

SB 3058

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE
AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

February 16, 2016
1:45 P.M.
ROOM 414

**SENATE BILL NO. 3058
RELATING TO LOCALLY GROWN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

Chairpersons Gabbard and Kim and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 3058. The purpose of this bill is establish within the department of agriculture a task force on the purchase of locally grown agricultural products by all State departments. The bill provides an appropriation to the department for the purposes of the task force. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure provided that it does not impact the priorities submitted in the department's executive budget and provides comments.

Act 218 (SLH 2015) established a Farm to School Program within the Department of Agriculture, directing the Farm to School Coordinator to "address the issues of supply, demand, procurement, and consumption of Hawaii-grown foods in state facilities" (HRS §141-11(b)). One of the five goals of the program is to "[e]nrich the local food system through the support and increase of local food procurement for the State's public schools and other institutions" HRS §141-11(a)(3). Through our Farm to School Coordinator's systematic and technical procurement collaboration with stakeholders in the Lieutenant Governor's Advisory Group, as well as working directly with the State Procurement Office, Department of Education, Hawaii Child Nutrition Program, Department of Health, farmers, distributors, and nonprofit entities, it is



apparent that the procurement processes available in chapter 103D are hindering efforts to increase the State's institutional purchasing of locally grown food.

The State policy to buy local produce and support local agriculture was formally established with Act 55 (SLH 2013), codifying the policy in Objectives and policies for the economy — agriculture in the Hawaii State Planning Act:

- HRS§226-7(b)(7) "Strengthen diversified agriculture by developing an effective promotion, marketing, and distribution system between Hawaii's food producers and consumers in the State, nation, and world."
- HRS§226-7(b)(13) "Promote economically competitive activities that increase Hawaii's agricultural self-sufficiency, including the increased purchase and use of Hawaii-grown food and food products by residents, businesses, and governmental bodies as defined under section 103D-104."

The department, along with its state partners, is actively pursuing the Administration's call to increase locally grown agricultural products within Hawaii's state departments. The department will continue its work to get locally grown foods into our school systems through its Farm to School Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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February 16, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

TESTIMONY ON SB 3058
RELATING TO LOCALLY GROWN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Room 414
1:45 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Kim, Vice Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committees:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 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 3058, which establishes a temporary task force to discuss how to meet the long-term goal of requiring all state departments to use locally grown agricultural products.

HFB strongly supports increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy and poultry products in our schools and other public institutions. This will truly be a significant step towards increasing our levels of self-sufficiency.

In 2009, the State enacted ACT 175 which gave Hawaii agricultural products a price preference and included Hawaii agricultural products under the State's procurement code. HFB believed that an agricultural producers' price preference for bidding presented a competitive advantage. This included enjoyment of the small business preference rule that permits an agency to identify certain contracts for competition among small businesses or requires a large business to subcontract with small businesses to provide the products. We believed that the preference helped cultivate a level playing field with out-of-state bidders and created additional market opportunities for Hawaii's farmers and small businesses.

HFB suggested the changes because our farmers and ranchers were having a difficult time entering into state supply contracts. During our involvement with this process, it became clear that education at all levels, not just within our group of farmers and

ranchers, but even within the procurement offices, was needed. Although HFB attempted to move everyone in this direction, the training was never accomplished.

In previous sessions, when bills were introduced that would revert back to exempting locally-grown agricultural products from the procurement code, HFB has requested clear metrics to help determine the success of the procurement code with the exemption.

This session there's a measure, HB 2053, which would establish a special procurement process for the procurement of goods and services. We believe that this bill will help facilitate the State's procurement of locally grown food and will allow for the flexibility to create a procurement process to achieve this.

The proposed Task Force can help determine which process will increase the purchase of more locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy and poultry products by State institutions.

HFB is committed to work with the Task Force to improve and implement a procurement program that will allow Hawaii farmers and ranchers to source more products to State institutions.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this measure.



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Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

SB 3058
RELATING TO LOCALLY GROWN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

February 16, 2016

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and members,
Chair Kim, Vice Chair Ihara and members,

Hawaii's Thousand Friends (HTF) supports SB 3058 that establishes a task force to develop a plan to expand the purchase of locally grown agricultural products by state departments.

It has been reported that the demand for locally grown products is greater than the available supply. Farmers are reluctant or unable to increase crop production due to many factors including the lack of a stable demand.

Forming a task force to plan for and recommend how State departments can help provide a much needed reliable market will result in a success for everyone. Small farmers will be able to stay in business and continue farming the land and consumers will have greater opportunities to eat fresh locally grown agricultural products.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3058 on Feb 16, 2016 13:45PM
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016 4:34:39 PM

SB3058

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for WLA/GVO on Feb 16, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl M Jellings Sr	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strong Support as a Local Fisherman we see first hand Our market place being smothered with foreign seafood all competing for the hard earned local dollar,

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SB3058

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for WLA/GVO on Feb 16, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB3058

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for WLA/GVO on Feb 16, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments:

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