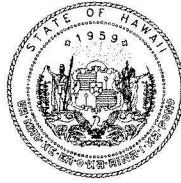


LINDA LINGLE  
Governor



State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**LATE TESTIMONY**

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON  
WATER, LAND, AND OCEAN RESOURCES  
AND  
AGRICULTURE  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2009  
9:00 a.m.  
Room 325

HOUSE BILL NO. 1436  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairpersons Ito and Tsuji and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1436 that proposes to amend Section 205-4.5 to include educational facilities and redefines buildings related to agricultural practices as permissible uses on Agricultural District land with Land Study Bureau "A" and "B" overall productivity ratings. The Department of Agriculture supports the redefinition of buildings related to agricultural practices but opposes the inclusion of educational facilities as a permitted use on "A" and "B" agricultural lands. The appropriate mechanism to review a request to establish educational facilities is the Special Permit (Section 205-6). We are concerned that permitting uses that are not directly related to agricultural production activities and uses on the best agricultural lands may affect the ongoing process of identifying and designating Important Agricultural Lands.



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**LATE TESTIMONY**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

February 13, 2000, 9:00 A.M.

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1436**

Chair Ito, Chair Tsuji, and members of the Committees:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with over 5500 dues paying members statewide, **opposes** HB 1436. There is no definition of the phrase "educational facilities," thus seemingly allowing large commercial activities in the guise of an educational institution. One could easily see an industrial "educational" park being developed **as a matter of right** without public comment or review.

Further, assuming an actual school were designed, we're not entirely clear why we would want to place educational facilities directly abutting agricultural land? Can you imagine children playing during recess when pesticides are being applied? Long term planning incorporates the separate needs of agriculture and the general community. Our current system for special use permits and land reclassification take these considerations into account. This bill does not.

Please hold HB 1436. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.