

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND & OCEAN RESOURCES
MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2009
9:00 A.M.
ROOM 325

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 222
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 191
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO IDENTIFY PRIORITIES
FOR STATE-OWNED IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS TO MAXIMIZE THE USE
OF SUCH LANDS FOR CRITICALLY-NEEDED AGRICULTURAL AND DAIRY
PRODUCTION

Chairperson Ito and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution No. 222 and House Resolution No. 191. We believe that state-owned Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) should reflect the same Constitutional mandate regarding private IAL, i.e. that the State shall "...promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency". We do not believe that it is the intent of the Constitution to provide a higher priority to one form of agriculture over another. Rather, it will be the policy of the Department of Agriculture that leases of State-owned IAL will be based solely on the qualifications and experience of the applicant lessee.