

LINDA LINGLE  
Governor



State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO  
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

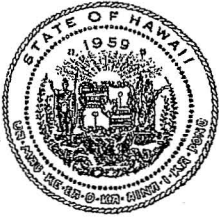
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2009  
10:00 a.m.  
Room 312

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 235 / HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 204  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO GIVE  
PRIORITY TO STATE LEASES FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RANCHING OPERATIONS OVER  
STATE LEASES FOR ENERGY FACILITY OPERATION PROJECTS WITH RESPECT TO  
LEASE EXTENSIONS AND RENEWALS

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution No. 235 and House Resolution No. 204. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this Resolution. The value and importance of existing agricultural operations, their role in maintaining good stewardship of public lands, and their contribution to Hawaii's economy and agricultural self-sufficiency for Hawaii's residents should be considered no less equal than the importance and value to the State accruing from the development of prospective renewable energy sources such as solar energy on public lands.

The Resolution references Act 31, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008 that allows solar energy facilities as a permissible use on Land Study Bureau "D" and "E" rated agricultural land. For your information, agricultural lands with "D" and "E" ratings often have value for agricultural production. Perhaps the most well-known example of high-value production on "E"-rated land is Kona coffee which thrives on unirrigated and rocky soil. There are many cases throughout the State where "marginal" lands achieve a rating of "C", "B", and even "A" if irrigation is available. When sugarcane cultivation dominated the agricultural landscape not too many years ago, the majority of small farmers established their businesses on "D" and "E" lands. Even where irrigation is unavailable, there are many areas where "D" and "E" lands are in extensive agricultural production such as cattle grazing and pasture lands or intensively used as papayas grown in the Puna/Kapoho area. Nursery and foliage operations excel on crushed lava lands that are rated "E".



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR  
THEODORE E. LIU  
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Statement of  
**THEODORE E. LIU**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**Before the House Committee on  
AGRICULTURE**

**Friday, March 27, 2009  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

In consideration of

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OPERATIONS OVER STATE LEASES FOR ENERGY FACILITY OPERATION  
PROJECTS WITH RESPECT TO LEASE EXTENSIONS AND RENEWALS**

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) opposes House Concurrent Resolution 235/House Resolution 204 as we believe it unnecessarily creates a false choice and conflict between energy security and food security. We believe the result of the measure is less development of renewable energy and agricultural projects in Hawaii.

House Concurrent Resolution 235/House Resolution 204 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to give priority to State agricultural and pastoral tenants over State leases for energy facility operation projects with respect to lease extensions and

renewals. DBEDT acknowledges the Legislature's concern to protect agricultural and ranching operations. However the legislative and executive leadership of Hawaii have also for 30 years recognized Hawaii's critical need to break its over-dependence on foreign oil. At over 90% dependent on fossil fuel for its energy, Hawaii is vulnerable to fuel disruptions and high energy costs.

The Hawaii Clean Energy initiative is committed to a strategic path toward energy security and self-sufficiency for our citizens that complement food security and self-sufficiency for the state. HCEI is focused on bio-fuel technologies that refine through thermochemical processes feedstock, including biomass, into locally produced low-cost electricity, liquid fuels, including biodiesel and fertilizers, all necessary inputs to a sustainable local agricultural sector. HCEI is also focused on agronomic practices whereby biomass is grown in a manner complementary with food production. The result is energy *plus* food – not energy *versus* food.

We believe the best Legislative policy is to request the DLNR to consider complementary agricultural and renewable energy interests in terms of land leasing decisions, without giving preference to either.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
AGRICULTURE**

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House Concurrent Resolution 235/House Resolution 204 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to give priority to State agricultural and pastoral tenants over State leases for energy facility operation projects with respect to lease extensions and renewals. The Department considers all policy guidance from the Legislature and the Administration in leases, including laws that provide support for renewable energy operations and laws that stress the importance of agriculture to Hawaii.

**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

**wooley1-Christopher**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2009 8:49 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** bcole47@hawaiiintel.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR235 on 3/27/2009 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/27/2009 10:00:00 AM HCR235

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Elizabeth Cole  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [bcole47@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:bcole47@hawaiiintel.net)  
Submitted on: 3/26/2009

**Comments:**

Please carefully consider your land use decisions and not rush into leases for biofuels. Biofuel technologies are still in their early stages; don't ruin land for speculative ventures. We have LESS of a food supply than we have an energy supply &quot;if the boats stop coming&quot;. Keep the long-term health of our soils and water supply in mind as you make land use decisions--please don't displace agriculture or legitimate forestry for the raising of biofuel.



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LATE  
TODAY

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