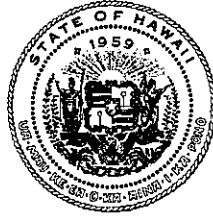


LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

LAURA H. THIELEN  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI  
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT

ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON  
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**On Senate Bill 2421, Senate Draft 1- RELATING TO LAND ACQUISITION**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**February 27, 2008**

Senate Bill 2421, Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds for the acquisition of land in Wahiawa, Oahu, currently owned by the George Galbraith Estate, or to acquire the property through outright purchase, cooperative agreement, or exercise of the State's power of eminent domain. While the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) acknowledges the intent of this measure, the Department nonetheless has concerns with the budgetary implications this bill will have on the Executive Supplemental Budget request and offers the following comments.

The Department has been involved in the proposed acquisition of this land over the last 15 years. In 1994, the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) approved a land exchange between the Galbraith Trust and the State for the acquisition of the subject lands. The exchange eventually failed due to the inability of the parties to find replacement lands acceptable to the Galbraith Trust.

Subsequent to the failure of the proposed exchange, the Legislature created the Legacy Lands Conservation Commission (Commission) under Chapter 173A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), specifically for the purpose of evaluating the merits and advising the Board on acquisitions involving valuable agricultural lands and other lands that have any of the resource values set forth in Section 173A-5, HRS. Given the limited resources of the State to acquired lands with resource values, the Commission was tasked with evaluating and prioritizing potential acquisitions while balancing the needs for the various resource lands enumerated under Section 173A-5, HRS. The Department believes that this proposed acquisition should be subject to the scrutiny of Commission to ensure that it is compatible with the State's priorities for acquiring valuable lands established under Chapter 173A, HRS.



**Hawaii Farm Bureau**

F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819  
PH: (808)848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921

February 27, 2008

**HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS**

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2421, SD 1  
RELATING TO LAND ACQUISITION**

Chair Baker and Committee Members:

My name is Alan Takemoto, Executive Director, of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, which is the largest non-profit general agriculture organization representing approximately 1,600 farm and ranch family members statewide.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation supports SB 2421, SD 1, which appropriates funds to purchase land in central Oahu from the Galbraith Estate.

The Galbraith Estate is comprised of 2,100 acres of agricultural-zoned land in Central Oahu. These lands are made up of 20 individual and contiguous parcels next to Wahiawa near Lake Wilson and Schofield Barracks. The Galbraith Estate has some of the best and most productive agricultural lands in the State. If the State can purchase and manage these lands, we will ensure that agriculture in Hawaii will increase in productivity and capacity.

As urban development continues to encroach on agriculture, we believe that the State has a responsibility to help protect valuable agricultural-zoned lands from development and to preserve it for future agricultural production. The purchase of the Galbraith Estate lands by the State is a step in this direction.

We urge this committee to approve the passage of this measure.

Thank you.



**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
SB 2421**

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, February 27, 2008, 10:30 a.m., Room 211  
testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov**

Dear Chairpersons Baker and Tsutsui:

Hawai'i Office  
212 Merchant St.  
Suite 320  
Honolulu, HI  
96813  
T: 808-524-8560  
F: 808-524-8568  
www.tpl.org

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) supports the intent of SB 2421 Relating to Land Acquisition, but is concerned that the proposed appropriation of \$100 million far exceeds the value of the land. TPL suggests instead that the Legislature consider appropriating \$20 million for a potential acquisition. TPL is hopeful that additional funding from the Army and other sources may be compiled to effect a public purchase.

TPL conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. Nationwide, TPL has five program initiatives: (1) providing parks for people, (2) protecting working lands (farms, ranches, and forests), (3) conserving natural lands (wilderness, wildlife habitat), (4) safeguarding heritage lands (cultural and historical resources), and (5) preserving land to ensure clean drinking water and the natural beauty of our coasts and waterways. In Hawai'i, TPL has worked with public and private partners to conserve over 36,000 acres of land in the State, including Pūpūkea-Paumalū and Waimea Valley on O'ahu, Wao Kele o Puna on Hawai'i Island and Mū'olea Point on Maui, and Lumaha'i Beach on Kaua'i.

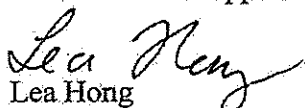
As development pressures and urban sprawl increase on O'ahu, our local community has become increasingly concerned about land use, food self-sufficiency and security, natural resource depletion, and economic dependency on imported food and products. The people of Hawai'i have agreed that agricultural preservation and self-sufficiency are important and embodied these values in our State Constitution, which requires the State to "conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands." Art. XI, sec. 3.

Agricultural land located in Central O'ahu, such as the 2,100 acres currently for sale by the Galbraith Estate, are key to Hawai'i's future food security and self-sufficiency. These lands are close to local markets and transportation corridors, and have ample supplies of irrigation water. The Galbraith lands also serve as an important recharge area over our drinking water aquifer. The lands are the gateway to the rural North Shore, and are the "first domino" parcel of agricultural lands that will inevitably convert to gentlemen's estates or residential subdivisions, if we do not act in a timely fashion.

TPL supports SB 2421 because acquisition of the Galbraith lands furthers the values of Hawai'i's people and preserves essential resources for future generations. SB 2421 also allows the State to work with other conservation minded partners to acquire and manage the lands. Further, acquisition would resolve some of the issues concerning the ownership of, and liability for Lake Wilson.

TPL supports SB 2421 and is ready to assist the State and other conservation partners in collaborative efforts to acquire the Galbraith lands.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



Lea Hong

Hawaiian Islands Program Director