



Testimony Reference : HB2150 HD1
Committee : AGR/ ERB/ WLO

Date of Hearing: Feb 16

From: Hawaii Farmers Union United

SUPPORT with Amendments

Testimony:

This is a great bill that needs one change:

photovoltaic systems producing energy solely for use in the agricultural activities of the fee or leasehold owner of the property, Including the farm residence.

Please add the “including farm residence”.

If you do not include the farm residence, then this of minimal help to the average farmer, with a residence on the farm. The crops need minimal electricity, but the food processing and refrigeration that are all attached to the single residential electric meter are critical. There is no practical way to separate the use of the house from the agriculture accessories on a farm with ONE residential meter.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak for the family farmer in Hawaii.

Glenn Martinez
HFUU President

FYI:

Hawaii Farmer Union United is the largest agriculture organization in the State of Hawaii that represents the small family farmers at the exclusion of GMO and Mega Corporation mono- crop industrial farms. With small family farmers on every island Hawaii Farmers Union is the only Grassroots farm organization where the members have direct voice.

Any testimony given to the Legislature is vetted to the membership. Often the testimony is a blend of opinions voiced directly from membership. We also encourage all individual members to submit testimony directly, particularly where there voice is different then the majority, thus all farmer voices are heard, not just the loudest.



Hawaii
Aquaculture &
Aquaponics Association

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Representative Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 21, 2012
TIME: 11:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: Testimony in strong support of HB 2150 HD 1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Dear Chair Chang, Vice Chair Har, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association (HAAA), representing Hawaii's aquaculture and aquaponics industry statewide, strongly supports HB 2150 HB1 but respectfully requests your consideration of two minor amendments noted at the end of my testimony. This bill authorizes the use of photovoltaic systems producing energy solely for use in the agricultural activities of the fee or leasehold owner of property in agricultural districts.

The use of renewable energy systems is critical to the long-term economic viability and sustainability of agricultural operations in Hawaii. Aquaculture operations in particular often have high energy requirements to operate essential the life support systems for aquatic animals and plants, and need to have the opportunity available to use all environmentally appropriate renewable energy technologies available for such purposes. Photovoltaics is one such option and should be allowed. However, small wind turbines, windmills for the mechanical pumping of water and compressed air, and biogas generation are additional important renewable energy technologies that are used by farmers and ranchers worldwide and should be allowable for use by Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. An example of a small wind turbine array in use Honolulu International Airport is provided to document a current application in Hawaii.

Requested amendments: On page 2, line 18, and again on page 6, line 7, please add the following underlined phrase or equivalent: "... photovoltaic, small wind turbine, biogas, and other farm-scale renewable energy systems producing energy"

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Ronald P. Weidenbach
HAAA President



Small wind turbine array on Lagoon Drive on Honolulu International Airport property