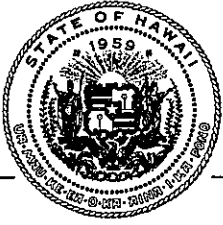


**SB 6**



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

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
GOVERNOR  
**RICHARD C. LIM**  
INTERIM DIRECTOR  
**MARY LOU KOBAYASHI**  
PLANNING PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

**OFFICE OF PLANNING**

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Statement of  
**MARY LOU KOBAYASHI**  
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**  
Thursday, January 27, 2011  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of  
**SB 6**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Senate Committee on  
Agriculture.

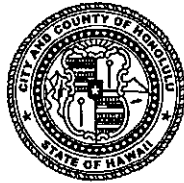
The Office of Planning (OP) offers the following comments on SB 6. SB 6 would amend Chapter 205, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS): (1) to require that boundary amendments for Land Study Bureau (LSB) 'A' and 'B' lands be decided by the State Land Use Commission; and (2) to prohibit the reclassification of 'A' and 'B' lands under certain conditions.

This bill recognizes that until such time as important agricultural lands (IAL) are designated statewide, the vast majority of the State's best agricultural lands are not afforded additional protections under the boundary amendment provisions of Chapter 205, HRS. OP is concerned about the continued loss of high-quality agricultural lands due to reclassification and development. However, we have technical concerns about the bill, and would prefer a more comprehensive proposal to improve the protections for high-quality agricultural lands in Chapter 205, HRS.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

850 SOUTH KING STREET, 7TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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PETER B. CARLISLE  
MAYOR



DAVID K. TANOUÉ  
DIRECTOR

ROBERT M. SUMITOMO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

January 27, 2011

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture  
State Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara and Members:

**Subject: Senate Bill 6  
Relating to Agricultural Lands**

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **opposes** Senate Bill 6 for the following reasons:

1. Approval of Senate Bill 6 extends processing time for lands rated A or B under the Land Study Bureau classification system, which is the antithesis of streamlining. If this bill passes as written, even a small sliver of A or B rated land would have to go through the lengthier boundary process in accordance with Section 205-4 as opposed to the shorter process for lands under 15 acres currently handled by the counties.
2. Section 3 contains overly vague proposed review criteria. Chapter 205 has an established and deliberate process for amending land use boundaries. This bill, as written would add further interpretation to the existing language of Chapter 205.

In short, please file Senate Bill 6. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David K. Tanoue", is written over a horizontal line.

David K. Tanoue, Director  
Department of Planning and Permitting

DKT: jmf  
Sb6-ag-ks.doc

The Pacific Resource  
**PARTNERSHIP**



Testimony of C. Mike Kido  
External Affairs  
The Pacific Resource Partnership

Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

SB6 (2011) – Relating to Agricultural Lands  
Thursday, January 27, 2011  
2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 229

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Agriculture Committee:

My name is C. Mike Kido, External Affairs of the Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP), a labor-management consortium representing over 240 signatory contractors and the Hawaii Carpenters Union.

PRP would like to offer comments on SB 6 (2011) - Relating to Agricultural Lands which protect agriculturally suitable lands within the State of Hawaii (lands with productivity ratings of "A" or "B").

The process to ensure that all lands regardless of size undergoes a more critical evaluation for District Boundary Amendments exists and that is by designating them as Important Agricultural Lands (IAL). The existing rezoning and zoning processes are extensive and this may result in further delays in affordable housing development as well as job creation. If the intent of SB 6 is to protect viable farm and ranch lands, greater efforts should be placed into designating those lands as IAL.

PRP respectfully ask you to file SB 6 (2011) and also ask for your support in passing State and County incentives to encourage landowners to designate their lands as Important Agricultural Land and then meet the intent of this measure to have more agriculture in Hawaii.