



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

February 7, 2012

Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture  
Hearing Date: Wednesday February 8, 2012  
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 312

Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair  
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Agriculture

**RE: Support of House Bill No. 2150 -- 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 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.



Testimony Reference : HB 2150  
Date of Hearing: Feb 8

From: Hawaii Farmers Union United

SUPPORT with AMENDMENTS  
Testimony:

HFUU support the intent of this bill. It is long overdue.

Recommend Amendment:

The definition of a farm and who is included  
1) says any LOT of more than two acres.  
We recommend the following change:

photovoltaic systems producing energy solely for use by the agricultural activities of the fee or leasehold owner of the property,

ADD: and to provide energy to the farm residence.

On many farms the house may use more electricity than the land growing crops. Either way, there is only one electric meter and would be impractical to try to separate the billings between residential and farm activities. HB 2150 needs to not exclude the farm residence.

Recommend wording to the effect of: Any FARM of more that two acres that is contiguous. My own farm, Olomana Gardens consists of two adjoining lots. One 1.25 acre and one 3.5 acres. As the bill currently reads, I would be exempt on the 3.5 acres, but not on the 1.25 acres I would have problems, even though it makes up one contiguous lot of over four acres, all of it being farmed.

Olomana Gardens experience with Honolulu C&C Building permit resulted in a \$100 per day fine until I obtained permits for nursery buildings, and tractor covers. The end result is I got the permits and passed inspections. But that was only after hiring a licensed architect and taking 7 months and multiple attempts at getting permits.

Towards the end, the C&C of Honolulu accessed my property with a \$5,000 civil fine, and levied the tax roles. My mortgage promptly paid the partial fine which by that time was run up to \$67,000 fine on the books (including other violations of land use) , due to the delay in getting permits and inspections satisfied.

It was a nightmare that no farmer should ever have to go through.

When I finally passed inspections, the City dropped all other fines and called it even.

If an agriculture lot is not being used in agriculture as it should be, that is an issue for the zoning enforcement.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak for the family farmer in Hawaii. Please give the little farmer a break and stop excluding them from favorable legislation.

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 their voice is different than the majority, thus all farmer voices are heard, not just the loudest.