

SB 247

January 26, 2011

The Senate Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

Members of the Committee: Senators Chun-Oakland, Dela Cruz, Kouchi, Shimabukuro, Slom, Tokuda, and Wakai

SUBJECT: WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SB 247, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Hearing: Thursday / January 27, 2011
2:45pm
Conference Room 229, Hawai'i State Capitol

Aloha Senator Nishihara,

Partners In Development Foundation (PIDF) strongly supports this measure.

PIDF programs have been actively involved in sustainable Natural Farming as a way to provide our families and children with a healthy nutritious diet, while at the same time encouraging the use of techniques that are environmentally sound.

Using vital traditional concepts such as the ahupua'a system of land and environmental stewardship, and ho'ona'auao, traditional mentorship in education, PIDF creates and implements programs to address the needs of at-risk groups within the Hawaiian community.

Our mentoring program in Kohala has been actively involved in the study and application of Natural Farming as part of their community driven "*Kohala Initiative of 50 % Food Sustainability by the year 2018*" in which the goal is to produce at least half of the food requirements of their area by the target year.

Homeless families and youth served by PIDF have also benefitted directly and indirectly, first through hands-on participation in Natural Farming at a small start-up plot at Mountain View Dairy in Wai'anae, and second by the generous offerings of harvested vegetables to displaced families.

Finally, PIDF operates a safe-house for adjudicated male youth. These young men spend part of their day working the field at Mountain View Dairy, and are learning entrepreneurial skills through the sales of their produce at open markets.

In closing, Natural Farming provides our families and children with a healthy food-source alternative, while at the same time teaching sustainable agri-business skills, and respect for the land.

Mahalo A Nui Loa,

Jan E. Hanohano Dill
President & Chair
Partners In Development Foundation
808-595-2752 (B) / 808-595-4932
<http://pidfoundation.org>

nishihara1 - Dale

From: hiskinut@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2011 11:54 AM
To: nishihara1 - Dale
Subject: Testimony For SB 247

The Senate Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

SUBJECT: WRITTEN TESTIMONY REGARDING SB 247, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Hearing: Thursday, January 27, 2011
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

Aloha Senator Nishihara,

I am providing testimony in strong support of SB 247.

Had the opportunity to attend a Workshop by Master Cho in April of 2010 in Hilo. It was the identical weekend as the tidal wave alert. Fortunately, we did not have a tidal wave. Master Cho gave us a wealth of information.

In May, 2010 we started to test some of his programs. We were very conservative in our approach, because his program is counter to what we were taught in the Agricultural Institutions. Many of the programs are almost opposite of present accepted practices.

As we gain confidence in the programs, we slowly start to put additional programs in place. We have now a section of the farm where Natural Farming is 100% being utilized.

We are happy to report that the projected results that Master Cho presented at the work shops are achievable and are can be done at commercial size farm.

Natural Farming has the potential to rejuvenate Hawaii's Agriculture. As supported by others, it uses less water, no imported fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. It is a system of farming that is independent of ocean freight. The implementation of Natural Farming should be encouraged.

Because it is so counter intuitive, farmers will be reluctant to attempt this at a commercial level. SB 247 will provide a incentive to encourage the implementation of Natural Farming Practices.

I ask for your support of SB 247.

Mahalo for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony.

David Wong
Mountain View Dairy
Waianae, Hawaii
808-383-3972
hiskinut@aol.com

Paradise Meadows Orchard & Bee Farm

Home of The Local Buzz 100% Ka'u Coffee

PO Box 1083, Na'alehu, HI 96772

January 25, 2011

RE: Testimony in support of SB 247

Dear Chairman Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee on Agriculture,

Please accept my testimony in support of SB 247.

I am a farmer in Ka'u and director of the Ka'u County Farm Bureau. On our farm we grow Limes, Lemons, Coffee and raise bees for pollination and honey for consumptions by Hawaiian residents. We use Natural Farming Methods and Local Indigenous Microorganisms. (LIMO's) We have found that using these methods have increased the quality and yield of our trees.

Grants supporting the development and implementation of Natural Farming methods will improve the quality of locally grown food. These grants should be made available to local farmers who desire to grow their crops using Natural farming methods.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support of SB 247

Megan Collins

To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Room: Conference room 229
Hearing date: **Thursday 27, 2011**
Time: 2:45 p.m.

