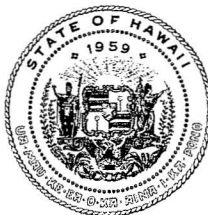
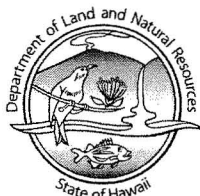


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

LAURA H. THIELEN
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
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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 2— RELATING TO LAND ACQUISITION

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE**

March 31, 2008

Senate Bill 2421, Senate Draft 2 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.

FINTestimony

From: Blake McElheny [blakemcelheny@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2008 11:25 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Support for SB2421 Agenda #1 (03/31/08)

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

Please consider supporting SB2421 SD2.

The Galbraith lands are important agricultural lands that serve as a gateway to the rural North Shore and they are key assets to maintain in production for local diversified agriculture.

Many people are very appreciative of your efforts to protect this area in conjunction with other efforts to protect Central Oahu and the North Shore for the benefit of the public.

With the help of the new model of creative public-private partnerships, and the efforts of non-profit organizations like the Trust for Public Land and the North Shore Community Land Trust, the State can take the decisive leadership role in acquiring important agricultural lands under threat of development.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Blake McElheny
Pupukea
808.479.9818

FINTestimony

From: Denise Antolini [antolini@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2008 1:05 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: SB2421 Agenda #1

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support SB2421 SD2, with any amendments recommended by Chair Oshiro, which will assist in the expeditious public acquisition of the Galbraith lands in central Oahu.

These important agricultural lands are a gateway to the rural North Shore and are key assets to maintain in production for local diversified agriculture. They should also be protected as a significant heritage landscape and open space.

I appreciate your efforts to protect this area in conjunction with other efforts to protect Central Oahu and the North Shore. The efforts to protect Galbraith should have the same full toolbox as this Committee has supported for the Turtle Bay negotiations.

With the help of the new model of creative public-private partnerships, and the efforts of non-profit organizations like the Trust for Public Land and the North Shore Community Land Trust, the window of opportunity for the state to take the **leadership role** in acquiring important agricultural lands under threat of development, like Galbraith -- for sale by willing landowners -- is **now**.

Mahalo,

Denise Antolini
59-463 Alapio Road
Pupukea, HI 96712
638-5594