

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture
LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON WATER, LAND, AND OCEAN
RESOURCES, AND ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Room 325

11:00 A.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2150, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Chairpersons Chang and Coffman and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2150, House Draft 1 that proposes to amend Sections 205-2 and -4.5 to identify photovoltaic systems producing energy solely for use by the fee or leasehold owner of the property as a permissible use in the Agricultural District. The Department of Agriculture supports efforts to reduce operational costs of bona fide farmers, however we do have a concern.

Our primary concern is the definition of photovoltaic systems. The Department would request clarification of the definition of photovoltaic systems within the statute and whether or not they would fall under the category of solar energy facility.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to present testimony on this measure.





LATE TESTIMONY

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

February 21, 2012

Testimony to the House Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources and the House
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

By

Kapu Smith, Sr. Land Manager
Kamehameha Schools

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2012
11:00 a.m., Conference Room 325

Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair

Rep. Denny Coffman, Chair

Members of the Committees on Water, Land & Ocean Resources and Energy &
Environmental Protection

RE: Support of House Bill No. 2150 HD1 – Relating to Agricultural Lands

I am Kapu C. Smith, Senior Land Asset Manager for Kamehameha Schools' Kawailoa Plantation in Waialua, Oahu. I am here to testify in support of HB 2150 HD1 because it will help both the farmer and landowner to reduce the electrical cost of running pumps and processing operations while providing electrical service in locations where hookup is not possible. In our case, we currently run one Pump to provide backup irrigation water at an average cost of \$20,000 per month and have a hydroponic farmer who spends \$10,000 per month for diesel fuel. As such, the ability to install photovoltaic systems to directly support these operations is an important tool in the fight for economic feasibility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2150 HD1.

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 9:51 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2150 on 2/21/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/21/2012 11:00:00 AM HB2150

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Juanita Kawamoto Brown
Organization: Individual
E-mail: farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2150 HD1. The need for better environmentally clean energy, that can assist in the operations of local food farms and local agricultural projects, serve a dual purpose that provides food and energy self sufficiency for the State of Hawaii. We need to reduce the carbon footprint created when we import foreign fuels and continue to contaminate our fragile island eco-systems. Solar energy will greatly assist our agricultural community, is environmental friendly, and extremely energy and economically efficient.

Please support this bill and mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Juanita Kawamoto Brown

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 8:05 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: kaiawemakanani@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2150 on 2/21/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/21/2012 11:00:00 AM HB2150

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kaiawe Makanani
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kaiawemakanani@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

Comments:

Testimony of
Jon Okudara

on

H.B. 2150, H.D. 1

Relating to Agricultural Lands

Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

11:00 a.m.

Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2150, H.D. 1.

The current Land Use Law limits solar energy facilities to lands with the land study bureau's detailed land classification productivity rating of B, C, D, or E, and provides that the solar facilities shall occupy the lesser of ten percent of the acreage of the parcel or twenty acres.

If an agricultural operator with facilities on class A land desires to use photovoltaic systems to provide power to the agricultural operations, it would be prohibited, or would require a special permit.

H.B. 2150 provides that photovoltaic systems producing energy solely for the agricultural activities of the owner would be allowed on class A land. This is particularly important to producers who do not have access to the electrical grid, such as Mays Wonder Garden in upper Kawaihoa, which operates with diesel generators. In addition, PV can be used to operate pumps for irrigation systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments in support of H.B. 2150.