

# LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony SUPPORT HB 2667

I have always wondered how Non-profits were provided leases at 25% of the standard rate, but a farmer pays 100%.

Any farmer should be given a break. Many farmers operate at minimal profit.

For many years DLNR suffered under the double mission on one hand support diversified agriculture with minimal rents and on the other hand collect as much income as possible via competitive bid.

I have personally watch land that was rented to a farmer at \$300 an acre go at bid to \$16,000 an acre to a tree trimmer / landscaper.

We think that anyone who grows food....and only food should have the land for 1%.

Landscape and nursery operations make 1000% more than food farmers.

It was told that food farmers net \$1200 per acre and nursery / landscape enterprises net \$20,000 per acre. Let the non-food farmer be 1% and the non-food farmer 25%.

It has been often quoted that only half the available land zoned prime ag is leased.

Hawaii is suffering from the inability to grow it's own food.

The Dept of Ag and the DLNR should be ordered to lease ALL available AG land at 1% of suggested rent until such time as Hawaii is self sufficient.

If the AG land is not rented at this time, it serves no one. Better someone uses the land to grow food then let it lay idle.

Use it or lose it should be the policy to farmers.

Thank you,

Glenn Martinez  
President, Hawaii Farmers Union United.