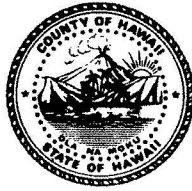


William P. Kenoi  
Mayor



Diane L. Ley  
Interim Deputy Director

## County of Hawaii

### DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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LATE  
Testimony

February 6, 2009

The Honorable Clift Tsuji, Chair  
And Committee Members of the House Committee on Agriculture  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: House Bill 1351, Relating to Private Agriculture Parks

Dear Chairperson Tsuji and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive comments regarding House Bill 1351, relating to private agriculture parks. The County of Hawai'i Department of Research and Development believes that this bill has much merit and will directly address the ability of farmers to remain in business today.

Long standing regulations intended to serve the public through highly centralized electric power and domestic water production and delivery systems is hampering entrepreneurial farmers. In order to move our islands to a renewed level of sustainability, we must focus on how these systemic systems are holding businesses back from effectively utilizing our natural resources. We must tackle these systems now and make the adjustments that will allow farmers to invest wisely, share resources with their neighboring farms, and ensure the further diversification of Hawai'i's agriculture and its ability to compete effectively with imports.

The Department looks forward to further review and analysis of the potential impacts and the opportunities this creative bill presents. We urge this Committee to consider advancing the bill.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Ley".

Diane Ley  
Interim Deputy Director