

Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.538.6616 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

March 24, 2010, 9:30 A.M.
(*Testimony is 1 page long*)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2290 (HD2) (SD1)

Aloha Chair Kim and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club supports HB 2290, which could be considered a required moratorium on the development of O'ahu's dwindling supply of agricultural land.

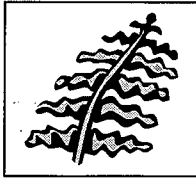
As development pressure continues to increase, and lands needed to provide our people with food and energy are being lost to speculation, we need to start taking unprecedented steps -- like this measure -- to protect our remaining agricultural land. We have to stop giving away the farm.

Agricultural lands currently in use or with excellent potential for agricultural productions are a finite and irreplaceable resource in Hawai'i. There has been a steady decline in the number of acres in Agricultural District statewide and on O'ahu. Since 1991, approximately 3,297 acres of "A" and "B" rated lands have been lost on O'ahu alone. Approximately 10,900 acres of farm land of this quality are estimated to remain on O'ahu.¹ Two large development proposals are currently planning to develop large portions of this remaining agricultural land (Koa Ridge would be equivalent to 5% of the remaining land alone).

As you may be aware, Hawai'i imports close to 90% of its food supply. As the cost of oil increases, we must prepare for the day when it may no longer be economical to ship in our food. That type of tragedy would dwarf the small economic potential of developing parking spots and urban sprawl on this land today.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

¹ Castle & Cooke/Koa Ridge Final Environmental Impact Statement, page 4-21.



from the desk of Evelyn E. Souza

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Chairwoman, Senate Ways and Means Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Conference Room 211
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: OPPOSITION to House Bill 2290, Relating to Agriculture (Meeting date: March 24, 2010, 9:30a.m.)

Dear Chair and Respected Committee Members,

Please pause in your WAM deliberations and consider this: **House Bill 2290** would prevent major development plans and projects from being successful, ultimately preventing the realization of our local, working families from career, homeownership and entrepreneurial opportunities. More importantly, the existing "checks and balances" by State (LUC) and City (DPP) for the "Golden Triangle" (and other parcels of land) are our safeguards. We need no further legislation to further complicate the development of this region or elsewhere.

As a long time resident of Makakilo (almost 4 decades), I know first hand the many challenges our community has faced over the years. We have long awaited the dream of the completion of the NEW CITY for O'ahu, this "second" city called Kapolei and see it meaningfulness for generations to come.

Recently, many long awaited improvements to our roadways and highways, with regard to increased mobility in and around the 'Ewa Plain (which includes 'Ewa, 'Ewa Beach and the greater Kapolei), have finally come to fruition along with housing, public services and commercial entities that provide convenience and value to our communities. (ALL of these, without exception, may I add, are on former Agricultural land.) And these improvements and developments are not by chance, but by the years of collaborative efforts of government, developers and a very involved community.

We are currently on the right path to making major positive changes in our community. The orchestration of the City and County's Rail project, a new UH West O'ahu campus, DHHL's East Kapolei development, HHFDC's MHAH affordable housing project and D.R. Horton's Ho'opili community are all part of the master plan to make the NEW CITY a reality. **HB2290** is abusive to Agricultural landowners and would inevitably have the "tail wagging the dog".

Thank you for allowing me to comment in **opposition of House Bill 2290**.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Souza
92848 Palailai Street
Kapolei, HI 96707

kim5 - Deborah

From: Lolita_Takeda/KAPOLEIH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 8:20 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: House Bill 2290

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Chairwoman, Senate Ways and Means Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Conference Room 211
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: OPPOSITION to House Bill 2290, Relating to Agriculture (Meeting date: March 24, 2010, 9:30a.m.)

Dear Chair and Respected Committee Members,

My name is Lolita Takeda, a resident of Villages of Kapolei for 16 years, an active community volunteer and a mother of 3 young adults.

When my family first moved to Hawai'i, we temporarily lived in 'Ewa Beach. After searching for the right community for my family, my husband and I have decided upon Kapolei for one reason – it was to become the “new” or “second” city on O'ahu. We were – and continue to be – attracted to the great potential of this city. Of course this entails accommodating more people, but it also includes the addition of schools, retail establishments and much needed services, limiting our trips to Honolulu.

House Bill 2290 is detrimental to the continued growth of our Kapolei community.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my opposition of HB2290.

Lolita Takeda
Tel: 497-5948
91-1169F Kamaaha Loop
Kapolei, HI 96707