

~~LATE TESTIMONY~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:17 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: farmfreshhawaii@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2590 on 1/30/2012 9:15:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 1/30/2012 9:15:00 AM HB2590

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Juanita Kawamoto Brown
Organization: Executive Board
E-mail: farmfreshhawaii@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

As the subcommittee chair of Food and Farm Sustainability for the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii I support the efforts proposed in this bill. The need to create responsible and protective enforcement and fines to fund these endeavors are a necessity to developing a good strong and effective program. I therefore support this bill.

LATE TESTIMONY

To the Honorable Committee Chair Jerry Chang, Vice-Chair Sharon Har, and members of the House Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i would like to express strong support for HB2950, Relating to Aquatic Resource Violations.

The state has a constitutional responsibility to manage its nearshore resources for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i. However, Hawai'i's ability to manage these resources, and to foster community engagement with management strategies, has been critically hampered by long-standing concerns over the effectiveness of law enforcement in assuring regulatory compliance.

This bill serves to finally address these concerns, by providing the Board of Land & Natural Resources with the authority to use fair, consistent, and effective enforcement via its civil administrative enforcement process. Until now, aquatic resources violations have been handled almost exclusively by the criminal justice docket, where aquatics violations have not been treated with the consistency or concern necessary to assure regulatory compliance. As the only executive board specifically tasked with carrying out the state's constitutional responsibilities over Hawai'i's aquatic natural resources, the Board of Land & Natural Resources may now have a meaningful opportunity to foster greater compliance through creative, public, and non-criminal actions designed to both deter noncompliance, and to rehabilitate violators via transformative penalties shown to be highly effective in many other jurisdictions.

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party believes this bill is a significant step forward in both increasing the state's capacity to carry out its constitutional responsibilities, and strongly supports its passage this legislative session.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to testify,

Lynn Sager, Chairperson
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i