



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture
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SB 1008 – RELATING TO HAWAII FOOD RESILIENCY

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, we respectfully submit these comments for your consideration on SB 1008, which directs the Department of Agriculture to develop the Hawai'i Food Resiliency Initiative, and establishes the Hawai'i Food Resiliency Task Force.

In October 2012, the Office of Planning issued the "Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy," part of a three-volume report by a multi-agency steering committee for food security and self-sufficiency. The strategy included specific recommendations to move Hawai'i forward in food security, and away from providing only 11% of our own food.

We fully appreciate the intent of SB 1008, and will be glad to participate on the proposed task force, if the legislature decides to pursue this direction. However, we also note that the three volume report of the earlier task force, in our opinion, has already provided a sound strategy with specific recommendations to address food resiliency.

Thus, we would suggest that concrete steps to implement the "Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy" for Hawai'i issued by the Office of Planning in October 2012, specifically by funding the recommendations included in that report, are likely to be more effective in increasing food resiliency in Hawai'i than establishing a second task force to develop new recommendations.