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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2012  
4:00 P.M.  
Room 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 2834  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

Chairperson Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2834. This bill proposes to extend the sunset date for the Hawaii Economic Development Task Force to June 30, 2014.

The Department supports this bill. Act 73 of Session Laws of 2010 established the Hawaii Economic Development Task Force within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism with one of its goals being to "develop and maintain a broad approach to ensure that Hawaii's energy and food policy and program development is integrated within the overall economic, social, environmental, and cultural aspects of society". As part of their mandate, the Task Force submitted a final report to the Legislature highlighting their recommendations to achieve energy and food self-sufficiency.

This bill is a result of one of the recommendations from the Task Force. In line with that recommendation, the Department would suggest an amendment to rename the



task force, the "Hawai'i Food and Energy Security Council" and expand their mandate to include climate change adaptation strategies and watershed restoration.

The Department would like to thank the members of the Hawaii Economic Development Task Force for their hard work and dedication in facilitating this discussion and coming forward with their recommendations. Finally, as the task force was within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, the Department of Agriculture would like to defer to them.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Monday, February 27, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor  
and

Sylvia Yuen, Interim Dean and Director  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 2834 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

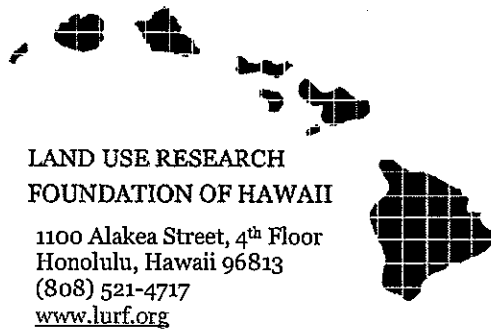
Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and member of the Committee on Finance: Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2834, which extends the sunset date for the Hawai'i Economic Development Task Force to June 30, 2014. I am Sylvia Yuen, Interim Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR).

The 2010 Hawai'i State Legislature adopted Act 73, which established the Hawai'i Economic Development Task Force to assist our state in becoming food and energy self-sufficient by facilitating and accelerating the adoption and completion of renewable energy projects, energy efficiency programs, and local agricultural infrastructure and development projects, as well as other needed measures.

As is mandated in Act 73, as Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources I serve on the Task Force, along with the directors of the Departments of Agriculture, Business Economic Development & Tourism, and Land and Natural Resources; directors of the economic development boards from each county; and representatives from various sectors of the community—business, union, and foundations. Although the Task Force has performed admirable work over the past two years, as demonstrated by its reports to the Legislature, it requires more time to fully address its important charge. The diverse perspectives of current members enrich the work of the Task Force, and they have now acquired both breadth and depth of knowledge relating to food and energy that is difficult to replicate.

The Legislature indicated earlier that it was in the best interests of the state to build its capacity for energy and food self-sufficiency to protect the health and vitality of Hawai'i's people and environment. This is a worthy goal, and the extension of the sunset date for the Hawai'i Economic Development Task Force will ensure that a dedicated and knowledgeable group of people will be available to assist in this important task.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2834.



LAND USE RESEARCH  
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February 26, 2012

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

**Support of HB 2834 Relating to the Hawaii Economic Development Task Force  
(Extends the sunset date for the Hawaii Economic Development Task Force to  
June 30, 2014.)**

**Monday, February 27, 2012, 4:00 p.m., in House Conference Room 308**

My name is Dave Arakawa, and I am the Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF), a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express our **opposition to the current form of HB 2834**, and we respectfully urge your favorable consideration of our **recommended amendment to this measure**.

**HB 2834.** The Hawaii Economic Development Task Force ("Task Force") was created by the Food and Energy Security Act 73 (2010), which took effect on July 1, 2010, and is supposed to cease to exist on June 12, 2012. This bill extends the sunset date for the Task Force to June 30, 2014. The purpose of the Task Force is to facilitate the accelerated adoption and completion of renewable-energy projects, energy-efficiency programs, agricultural infrastructure and development and support public and private efforts to make Hawaii energy and food-self sufficient, consistent with the "*Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan*," "*Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative*" and other government and community planning efforts.

**LURF's Position.** LURF supports the intent of HB 2834, however, we must **oppose the present form of HB 2834 and Act 73 (2010), because the Task Force membership does not include the tourism industry, the military, the construction industry and large land owners**, all of which are crucial stakeholders who are necessary for the success of a well resourced, funded, coordinated and focused long-term strategy to implement renewable-energy projects, energy efficiency programs, agricultural infrastructure. As explained below, these very important stakeholders will play a vital role in the success of the initiatives proposed by the Task Force. Therefore, **we strongly believe that HB 2834 and Act 73 should be amended to add these key stakeholders to the Task Force.**

**The following important stakeholders were not included in the Task Force:**

- **The Tourism industry**, which is Hawaii's largest economic industry and plays a major role with respect to energy efficiency measures, the use of alternative and renewable energy and the use of local agricultural produce from Hawaii's farmers;
- **The Military**, which is another of Hawaii's major economic industries which plays a major role with respect to energy efficiency measures, the use of alternative and renewable energy and could be an important factor in the use of local agricultural produce from Hawaii's farmers;
- **The Construction industry**, will be responsible for training a workforce in new construction skills and building the necessary infrastructure for future renewable energy and alternative energy projects, and the agricultural infrastructure, including, but not limited to new wells and water source development, dams and reservoirs, irrigation systems, processing and inspection facilities;
- **The large landowners groups** will be most affected by the recommendations of the Task Force as cooperation of the large landowners with respect to their land and facilities will be necessary to implement the recommendations of the Task Force.

Based on the above, LURF would respectfully recommend that the Finance Committee either **hold HB 2834, or make the following amendment to this measure:**

Part III. Section 6 of Act 73, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010 is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(9) A representative from the tourism industry;

(10) A representative from the United States military;

(11) A representative from the construction industry; and

(12) A representative of a large landowners group.”

**Conclusion.** LURF appreciates the opportunity to express our **opposition to the current form of HB 2834**, and we respectfully urge your favorable consideration of our **recommended amendment to this measure.**