

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 10:41 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: edibl1@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB947 on 2/24/2011 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 11:30:00 AM HB947

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Erik D. Berall for Mountain Spirit Center
Organization:
Address:
Phone:
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Submitted on: 2/24/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

I am a nurseryman on Hawaii Island. I have been using Cho Natural farming techniques for the past three years. This is undoubtedly the best thing agriculturally that has come to these islands since breadfruit and the other canoe plants were brought here by the polynesian voyagers. Natural farming has the potential to transform Hawaii agriculture, and may be its only hope for sustainability. I sincerely urge the House to pass this bill authorizing grants for farmers using Natural Farming techniques. Thank you for your consideration.

Thursday February 24th, 2011

Testimony to HB947 Relating to Agriculture

LATE

Aloha Chair Marcus Oshiro and Finance Committee Members,

My name is Hoon Park. I am retired pediatrician after 31 years of pediatric practice in Hilo, Hawaii since 2005. I have traveled many different countries for Christian medical mission work since 1992. In 2003, I saw an odorless pig farm in the Philippines which had originated in Korea. I went to Korea to learn the Cho Global Natural Farming in 2005 (CGFN). Master Cho, Han Kyu is the founder of CGFN and has been to 37 different countries to teach and promote Natural Farming. He was invited to the Chinese Defense Dept. HQ in 2005 to teach how to raise odorless pigs. At the present time, all 16 divisions of the Chinese Army are practicing Cho's method of raising pigs. Master Cho was awarded in 2008 after the Olympics in China.

In India, a woman came to Korea to learn CGNF and went back to her hometown, which was considered to be of the poorest of towns in Southern India. People were living on scavenged rubbish from a landfill. She introduced CGNF and trained the local community farmers to implement Natural Farming. The results after 5 years of this practice are amazing. The village has transformed in to an affluent town.

I invited Master Cho to Hawaii in 2005 for the first time and he has been back on 4 more occasions to teach and consult on his Natural Farming methods. I also took a group of Hawaiian people to farms that were modeled after CGNF on 3 occasions. Everyone that has been exposed to this is amazed to see how well the farms are doing.

Last year, Master Cho's team toured 23 commercial farms to offer consultation on Oahu, Maui, and Big Island. One conclusion was all the farmers said we cannot continue farm business due to the ever increasing cost of fertilizers, pesticides and animal feeds. None of this is necessary to grow a healthy product. Our State of Hawaii is 75% dependant of food supplies from the mainland and other countries. It is getting worse as the price of oil increases.

Recently, there have been devastating earthquakes in Haiti, Japan, New Zealand and Chile. There is big turmoil in the Middle East and Africa. Oil prices are rising and Hawaii is very

vulnerable to these dangerous factors. If a boat is not able to access in to our state, our food supply would be gone in a matter of 5 days.

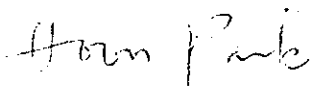
There is hope and good news for this desperate situation. CGNF can and will solve this dilemma because

1. We do not have to input fertilizers and pesticides. We can substitute locally available, recyclable resources such as fish waste for nitrogen, bones from cattle and pork for Calcium Phosphate, eggshells for calcium, and sea water for minerals.
2. We also use the Indigenous Micro-Organisms (IMOs) to revitalize the dying soil and subsequently crops raised in the soil will revive our human health.

The best example to see CGNF in a practical use would be David Wong's Farm in Waianae. It has been on KHON news, Honolulu Star Advertiser on the front cover. He was one of the biggest dairy farmers in Oahu, but became bankrupt due to the rising costs of operation. Mr. Wong attended Master Cho's seminar and learned the techniques of Natural Farming. He applied this technique in June 2010. He started raising Thai Basil and Vietnamese Taro. His crop production has increased 15 times in yield and the quality of his plants are superior to conventional farming methods. His cost of operating has decreased significantly and his water consumption has decreased more than 40%.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony on this important matter. We respectfully urge you to pass this proposed measure for the benefit of our Hawaii's well being.

Sincerely,



Dr. Hoon Park

February 23, 2011

To: The Honorable Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF
HB 947 HD1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE
(With Request for Amendment)

Date: Thursday, February 24, 2011 / Agenda #3

Time: 11:30am

Place: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

LATE

Aloha Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Finance Committee,

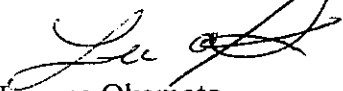
My name is Leanne Okamoto and I am a 3rd generation farmer and business owner from Pahoa on Hawaii Island. I also do volunteer work with non-profit organizations with the goal of building positive collaborations in agriculture and education that supports an active and sustainable agricultural industry, for the leaders of tomorrow.

I learned about Natural Farming 1 year ago and have been actively trying to help spread the word about the many benefits that can be obtained by using this farming method. I support this bill but humbly ask that HB 947 HD1 be amended to include its original date of July 1, 2011. We have already made leaps and bounds in educating farmers as well as the general public but we can do so much more.

I understand that there is a request of \$500,000 for this bill. I also understand that we are in difficult economic times and extra monies are difficult to come by. Although \$500,000 is ideally the amount needed to conduct the necessary research and field trials needed to document natural farming, any amount allocated towards this cause will be put to good use and in my opinion will save the State money in the mid-term. Educating the public on the health benefits of Natural Farming grown products will also help alleviate some of our health disparities such as childhood obesity among many others.

Thank you for your time.

Mahalo A Nui Loa,


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