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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

March 4, 2015
1:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 1008 SD 1
RELATING TO HAWAII FOOD RESILIENCY

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1008 SD 1. This bill establishes an agricultural development and food resiliency program within the Department and establishes state planning objectives to increase demand and access to locally grown foods. The Department supports this measure provided it does not adversely impact the priorities in the Administration's budget.

The Department, through its existing branches and divisions, currently carries out the functions outlined in this piece of legislation, however, the Department appreciates the appropriation sections within the bill and believes that given increased resources, the Department would be able to further move the state towards greater production and consumption of local agricultural commodities. The Office of Planning, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, created the "Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy" in October of 2012. Action steps were outlined within this strategy that the Department would look to carry out given an increase in resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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March 5, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 1008 SD 1
RELATING TO HAWAII FOOD RESILIENCY

Room 211
1:45 PM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports SB 1008 SD 1, which establishes an agricultural development and food resiliency program. The measure also established state planning objectives to increase demand and access to locally grown foods, increase production of locally grown foods, and makes various appropriations.

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 Hawaii's agricultural industries. This year, HFB has introduced a package of measures addressing the real needs of farmers and ranchers all associated with increasing farm and ranch viability. These include, but are not limited to, infrastructure needs, agricultural education, permitting, and easing regulatory hurdles.

This measure supports the growth of Hawaii's agricultural industry by establishing an agricultural development and food resiliency 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.

While we do see food resiliency as a priority, we support all forms of agriculture. Agricultural enterprises such as biofuels, flowers, nursery crops, fiber and forestry all contribute beauty, energy sustainability, soil remediation, tourism, watershed protection to the state. We would like to see Hawaii agricultural development and food resiliency efforts focus on all agriculture rather than just food.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our comments on this measure.

wam3 - Nicolas

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2015 6:52 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1008 on Mar 5, 2015 13:45PM

SB1008

Submitted on: 3/5/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 5, 2015 13:45PM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) SUPPORTS THE INTENT of SB 1008, SD1. LURF defers to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Hawaii Farm Bureau regarding the portions of the bill which establish an agricultural development and food resiliency program; establish state planning objectives to increase demand and access to locally grown foods and establish state planning objectives to increase production of locally grown foods. LURF recommends that this measure be AMENDED to include a requirement that the DOA designate public agricultural lands as Important Agricultural Lands (IAL), as required by statute, and provide funding to support State IAL. LURF also FULLY SUPPORTS the appropriations: for DOA to produce product promotional materials along with other endeavors such as in-store promotions; for DOA to expand and improve branding and labeling programs for locally grown foods; for publicity to promote farmers' markets; for a farm to school pilot program in charter schools of the state; to develop good agricultural practices for school gardens; for the establishment of specialists to certify farm food safety; to develop regional agricultural infrastructure master plans; to restore DOA positions in food inspection, pest control and biosecurity; to restore positions in market research and agricultural statistics; and for DOA research, training and education on agricultural food development and food security. (SD1)

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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SB1008

Submitted on: 3/3/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 5, 2015 13:45PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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