

# LATE TESTIMONY

**Anthony Aalto**  
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February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012

To: House Agriculture Committee  
Re: Hearing on February 6th 2012, 11:15 am, Rm #325  
Subject: Testimony in strong support of HB2666

Aloha Chair Tsuji and members of the committee

My name is Anthony Aalto. I am a resident of Honolulu, a taxpayer and a voter, and I thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I strongly support this bill and I urge you to do the same.

The latest numbers from the US Department of Agriculture show that Hawai'i grows just 8% to 10% of all the food that we consume. Since statehood we have paved over more than 53% of our prime A & B food-producing agricultural lands, according to the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii.

It is urgent that we start to grow a lot more food and in order to do so we need to protect more of our best farmland.

The Abercrombie administration has committed to boosting the amount of food we grow, but has so far done nothing practical to advance such an agenda.

Given that the Land Use Commission has failed so spectacularly to fulfill its constitutional obligation to protect farmland and boost our state's self-sufficiency, this bill fills a vital need and would facilitate acquisition by the state of prime ag lands.

I urge you to pass this measure.

hashem3 - Casey

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2012 7:11 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2666 on 2/6/2012 11:15:00 AM

Testimony for AGR/WLO 2/6/2012 11:15:00 AM HB2666

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Juanita Kawamoto Brown  
Organization: Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hi  
E-mail: [farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

**Comments:**

We strongly oppose any funding or legislation to permits the ADC to authorize control, funding, land transfer via state ag leases or sales of state ag lease lands.

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**From:** randy ching [oahurandy@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2012 8:04 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony; WLOtestimony  
**Subject:** in opposition to HB2666 -- relating to agricultural land

LATE TESTIMONY

HB2666 (opposed)  
House Committees on Agriculture; Water, Land and Ocean  
Hearing on Monday, February 6 at 11:15 a.m. in conference room 325

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, Chair Chang, Vice Chair Har, and members of the committees,

I oppose HB2666. The bill unnecessarily and unfairly prioritizes certain agricultural projects over the other valuable public purposes of the Legacy Land Program, which has funded a diverse variety of positive environmental, cultural, historical, and agricultural land protection projects supported by State agencies, counties and non-profits.

Please hold this bill in committee. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Randy Ching  
Honolulu  
[oahurandy@yahoo.com](mailto:oahurandy@yahoo.com)



Testimony : HB 2666  
Hearing : Feb 6, 2012

## SUPPORT

Hawaii Farmers Union United believes that agricultural infrastructures must be given priority to preserved.

Example, sugar cane or pineapple irrigation ditches, tunnels and water bridges and piping. These systems were design over many years and are the backbone to the irrigation systems on all islands. To replace them from scratch would not be likely or very costly. Better to preserve what we have.

This infrastructures can be as simple as the layout of taro terraces to water diversion in systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak for the family farmer in Hawaii.

Glenn Martinez  
HFUU President

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



## CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAI'I

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Agriculture  
And House Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources  
Hearing: Monday, February 6, 2012 11:15 a.m.  
Conference Room 325

### In Opposition to HB 2666 Relating to Agricultural Land

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i opposes HB 2666. The Legacy Land program is working well. In fact, it is one of the most successful programs for acquiring and protecting land for public purposes, with broad public support and participation. Please support all aspects of the program and do not place agricultural projects over watershed protection, habitat for rare and endangered species, projects that perpetuate the Native Hawaiian culture, recreation areas, open space, and public access.

CCH was one of hundreds of citizens and organizations that worked organized to pass the bill creating the Legacy Land Fund in 2005. This program is very popular among the people, and it provides opportunities for public involvement at its best. Since its inception in FY2006, the Legacy Land program has funded a diverse variety of positive environmental, cultural, historical, and agricultural land protection projects supported by state agencies, counties, and non-profit organizations.

HB 2666 unnecessarily and unfairly prioritizes certain agricultural projects over the other valuable public purposes of the Legacy Land program.

Under the current law, state and county agencies and non-profit land conservation organizations may apply. Applicants must submit applications and compete with other applicants for funding in a transparent and open process.

The best, most prepared/ready-to-go, and significant land projects should get funded. Competition ensures good land conservation.

Agricultural projects have been funded by the Legacy Land program, including one proposed by the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

There is no reason why agricultural projects that have infrastructure resources and easement funding approval from the state Agribusiness Development Corporation would not compete well for funds under the current law and application process.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify. Please oppose HB 2666

Sincerely,  
Marjorie Ziegler



**Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu**

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