

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL 3027
RELATING TO THE LABELING OF PRODUCTS

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 3027. This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor, to update and supplement the 2020 strategic plan to increase Hawaii's food production and food security. The Department expresses our **strong support**.

Much has changed in the food supply chain worldwide. As further food producer consolidation occurs, worker shortages, natural and manmade disasters continue, Hawaii must become more food resilient.

The strategic plan update will document the department's adjustments to the quickly changing agriculture landscape, creating measurable time-bound goals to give Hawaii a clear path achieving greater agricultural and food security. Through direct program creation, identification of policy needs and significant data gathering, \$400,000 will be utilized to hire contractors to update the agricultural land use study which is completed every five years and gather the agricultural baseline data.



In addition, access to fresh locally produced food should be available to all. Developing sustainability plans for programs like the Hawaii healthy food incentive program (daBux) and Farm to Food bank not only helps in serving our food insecure community but opens new markets for local producers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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Kauai

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports SB3027 and provides comments.**

Our state's reliance on imported food and interest in increasing local output are longstanding issues, and while efforts to address these are crucial, they should not come at the expense of local farmers' livelihoods.

We urge the legislature to consider a strategic plan that emphasizes the viability and support of local, small-scale farmers. This approach should aim to strengthen the local food market by diversifying it, rather than allowing it to be consolidated by a few large entities. A plan addresses just production of calories, but also livelihoods, community impact, and the sustainability of small farms is vital for a transformative food system in Hawaii.

It is essential to focus not only on increasing production but also on enhancing farm viability. The majority of Hawaii's farms are small, with nearly 90% being less than 50 acres. These farms face structural barriers such as labor, land, and capital challenges that hinder their productivity and sustainability. A strategic plan that genuinely supports these smallholders will contribute significantly more to our state's self-sufficiency and economic resilience.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



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TO: Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 2, 2024
TIME: 1pm
PLACE: Room 224

RE: SB3027 Relating to the Strategic Plan to Increase Food Production and Food Security

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

HFIA is in support of this measure. Increasing local food production means making our state more food secure, more economically diverse, and more resilient.

To make real progress on the amount of food we produce locally will require simultaneous efforts on multiple issues. We believe that updating the strategic plan is an important step. An updated plan can help us understand what progress has been made since 2020, what initiatives have been successful, and what actions are most likely to advance local food production.

We encourage the committee to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3027

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 2:57:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colehour Bondera	Testifying for Kanalani Ohana Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members:

Please strongly support and encourage action on this piece of legislation (SB3027) regarding the HDOA updating the Strategic Plan for Hawaii food production.

Hawaii can and should have a plan in place and enacted to increase our local food production and consumption and the HDOA can and should take the lead in how to so achieve.

Farmers, like ourselves, strongly support.

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

PO Box 861

Homnaunau, HI 96726

colemel2@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

SB3027

RELATING TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY.

Friday, February 2, 2024, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB2794** which requires the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor, to update and supplement the 2020 strategic plan to increase Hawai'i's food production and food security.

A strategic plan is key to reaching goals. We hope that this plan can be a roadmap to meeting the needs required to increase local food. Transferring lands from DLNR to HDOA under Act 90 is a simple step to ensuring we can keep agricultural lands in agricultural production, and we appreciate the administration's support in transferring these lands. While there is a cost to it when surveys are required, we hope that there are ways to minimize expenses in a way that responsibly utilizes funds but also gets the job done – for example, finding ways to reduce the cost of surveys so that the land is sufficiently surveyed for the purpose at hand.

Hawaii's cattlemen are well-equipped to provide a high-quality protein for farm to state procurement programs and the community as a whole. Raising cattle responsibly provides an important food source while ranchers steward the land. Land stewardship that cattle producers provide like rotational grazing and invasive species removal are beneficial practices for the land, and a strong cattle industry is important for food security in the state.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





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

February 1, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 3027
RELATING TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION AND
FOOD SECURITY

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees:

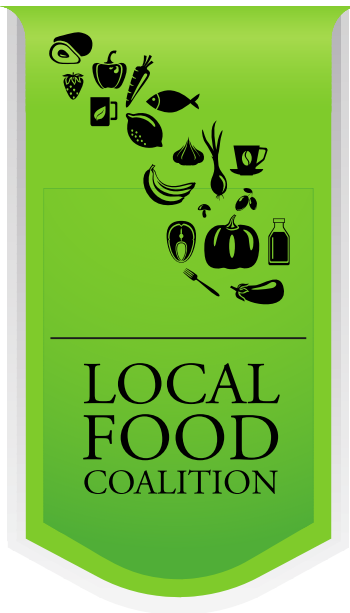
I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 3027, which requires the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor, to update and supplement the 2020 strategic plan to increase Hawai'i's food production and food security.

Many studies have been conducted (e.g. "Increased Food Security and Food Self Sufficiency Strategy", 2012, DBEDT and HDOA, "Report on the Strategic Plan to Double Local Food Production and Exports by 2030", 2020, HDOA) that suggest strategies for increased food production. However, agriculture in Hawai'i continues to evolve. HFB believes that increased food production requires all types of agriculture. Updating and supplementing the 2020 Strategic Plan would address ways to double food production and exports, facilitate Act 90, support aquaculture, and support DA BUX.

HFB respectfully requests your strong support of this measure. An updated roadmap providing a common goal to improve Hawai'i's agriculture is needed.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.



Hawai'i Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council
Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation
Hawai'i Farmers' Union United
Hawai'i Food Industry Association
Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association
Kohala Center
Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i
Maui Farm to School Network (Maui F2SN)
Ulupono Initiative
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources - University of Hawai'i at Manoa

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Friday, February 2, 2024 – 1:00 p.m. – Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

SB 3027 – RELATING TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY

SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition **SUPPORTS** SB 3027, which requires the Department of Agriculture (HDOA), in cooperation with the Office of the Governor, to update and supplement the 2020 Strategic Plan to Double Local Food Productions and Exports by 2030 and appropriate funds.

The pandemic, supply chain, and inflation highlighted the need to increase Hawaii's food self-sufficiency and reduce our reliance on imports. While the 2020 report was a good start, the plan lacks specific details on how to help support our local farmers and ranchers to increase local food production. This bill and the appropriation will allow the HDOA to identify benchmarks on how to increase local food production.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprised of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 3027.

SB-3027

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:23:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mamiko Carroll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Senator Richards, Senator DeCoite, Senator Rhoads, and Senator Awa,

I am writing in SUPPORT of SB3027 to update and supplement the 2020 strategic plan to supplement Hawaii's food production and food security.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of SB3027.