From: David Fuertes
P.O. Box 896
Kapaau, HI, 96755
dcfuertes@aol.com

Subject: **SB 247**

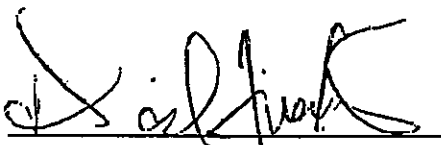
Good afternoon Senator Chair, Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Ag Committee. My name is David Fuertes a retired Agriculture teacher at Kohala High School and a resident of Kohala.

Thank you very much for allowing me to comment on SB 247 requiring Dept. of Agriculture to establish a grant program to implement Natural Farming in our State of Hawaii.

Natural farming is another alternative to Agriculture production in Hawaii. In my past experience as a High School Ag. Teacher. We spent lots of money : fertilizers, water, weed control, and insecticide. Our produce started nicely the first few crops and as time progressed, the plant became immune to the insecticides, fungicides etc. . So we added more or change it to a stronger insecticide. We wasted a lot of fertilizer assuming the more we added the bigger our vegetable and fruits would weigh. Little did I know that we were harming our environment from the mountain to the sea while creating stronger pest because it ability to cope with the chemicals.

Natural farming is highly technical system that instills producers to be conscious of applying nutritional home made inputs at critical growth stages. In our experience in Natural Farming at North Kohala, we are realizing higher yields and reduction of fertilizer cost by 60 %.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in behalf of myself as a commercial rancher and small producer. I believe Natural Farming is hopeful for our Agriculture sustainability program in the State of Hawaii and is healthy in perpetuating the life of our land.
Please vote yes to SB247.



nishihara1 - Dale

From: Marc Kinoshita [mk@hoeaagpark.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2011 3:05 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: SB 247

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture
Room: Conference Room 229
Hearing Date: Thursday 27, 2011
Time: 2:45 P.M.

From: Marc Kinoshita
P.O. Box 437289
Kamuela, HI 96743
mk@hoeaagpark.com

Subject: SB 247

Warm regards to Senator Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair, Kahele and members of the Agricultural committee.

I am Marc Kinoshita, Manager of the Ho'ea Agricultural Park in North Kohala. I have been involved in Agriculture as a life-long resident of Kohala and also as a business owner in Landscape Maintenance along the Kohala Coast.

I would like to comment on SB 247 requesting the Department of Agriculture to establish a Grant Program to implement Natural Farming in the State of Hawaii.

Natural Farming is a highly technical System that encourages farmers to utilize and produce their own nutritional homemade inputs. By so doing, yields are more plentiful and cost of production is cut by as much as 50%.

Having visited farms in Korea with the Founder of Natural Farming, I was deeply encouraged of the possibilities of this method adapted to our home State. This method encourages the humane treatment of animals, revitalizes the soil, and mostly, it makes farmers successful.

There is a lot to say of Natural Farming, but as they say; the "Proof is in the Pudding". By your support of SB 247 strengthens the support and encourages Natural Farming as a viable alternative to Agricultural Production in Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Marc Kinoshita
Manager
Ho'ea Agricultural Park

nishihara1 - Dale

From: DELC [info@dragonseyecenter.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2011 3:49 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: SB 247, Hearing, 1/27/11 at 2:45pm

My apologies. I am sending this testimony for the second time. I failed to include the date and time of the hearing on my first send.

Thank you for receiving me via e-mail, Senator Chair, Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Ag Committee. My name is Debra Welch. I am a board member of Dragon's Eye Learning Center (DELC), a 501 c 3 on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Incorporated in 2003, the mission of DELC is to provide educational experiences of cooperative and sustainable agricultural and economic systems. I would like to share with you some experiences that have moved me to write today in support of SB247.

In my past life, I worked in the budget department of the Ohio Department of Human Services office of Welfare Reform. I can appreciate a tight budget, and the tough choices to be made. So, I ask the question along with you, IS THIS REALLY THE BEST PLACE TO DIRECT FUNDS? My feeling is, YES! WITHOUT A DOUGHT, YES.

When I landed on this island 16 years ago and began raising my children, I became HORRIFIED by the state of children's teeth. (At our learning center, we have primarily served neighborhood children.) Then I became horrified by the state of adult's teeth. Then, unfortunately, I was faced with the reckoning of my own children's poor teeth. The dentists gave me plenty of story about what was at cause - lack of flouride, too much nursing, bad bacteria. Poppy cock! There must be more to it than that.

