

HB-770

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 6:32:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

Evaluate current storage and efficiency of shipping companies.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture
MORRIS ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 17, 2021
10:00 A.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 770
RELATING TO HEALTH

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 770. This measure establishes a task force to review and recommend specific actions to ensure that Hawaii's food imports are sourced, transported, stored, and distributed in compliance with the federal Food Safety Modernization Act; and develop specific recommendations to ensure that all foods and brands imported into Hawaii do not mislead or confuse the public through packaging or advertising that imply imported food's origin is from Hawaii or has the same freshness or qualities as food that is locally grown or produced. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





Hawaii Foodservice Alliance LLC, 2720 Waiwai Loop, Honolulu, HI 96819
Tel: 808.839.2004 ~ Fax: 808.839.2033 ~ HFA@HFHAHawaii.com

Date: February 15, 2021
To: Chair Hashem
Vice Chair Perruso
Rep Lowen, Rep Martin, Rep Matayoshi, Rep Todd, Rep Tokioka, & Rep Matsumoto
Fm: Chad Buck, Owner, Hawaii Foodservice Alliance LLC
Re: **SUPPORT for HB770**

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Committee Members,

Hawaii Foodservice Alliance has locally owned and operated food distribution facilities on Maui, Kauai, Oahu, and the Big Island. We employ several hundred staff members and serve every grocer, retailer, club, and c-store chain on every island, every day. Hawaii Foodservice Alliance is in full **support for HB770**.

Aligning Hawaii's state laws to match the latest in food safety science and requirements mandated by the Federal Food Safety Modernization Act will save Hawaii consumers from sickness and even death.

Since the majority of food borne illnesses can be prevented by proper handling, temperature controls, and record keeping, HB770 provides a low cost solution to what can be a deadly problem for Hawaii's most vulnerable consumers - our Keiki and Kupuna.

The growth in demand for local products has, unfortunately, caused an increase of non-locally made products to market, package, and mislead consumers to believe that the product is locally sourced or made. HB770 protects our local products from non-local products that mislead the consumer to believe that they are purchasing and supporting local products.

HFA Supports this bill pertaining to FOOD SAFETY because HB770:

- Aligns State Health standards with Federal Health standards.
- Helps safeguard Hawaii consumers from food borne illnesses.
- Protects Hawaii's most vulnerable and susceptible, Keiki and Kupuna, from life threatening illness.

HFA Supports this bill pertaining to PROTECTING LOCAL FOOD FROM MISLEADING MARKETING, BRANDING, AND ADVERTISING because HB770:

- Ensures that consumers are not deceived
- Protects truly local products from mainland or foreign companies that mislead the consumer.
- Stops manufacturers and distributors from selling products that pretend to be local when they are not.

Thank you for allowing me to share my opinions and testimony in SUPPORT OF HB770

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Submitted on: 2/16/2021 8:08:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Garcia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB770 to ensure Hawaii's food imports are sourced, transported, stored, and distributed in compliance with the federal Food Safety Modernization Act. This bill also ensures truth in labeling so imported foods are not mislabeled thus misleading Hawaii's consumers on the food they purchase.

The opposition will come from those organizations that may not be in compliance with federal law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB770.

Alan Garcia

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Submitted on: 2/16/2021 8:46:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and committee members:

I am providing my testimony in support of HB 770. This bill will ensure food imported to Hawaii is in compliance with the Federal Safety Modernization Act and will ensure transparency and accountability in labeling for Hawaii consumers.

I know food distributors who may not be in compliance with the Federal Safety Modernization Act will testify in opposition of this bill. You will also get opposition from food distributors who may not practice truth in labeling, because they can profit with false and misleading labels.

If food distributors and the transport sector for such foods followed the federal guidelines for food safety we would not need this bill. That is why you will see opposition toward this bill. If the wholesalers and retailers were all in compliance with federal law, they would not have to testify in opposition of this bill.

Lisa Smith

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Submitted on: 2/16/2021 10:29:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jasmine Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 770 to make sure food for Hawaii consumers is safe following the Federal Food Safety Modernization Act.