

HB 1544, HD1

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**MARCH 13, 2017
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1544 HD1
RELATING TO LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1544 HD1 which adds “increasing the production of food intended for human consumption that is produced and sold in the State” to the duties of the Department of Agriculture. The Department offers comments on this measure.

The Department of Agriculture respectfully submits that the amendment is not necessary as it is captured in the immediately previous statement – “increase agricultural self-sufficiency”. Please note that the Agribusiness Development Corporation in its Hawaii Agribusiness Plan (Section 163D-5(a)(3)) is required to do an analysis “...of the potential for increasing local production to replace imported products in a manner that complements existing local producers and increases Hawaii’s agricultural self-sufficiency”. Also, the Hawaii State Plan has a State policy to “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.” (Section 226-7(b)(13)).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.





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March 13, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 1544, HD1
RELATING TO LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Room 224
1:15 PM

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

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.

HB 1544, HD1 seeks to add increase of local food production for human consumption as a task within the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Hawaii's agriculture was at its' peak when all kinds of agriculture existed in the islands. Despite large tracts of lands occupied by sugarcane and pineapple, vegetable production was at its' peak with many containers heading to the west coast of the Continent. Today, as sugarcane lands and pineapple lands lie fallow, food production is no longer at the level of the 1980s. Many multigenerational farms lie idle across the state or are struggling to remain viable.

Hawaii has many plans and goals. Our State Constitution requires increased agricultural self-sufficiency and sustainability. HRS 225, requires a chapter on agriculture within the State Functional Plan, focused on a strong industry. Requirements already exist within law and measures such as HB891 require the Department to develop strategies to increase food production. Focus on implementation of measures should be the priority.

Successful food production exists within a larger scope of various types of agriculture. A strong floriculture industry will reduce the need for high risk imports, therefore prevent destructive pests on food crops. There is a nexus between all kinds of agriculture. A major shortfall in local agricultural production is the lack of value added facilities. Overproduction resulting from the flushing of crops due to good weather conditions, or off grades due to inclement conditions tend to go to waste. Specifying only food production for human consumption will have unintended consequences.

We suggest: **"implement measures to increase local agricultural production and processing."** The outcome of such measures will be increased access to local food.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 3:28 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1544 on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM*

HB1544

Submitted on: 3/10/2017

Testimony for AEN on Mar 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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