



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 2:45pm

By
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor
And
Maria Gallo, Dean
And
J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean
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SB 1008 – RELATING TO HAWAII FOOD RESILIENCY

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, we respectfully submit these comments for your consideration on SB 1008, which directs the Department of Agriculture to develop the Hawai'i Food Resiliency Initiative, and establishes the Hawai'i Food Resiliency Task Force.

In October 2012, the Office of Planning issued the "Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy," part of a three-volume report by a multi-agency steering committee for food security and self-sufficiency. The strategy included specific recommendations to move Hawai'i forward in food security, and away from providing only 11% of our own food.

We fully appreciate the intent of SB 1008, and will be glad to participate on the proposed task force, if the legislature decides to pursue this direction. However, we also note that the three volume report of the earlier task force, in our opinion, has already provided a sound strategy with specific recommendations to address food resiliency.

Thus, we would suggest that concrete steps to implement the "Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy" for Hawai'i issued by the Office of Planning in October 2012, specifically by funding the recommendations included in that report, are likely to be more effective in increasing food resiliency in Hawai'i than establishing a second task force to develop new recommendations.

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SB1008

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGL on Feb 5, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Wille	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support setting up this state level food resiliency task force. However the task force should work closely with the County Council's of each Council as the policy making body, including keeping the Councils apprised of the on-going discussions and options for recommendation. The Counties should be encouraged to also address these same issues individually. Moreover simply pushing "buy local" is far less effective than separate island campaigns, such as grown in Kauai, made in Maui, and HIPP (Hawaii Island Produce and Products). The County of Hawaii's value added in agriculture bulletin is a good starting point. Above all avoid including GMO produce - which is based on short term profits at the expense of degrading the soil and future of agriculture.

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

Comments:

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