My family's looking into this problem led us to research done by a dentist from Cleveland, Weston Price, who traveled the world over in the early part of the 1900's looking to solve the riddle of why he had such a thriving practice. What he discovered became all the rage in Harvard's anthropology department, but not with the dentists. Published works of Weston Price show page after page of people's mouths, opened wide, offering a comparison of what a mouth looks like in a well nourished person versus a malnourished person. Weston Price tracked, pretty conclusively, that when people strayed from native diets to modern diets, physical degeneration set in at an alarming rate. It showed first in their mouths. Crowded teeth and decay quickly follow the introduction of cheap oils, high carb diets, processed foods, sugars, and loss of ferments in a diet. Weston Price predicted that a society that stayed the course of the modern diet would end up as a society of diabetics and that degenerative diseases would start to manifest in people at a younger and younger age. Unfortunately, taking on the modern diet was too big for the field of dentistry.

I read in the Tribune Herald last year several alarming statistics. No longer are children expected to live longer lives than their parents. **And most alarmingly, of today's island youth, 1/3 to 1/2 are predicted to become diabetic.**

If I can offer anything today, I would like to strongly encourage anyone and everyone to watch 2 documentaries. " Food Inc." shows the story of our modernized food system. "King Corn" tells the story of "you are what you eat." Most people are subsidized corn, by the way. It's as simple as that. Supposedly, our current food production system makes the most economic sense. I'm a trained economist, and it fails to make sense to me. Everything I was trained to write off as an "externality" is now at the fore of our consciousness. That little bit of pollution has taken on an economy of scale to the point that we tell our 4H kids, "don't go in that water", "don't taste that soil", "don't breath that air, don't, don't, don't On the positive side, what I am able to say to our children is that, altogether, the adults are seeming to understand that we need to reshape life so that children can enjoy a future of hope and health. **BUT WHERE IS THE TECHNOLOGY?**

We truly believe that **Natural Farming is the technology.** Dragon's Eye Learning Center was honored to host Master Cho last year for a 7 day workshop series in Hilo. Nearly 400 attended. We have been using the methods at our farm and most notable we are nearing completion of a Natural Farming commercial scale egg laying operation. Center stage solving the issues of animal waste and feed. We are looking to demonstrate a system of growing most all of the chicken feed. Having recently returned from a tour of Natural Farming in Korea, we are confident that the methods are sound.

Our center became involved with Natural Farming after having met Dr. Park. Dr. Park, as you may know, is a retired pediatrician from the Big Island. He met Master Cho some years ago and subsequently has made it his life's work to bring Master's Cho's methods to Hawaii. Dr. Park tells the story that he has seen the predictions of Weston Price come true over the course of his lifetime. Each generation of children seems more and more distressed. Dr. Park will become emotional as he tells the story. Our family's Orthodontist, Dr. Yim of Kona, tells the same. He says that each generation is coming to him with greater and greater challenge. I accept Weston Price's viewpoint that basically we are a malnourished culture.

OUR FOOD MUST NOT ONLY BE PLENTIFUL, IT MUST ALSO BE NUTRITIOUS! Natural Farming focuses on all the elements needed in todays agriculture - low cost, restorative capabilities, locally available inputs, systems for small and large scale agriculture, understanding of plant and animal needs, **AND HIGH NUTRITION.** Of course, improving the quality of our food will not fix everything. But is it a piece of the puzzle that **SEEMS UNDENIABLY** before us.

I strongly urge you to vote for SB 247. Again, I thank you very much for staying present to my testimony.

January 26, 2011

To: Chairman Nishihara, Vice-Chairman Kahele and Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee

From: David T. Ikeda, Retired Professor of Agriculture Hawaii Community College

RE: SB 247 The Establishment of a Grant Program to Implement Natural Farming in Hawaii

I am writing in support of SB 247. I am a retired professor of agriculture from Hawaii Community College with over 39 years teaching agriculture and presently a part-time farmer.

I have attended many of Master Cho's workshops, discussed, through an interpreter, the principles and practices of Natural Farming, observed commercial natural farming techniques in Korea, and practiced, on a small scale, many of the ideas Master Cho expounds. The results are much better than I expected. I believe the results would have been impressive if I knew what I was doing. Therefore, the need for support of Natural Farming is critical. We are on the bottom of the learning curve, and we need to learn quickly.

The benefits of Natural Farming are numerous, and I am sure others will allude to them so. I will, instead, refer to only one.

The one benefit which people often overlook is economic. At least two farmers in Korea stated that they switched to Natural Farming practices only because they were about to go bankrupt. Fertilizers and pesticides were getting too expensive. Natural Farming techniques utilize many of the materials we presently throw away for plant nutrients. The farmers believe that natural farming saved their farms. Hawaii is on the brink or in the same economic situation.

