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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB995 on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 5:14:23 PM

HB995

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments:

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Tuesday, March 17, 2015 – 2:45 p.m. – Room 414

RE: HB 995 - Relating to Agriculture – In Strong Support

Dear Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition strongly supports HB 995, which requests an appropriation to help build the next generation of Hawai'i agriculture leaders by helping to fund Future Farmers of America (FFA) and the 4-H program, and support their future careers in agriculture. The average age of a Hawai'i farmer is 60 years old. Therefore, to ensure the viability of the local agricultural industry, more young people need to develop the interest and skills required for a career in agriculture.

The Local Food Coalition recognizes the vital importance of FFA and 4-H programs with their long history of educating and training the sustainable farmers and ranchers of our community. FFA and 4-H programs help address sustainability on social, economic and environmental levels as they provide hands-on help in providing the next generation with the practical tools they need to succeed. Supporting these organizations will help revitalize local agriculture by providing the experience and skills needed to take on the rigorous but rewarding work faced by farmers and ranchers in Hawai'i.

The Local Food Coalition is pleased to support proposals designed to help grow more local food. Our group's members came together with one common goal: to promote the local production of food in a sustainable and economically sound manner to benefit Hawai'i's people through the revitalization and expansion of our state's agricultural sector. The Coalition is continuing to pursue this comprehensive approach because it is the most effective way for Hawai'i to develop its resources for diversified food production, as well as lessen its dependence on importing that which can be grown, raised and processed locally.

We believe that working together we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB 995. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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4 Ag Hawai'i

Hawai'i Aquaculture &
Aquaponics Association

Hawai'i Association of
Independent Schools

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

Malama Kaua'i

Maui School Garden
Network

Ulupono Initiative