

HB 2150, HD2

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT, AND  
WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING  
Tuesday, April 3, 2012  
Room 225  
2:50 P.M.

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

Chairpersons Gabbard and Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

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 note that the Legislature, in response to public and private initiatives in recent years, has allowed solar energy facilities, wind energy, biofuel processing facilities, and agricultural-energy facilities to be located on agricultural lands. However, we would like to express our concern to the Committee that not clearly defining what constitutes "small-scale" and "renewable energy systems"



may result in "A" and "B" rated agricultural lands being taken out of agricultural production.

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



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April 2, 2012

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
and Water, Land and Housing

Hearing Date: Tuesday April 3, 2012

2:50 p.m., Conference Room 225

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment

Members of the Committee on Water, Land and Housing

**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 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 HD2.

Testimony for ENE/WLH 4/3/2012 2:50:00 PM HB2150

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kamaki Kanahale, Chairman  
Organization: SCHHA  
E-mail: [info@schha.com](mailto:info@schha.com)  
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

Testimony for ENE/WLH 4/3/2012 2:50:00 PM HB2150

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Mike Kahikina, Legislation Committee Chair  
Organization: SCHHA  
E-mail: [info@schha.com](mailto:info@schha.com)  
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments: