

**SB 1155**

**LATE**



# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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

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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 3, 2011, 2:45 P.M.  
(Testimony is 1 page long)

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF 1155

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with 8000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, **supports** the intent of SB 1155. This bill establishes a task force to look at the issue of long-term leasing to farmers.

The lack of available agricultural land has driven up prices and made it difficult for new farmers to find significant sized parcels, with appropriate infrastructure, that are available for reasonably long-periods of time. We believe a healthy dialogue could potentially identify some solutions to this systemic problem.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**nishihara5 - Randy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 9:44 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** flipside@usa.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM

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**Categories:** Red Category

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Merites Mata  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 743 Ahukini Street Honolulu, HI  
Phone: (808)741-3620  
E-mail: [flipside@usa.com](mailto:flipside@usa.com)  
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

**Comments:**

I Merites Mata support this bill sb 5511 and I feel it is mandatory to support and expand agriculture in the State of Hawaii due to it is a daily necessity we all depend on. I have 4 children and I am a single mother and I feel deeply threatened knowing that 85% of our goods are imported into out islands. If we were to stop importing would our islands be prepared to feed everyone and for how long without chaos in which is a very big concern for me. To know that me and my children are secure with food, even if we live on an island is a great relief for me as a citizen, tax payer and homeowner in Hawaii that our state has reinforced and set up the people of Hawaii with no worries.

Thank you,

Merites Mata

**nishihara5 - Randy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 10:37 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** meleanajudd@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** sb1155.doc

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Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: meleana judd  
Organization: meleanas farm  
Address: 59-414 kamehameha hwy haleiwa, hi  
Phone: 5518132  
E-mail: [meleanajudd@gmail.com](mailto:meleanajudd@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

LATE

Feb 3, 2:45pm, room 229

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Testimony in SUPPORT with amendments, of SB1155, relating to LONG TERM AG-  
LEASE TASKFORCE

February 3, 2011

Senator Nishihara and members of the Committee,

My name is Meleana Judd, I am a small farmer and member of Hawaii Farmers Union. I write in support of SB1155 and ask for an amendment to include a representative of the Taro Security and Purity Task Force on this new lease task force.

Meleana Judd  
Meleanas Farm  
59-414 Kamehameha Hwy  
Haleiwa, 96712  
5518132  
meleanajudd@gmail.com

**nishihara5 - Randy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 11:12 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** vklstar21@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM

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**Categories:** Red Category

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Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Vivian Lee  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [vklstar21@gmail.com](mailto:vklstar21@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

**nishihara5 - Randy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 11:16 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** hafatara@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Red Category

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Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: tara olsen  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [hafatara@hotmail.com](mailto:hafatara@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

**nishihara5 - Randy**

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**From:** Jonathan Valdez [jonathanavaldez@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 11:55 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM LEASE TASK FORCE.  
**Attachments:** Testimony on SB1155.doc

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Red Category

**LATE**

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155  
Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jonathan A. Valdez  
Organization: N/A  
Address: N/A  
Phone: 808-358-4275  
E-mail: [jonathanavaldez@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanavaldez@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

**Comments:**

From a nutrition stand-point, it is essential that we support local farmers by providing long-term leases to continue circulation of local produce. Local produce is cheaper and provides more nutrients than imported "fresh" produce. This will make the people fo Hawai'i healthier, stronger, and smarter.



Testimony on SB1155. Relating to Long-Term Agricultural Lease Task Force

Jonathan Valdez  
92-1518 Aliinui Dr. Apt. 3  
Kapolei HI, 96707

LATE

In support of SB 1155-Relating to long Term Agricultural Lease Task Force.  
Comittees on Agriculture  
Hearing:February 3, Thursday at 2:45 p.m. Rm229

I am writing in strong support of SB 1155. As a graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in Food Science & Human Nutrition, local farmers and fresh produce makes people of Hawai'i healthier, stronger, and smarter than imported "fresh" produce because the fresh produce contains higher nutrients. The KEY to accomplish this is by supporting our local farmers and most importantly this bill.

The potential of supporting local farming extends further than that, by providing farmers the opportunity to work synergistically with restaurants, schools, and communities to bring cost down, while providing more nutritious foods.