A reply to skeptics is one that I made to my administrator when he asked about the Natural Farming workshop I had attended. I replied that "It is so regressive that it is progressive."

I ask you to support SB 247. It may save many of the small farms today who are only marginally profitable. Thank you.

nishihara1 - Dale

From: Merle Hayward [blackbird4aloha@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2011 3:57 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: SB247 Natural Farming Program Grants

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

From: Merle Hayward, Hilo, Hawaii
(808) 934-7812

Agriculture Committee Hearing: Thursday, January 27, 2011, 2:45 p.m.

I'm writing in support of SB-247 on Natural Farming Grants. I grow organic vegetables for the Hilo market and have been practicing the natural farming methods taught by Master Cho and have found it to be a step beyond organic growing methods.

Natural farming does not require great expenditures of capital for input because the natural fertilizers can be made from readily available local materials. This would not only reduce costs for growers, but also for consumers.

Facilities for producing the natural farming inputs should be constructed by local government on each island using naturally occurring indigenous microorganisms, waste materials such as beef bones, egg shells, green waste, special varieties of plants for growth formulas. These facilities can distribute the products at a low cost to growers.

Due to the recycling of natural and waste materials, natural farming is highly beneficial to the local environments, can be operated on a large scale at low cost, and is non-toxic. I urge you to pass this bill to move Hawaii successfully into a future without oil.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my concern.

Mahalo,
Merle Hayward
Hilo, Hawaii

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture
Room: Conference room 229
Hearing Date: Thursday, January 27, 2011
Time: 2:45 p.m.

From: Dennis Matsuda
PO Box 924
Kapaau, HI 96755
Email: kohbik4@yahoo.com

Subject: SB 247

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahale, and members of the Senate Ag Committee. My name is Dennis Matsuda, life long resident of North Kohala and second-generation son to Okinawan immigrants who worked on the plantation in Kohala.

Growing up, my parents were pretty much self-sustaining at first, but as time went by they began to get more dependent on purchasing most of what we ate. This was due to us moving into a new place where you couldn't raise pigs and chickens, and the soil was too poor to raise vegetables.

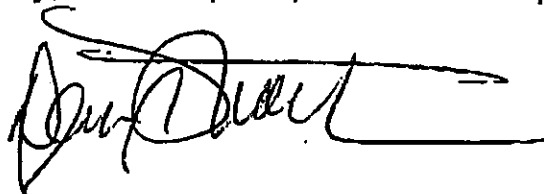
For the past year or so I have been working with Natural Farming with the Ka Hana Noe'au Program in Kohala. What a great revelation this has been as it opened up my eyes to seeing how true farming should be, and how we all can learn to grow better crops and produce and enrich our environment in the process.

Although Natural Farming seems so simple, our culture and our efforts to grow more has led many farmers to use synthetic fertilizers and harmful pesticide and herbicides to try to meet new demands. I feel that we all should step back and take a good look at what MOTHER NATURE has to teach us. She has been forming our world since it's birth, and we often try to see how we can speed up her process, which has left us with poor or harmful produce and products.

It is not often that a really significant event crosses our lives. Today we all have a chance to help develop such an event, let Hawaii lead the way for our nation. Let us all get behind Master Cho's dream of feeding the world the natural and healthy way.

Thank you for letting me testify today. I believe we will all remember this day as a milestone in History, that we all participated in. Please support Senate Bill 247.

Dennis Matsuda



Aloha Senate AG. Comm.

January 26, 2011

Good afternoon Senator Chair, Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Ag Committee. My name is Alika Atay a Full-time commercial farmer of Maui Sweet Potatoes, eggplants, sweet basil, and dryland kalo. Thank you very much for allowing me to comment on SB 247 requiring Dept. of Agriculture to establish a grant program to implement Natural Farming in our State of Hawaii. I'm currently farming on a 12 acre lot along Baldwin Ave. in Paia, Maui for the Laakea Foundation; and am currently in negotiation to acquire more lease land to farm from the Maui Land & Pineapple Co.

I'm writing in support of this Senate Bill 247.

In addressing our island's sustainability needs, I decided to participate in the process by growing food for our people; and to cut back on the importing of food from afar. In this attempt to grow food, the production cost and growing methods were strongly considered. We looked at the conventional farming methods of just focusing on N-P-K and it's high cost in the use of fertilizer, chemical pesticides and insecticides. We determined that we could not participate in this method of farming because of the high cost; but most especially because it was "not PONO" for our land and the sustainability of it's future. We then looked and compared the alternative method of what most call "organic" and although that method was good for the aina, the cost of it's imported fertilizers and amendments from the mainland was still a little bit expensive (not as much as the conventional method). Thus, I found Master Cho and Dr. Hoon Park's prescribed method of "Natural Farming". I flew from Maui and attended their two-day workshop in Hilo. In participating and reviewing their methods, I realized that there were a lot of similarities with my Tutu's past farming methods also. Just like what my Tutu would prescribe to "malama the aina", the natural farming method starts with "taking care of the soil"; and then it focus' on the plants needs in its particular nutritive cycle.

