

**Rep. Maile Shimabukuro**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2010 8:23 PM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Cc:** pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2673 on 2/3/2010 10:15:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for HAW 2/3/2010 10:15:00 AM HB2673

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Penny Levin  
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Submitted on: 2/2/2010

**Comments:**

Aloha mai honorable Committee members;

I am testifying as an individual today but I am also a member of the Taro Security and Purity Task Force. I strongly support this measure and urge you to pass HB2673.

Over the last year, the task force accomplished a great deal and put together a series of recommendations that will serve to improve conditions for taro and taro farmers, as well as contribute to food self-sufficiency, economic vitality, community and family wellbeing in Hawaii. The lack of state funding in 2008 prevented the task force from completing the tasks outlined in Act 221 or implementing priority actions. OHA's support allowed us to complete the first portion of Act 211 which was to determine and prioritize the needs of the taro community, without which this would have been difficult to achieve.

As we traveled to each island and each taro growing community, we saw that we had kuleana to continue our efforts so that the task force report would not sit on a shelf collecting dust. Their words are too important to allow that to happen.

Please pass HB2673.

Mahalo nui loa.

Penny Levin  
taro farmer  
Wailuku