in-store promotions.
- Branding and labeling programs for locally grown foods.
- Publicity to promote Farmers' Markets.
- Farm-to-School pilot program in charter schools of the State.

- Development of good agricultural practices for school gardens.
- Establishment of specialists to certify farm food safety.
- Development of regional agriculture infrastructure master plans.
- Restoration of DOA positions in food inspection, pest control and biosecurity.
- Restoration of DOA positions in market research and agricultural statistics.

**LURF's Position and Comments.** HB 505, and similar previous versions of this measure, have been and continue to be supported by the DOA, the Hawaii Farm Bureau and other recognized agricultural stakeholders, as they duly propose to implement the recommendations of the *Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy*, the report prepared in October 2012 by the State Office of Planning in cooperation with the DOA, to increase the amount of locally grown food consumed by Hawaii residents..

This bill is also consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes [HRS], Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution, “to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands.” As noted in HRS Section 205-41, the intent of Act 183 (2005) was to develop agricultural incentive programs to promote agricultural viability, sustained growth of the agricultural industry, and the long-term use and protection of important agricultural lands for agricultural use.

While Section 3 (a)(4) of the bill mentions “completing the transfer of agricultural lands from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to DOA, another section should be added to include the statutory mandate under HRS Section 205-44.5, which requires DOA and DLNR to collaborate and identify public lands that should be designated as IAL; prepare maps delineating those lands; and to submit the maps and identification of public lands to the Land Use Commission for designation of the public lands as IAL by December 31, 2009.

In addition, in Section 3 (a)(2), the specific mention of only one agricultural industry – “*the soil amendments industry*” is also puzzling. LURF believes that the policy objectives for “*planning for the State's economy in general*” and the IAL laws are meant to broadly support the viability of all forms of agriculture and all agricultural industries. LURF would respectfully recommend deletion of the specific reference to “*the soil amendments industry*” from Section 3 (a)(2); and creating a new Section (3)(a)(4)(G), which could include supporting “agricultural industries” relating to soil amendments, pest and disease prevention and control, livestock feed production, livestock slaughtering and processing, etc.

Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation and the striving to improve food security and self-sufficiency in the State would be pointless without implementation of these initiatives and opportunities which require the cooperation and support of agricultural, business and educational organizations, as well as government agencies, which this bill is intended to cultivate and promote.

By recognizing the significance of, and need to advance the interrelationships between private and public sectors to develop and improve the local agriculture industry, and establishing a program to identify the objectives and address the needs of the industry, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii. As such, LURF is in **strong support of HB 505**.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of this measure.

onishi3 - Timothy

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 9:14 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: leimomikekina@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB505 on Feb 12, 2015 08:30AM\*

**HB505**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 12, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Dierks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi3 - Timothy

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 11:52 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB505 on Feb 12, 2015 08:30AM\*

**HB505**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

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penny levin	Individual	Support	No

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**LATE**

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS

February 12, 2015  
8:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 505  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairpersons Tsuji and Kawakami and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 505. This measure establishes an agricultural development and food security program and state planning objectives to increase demand and access to locally grown foods. The Department supports the intent of this measure provided it does not adversely impact the Administration's budget.

In October 2012, the Office of Planning published a study entitled "Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy". The strategy was meant to be a living document that provided the first step towards dialogue and actions to increase food self-sufficiency and food security in Hawaii. The Department collaborated with the Office of Planning on this report and one of the policy recommendations was for legislation adopting, funding, and establishing the Agricultural Development and Food Security Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