It takes one step at a time, and I believe this bill is leading the people closer to saving money, while becoming healthier, stronger, and smarter.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Valdez

**nishihara5 - Randy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 12:08 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** waxelson@mac.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** SupportLetter\_SB1155.txt

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Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Wayne Axelson  
Organization: Hawaii Farmers Union  
Address: 271 Puumakani St HI  
Phone: 808-359-1121  
E-mail: [waxelson@mac.com](mailto:waxelson@mac.com)  
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

LATE

SupportLetter\_SB1155.txt

To: Honorable Members  
Senate Committee on Agriculture

Re: SB1155 - Relating to the Long-Term Agricultural Lease Task Force

From: Hawaii Farmers Union

Thank you for considering the merits of SB115 calling for the creation of a task force to create plans to facilitate the long-term leasing of agricultural lands specifically for the purpose of growing food.

The Hawaii Farmers Union strongly supports SB1155.

Ironically, raising food products is one of the least profitable market sectors for modern farmers. This is especially true in Hawaii where farmers face the combined squeeze of high land values and high priced farm inputs on the one hand and stiff price competition from low cost imported commodities on the other. These market forces have led to the extreme lack of food security we now face in the state.

There is an urgent need to make what corrections are possible to help offset the downward market pressures that are pushing local farmers off their farms and away from growing food for local consumption.

Optimizing the use of available state lands for agriculture and grazing is an important part of the solution. Providing long-term land leases is a fundamental business requirement if an entrepreneurial farmer is to be able to get bank financing for capital improvements to the farming operation. Currently, short-term leases, even month to month leases, are the norm; which provides no security to a financing institution.

In addition, it takes a farmer years to nourish the fertility of his soils to enable them to produce abundantly. This investment of time, effort and money is very difficult to justify from a business standpoint if farmers can be moved off their farm at any time. Farmers need the assurance they will be able to reap the benefits of what they have sown.

The lack of farm security for farmers leads directly into the lack of food security for residents. "Farm security = food security", is a rallying cry for the membership of our organization.

The Hawaii State Farmers Union supports SB1155 not only because it will help to support the mission of local farmers but also because it makes excellent economic sense for the State.

SB1155 is highly-leveraged:

1) Financially - The organizations named in the bill to create the plan are comprised of highly experienced professionals who will be donating their time for the benefit of all. The input cost of reimbursing reasonable expenses incurred in the process is minor compared to the potential value of the output.

2) Influence - with the state leading the way in creating a comprehensive plan for administering agricultural lands to spur farmers to increased food production, other land holders in the state can be approached and encouraged to emulate the State's good example. This cascade of influence will go a long way towards getting additional lands under productive cultivation all over the State.

In closing, please be assured the full resources of the Hawaii Farmers Union will be made available to support the important work of the Long-term Ag. Lease Task Force when it convenes. We strongly encourage the committee to do its part to ensure such a conveying does in fact take place.

Respectfully,

SupportLetter\_SB1155.txt

Wayne Axelsson  
Vice-president  
Hawaii Farmers Union

**nishihara5 - Randy**

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**From:** Annie Suite [suiteness@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 12:10 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Subject:** testimony SB 1155 TODAY

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re: SB 1155; Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2:45pm

I support SB 1155 (Ag Lease Task Force) with an Amendment to add a representative of the Taro Security and Purity Task Force to the Long-Term Ag Lease Task Force.

Mahalo-  
Annie Suite  
96734

**nishihara5 - Randy**

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**From:** Tiana Kamen [tiana@malamakauai.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 12:41 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT for SB115 and SB1145

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Red Category

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Aloha,

**As the Kaua'i School Garden Network Director I see the importance in the following bills and would like to submit testimony in support of:**

**1. SUPPORT FOR : SB 1155 - RELATING TO THE LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL LEASE TASK FORCE.**

**In addition: Necessary Amendment to SB 1155: Add a representative of the Taro Security and Purity Task Force to the Long-Term Ag Lease Task Force.**

**2. SUPPORT: SB 1145 - RELATING TO AGRICULTURE. ("Food Sustainability Bill")**

Mahalo for listening!

