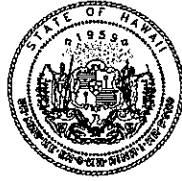


# **HB2150 HD2**

## **Testimony**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Thursday, March 15, 2012  
Room 229  
2:45 P.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2150, HOUSE DRAFT 2  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2150, House Draft 2 that proposes to amend Sections 205-2 and -4.5 to identify photovoltaic, biogas, and other small-scale renewable energy 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 have concerns and questions about this measure as written.

House Draft 2 seeks to allow "small-scale renewable energy systems" to produce "energy solely for use in the agricultural activities of the fee or leasehold owner of the property." We support the concept and the legislature, in response to public and private initiatives in recent years, has allowed photovoltaic systems, wind energy, biofuel processing facilities, and agricultural-energy facilities to be located on agricultural lands.

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





KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

March 13, 2012

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Agriculture

Hearing Date: Thursday March 15, 2012

2:45 p.m., Conference Room 229

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Kahale, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture

**RE: Support of House Bill No. 2150, HD2 – Relating to Agricultural Lands**

I am Kapu C. Smith, Senior Land Asset Manager for Kamehameha Schools' Kawaihoa Plantation in Waialua, Oahu. I am here to testify in support of HB 2150 HD2 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. 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 HD2.

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Testimony for AGL 3/15/2012 2:45:00 PM HB2150

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ronald P. Weidenbach  
Organization:  
E-mail: [hawaiiifish@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiiifish@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

**Comments:**

The Hawaii Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association strongly supports this measure which will provide opportunities for increased farm and ranch energy and economic sustainability.