In my farming, I've given an oath to never use toxic chemical fertilizers and pesticides on any of our plants to grow food for our people. Our people deserve the best and the most healthiest food for themselves. Since instilling this natural farming method we are realizing higher yields from the fields and lowers costs in the use of fertilizers and pesticides because our method utilizes items from the natural environment to assist in the growing production. I would estimate that we have experienced a reduction of fertilizer cost by two-thirds or more than 60%; and we have cut our irrigation water consumption by more than half. My last water bill went from \$750 down to \$250.

In closing, I urge you to vote "YES" for the Senate Bill SB247. It's the pono thing to do for our island's future.

Mahalo & Aloha,

Alika Atay
ALIKAMAUI LLC
P.O. BOX 3075
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

nishihara1 - Dale

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 8:05 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: kalaniai@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB247 on 1/27/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 1/27/2011 2:45:00 PM SB247

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Susan Horie
Organization: Individual
Address: Kalaniai Rd. Kalopa, HI
Phone:
E-mail: kalaniai@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/25/2011

Comments:

Natural Farming methods show an astounding ability to restore and renew farm lands, increasing productivity and quality of produce while decreasing the need for water. This is the low cost answer to empowering agriculture in Hawaii, demonstrated effective in 36 countries the world over. Where training is supported by governments and educational institutions there has been an amplified increase in farmland production and prosperity that more than justifies the cost of the program. Please pass SB247.

nishihara1 - Dale

From: Johnathan Bowman [b2daxman@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 8:16 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: Testimony for SB 247

RE: SB 247

Hearing: Thursday Jan. 27, 2011 @ 2:45p.m.

Hello,

My name is Johnathan Bowman. I live in Kohala and I am in the 7th grade at Kohala Middle School.

I participate in a program called Ka Hana Noeau, in the Animal Husbandry Project. I have taken a Natural Farming course and feel it is a good thing for Hawaii. I would like to ask that you support SB 247.

If anything was to happen and we could not get food and supplies from the mainland we would starve if we could not grow our own food.

I think it is time now to look at the best ways to grow food.

I saw that the Natural Farming works and produces good crops and animals without a lot of fertilizer and feed from the mainland.

So, again I ask you please to support SB 247.

I know if I was a farmer and needed money that this would help me and my future and my kid's future.

Mahalo,

Johnathan Bowman

nishihara1 - Dale

From: Lani Bowman [lanibow@ihawaii.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2011 7:40 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: SB 247, Senate Com. on Ag Thurs. 1/27 2:45p.m.

Importance: High

Wed. 1/26/11

Aloha,

My name is Lani Bowman. I would like to encourage you to support SB 247.

I am a native Hawaiian and life long resident of North Kohala on the Big Island. I have a degree in Environmental Science and work with sustainability issues, service learning, environmental stewardship and land use planning programs, mainly involving the youth of our area. I am also a back yard farmer.

I grew up on the sugar plantation when agri-business was an inherent part of our lives. The demise of the sugar plantations was in a way a blessing and lesson to us. Although the plantation, in many ways, provided a good life, for those of us who further studied monoculture and intensive agri-business we realized that many of the practices did not have the forethought of environmental consequences to our aina.

There is now a new era in farming where environmental and self-sustainability considerations are critical, especially for Hawaii, our island state. I have taken several of Dr. Cho's Natural Farming classes. I see Dr Cho and his natural farming techniques as a panacea in response to the above considerations. His holistic practices, restore the land and create ways to farm with less dependence on importation of fertilizers, insecticides etc. In addition his practices apply to both crop and livestock production an important consideration in our quest for self-sustainability. His proven higher yields, lower production costs AND higher prices would surely interest any farmer!

Hawaii's agricultural future MUST depend on innovative and proven techniques. Techniques that will not only increase food production for our people but also help our aina at the same time. Mahalo for helping Hawaii to be pioneers in this field by supporting Cho Global Natural Farming and passing SB 247.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me @ this e mail or 808 8895852.

Mahalo and Blessings,

Lani Bowman
Kohala, Hawaii