Tiana Kamen

--  
Tiana Kamen  
Kaua'i School Garden Network Coordinator  
Mālama Kaua'i  
4900 Kuawa Rd. Kilauea, Hi 96754  
808.828.0685 ext. 12 (Office)  
808.634.7000 (Cell)  
[tiana@malamakauai.org](mailto:tiana@malamakauai.org)  
[www.malamakauai.org](http://www.malamakauai.org)

*Planting the seeds of our future... one school garden at a time.*

**nishihara5 - Randy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 12:57 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** simoneswanson@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM

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Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: simone swanson  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [simoneswanson@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:simoneswanson@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

**nishihara1 - Dale**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 1:38 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** donna.mendes@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

LATE

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: D Mendes  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [donna.mendes@yahoo.com](mailto:donna.mendes@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:



**nishihara5 - Randy**

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**From:** Mary Lacques [hokuokekai50@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 3:54 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 1155 - RELATING TO THE LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL LEASE TASK FORCE In strong support

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Mary Lacques  
P.O. Box 14  
Haleiwa HI 96712

Aloha Chair Nishihara and Vice Chair Kahele,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB1155, with a strong recommendation for a representative of the Taro Security and Purity Task Force to this much needed task force to be established within the Department of Agriculture. How will we ever know how many people would choose farming as their profession, their passion, without providing them the assurances that their endeavor would yield results based on realistic, long-term leases? I know of several farmers here on the North Shore that would commit to growing food full time, if they had long term leases. In our ever changing world, growing our own food self-sufficiency is not only a food security issue, but a national security issue as well.

I thank you in advance for your foresight and dedication to our children and future generations.

Sincerely,  
Mary Lacques

**nishihara5 - Randy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 5:14 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** auntiepualani@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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**Categories:** Red Category

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Pualani Ramos  
Organization: Na Pualani Learning Ohana  
Address: 1361 Nanawale Place Kailau, HI  
Phone: 808-262-3253  
E-mail: [auntiepualani@gmail.com](mailto:auntiepualani@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

**Comments:**

Dear Legislators,  
Please support long term leases of state land to grow food! This only makes sense. We are so far from being self sufficient regarding food production and this is largely due to farmers lack of access to good farm land at a reasonable price. Please support this progressive proposal which will help feed Hawaii and create good jobs and diversify our economy. Mahalo.

**nishihara5 - Randy**

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**From:** Monique Vander Stroom [mvfarms4dairy@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 9:13 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 1155- Relating to the long-term agricultural lease task force

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Red Category

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SB 1155- Relating to the long-term agricultural lease task force  
Thursday, February 3, 2:45pm  
State Capitol Conference Room 229, Senate Committee on Agriculture

Thank You for allowing me, Monique van der Stroom, to testify today on SB 1155. I am for this proposed task force.

This issue is very important to me personally, because I have been trying for three years to acquire a long-term lease for my pasture-based Dairy farm. I have however established a small Dairy on twelve acres in Waianae. I have no opportunity to grow or make a substantial contribution of milk and milk products including cheese and butter toward helping the state in achieving food sustainability. I will continue to be a niche market with the size farm I'm leasing now. I would look forward to meeting with this proposed task force along with other farmers to discuss our specific needs.

Mahalo,

Monique van der Stroom  
Naked Cow Dairy

**nishihara5 - Randy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 12:31 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** shortee1727@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/8/2011 2:45:00 PM

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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**Categories:** Red Category

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Testimony for AGL 2/8/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Willette Okuda-Ishiyama  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 99-468 Ulune Street Aiea, HI 96701  
Phone: (808) 371 6494  
E-mail: [shortee1727@yahoo.com](mailto:shortee1727@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

Comments:

**nishihara5 - Randy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 12:33 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** a9f\_ugaitafa@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/8/2011 2:45:00 PM

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**Categories:** Red Category

Testimony for AGL 2/8/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Asoiva Foki  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 95-1023 Ahea St Mililani  
Phone: 808-221-7896  
E-mail: [a9f\\_ugaitafa@yahoo.com](mailto:a9f_ugaitafa@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

Comments: