

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor



State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
1428 South King Street  
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RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**LATE**

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011  
9:20 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 1155, S.D. 1  
RELATING TO THE LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL LEASE TASK FORCE

Chairperson Ige and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1155, S.D. 1. The purpose of this bill is to establish the long-term agricultural lease task force within the Department of Agriculture. The department respectfully offers comments regarding this bill.

A significant portion of the Department of Agriculture's mission is to provide small farmers the opportunity to develop a successful agricultural business. This provides positive benefits to the state in many ways, including economic development and achieving greater food self-sufficiency. In order to facilitate success, the department offers land leases of up to sixty-five years. All bona fide farmers in good standing with the State are welcome to apply for a department lease on available land. We believe that this offers the broadest opportunity possible. In addition to agricultural organizations and state representatives, we believe the inclusion of large private landowners will provide a well balanced forum to address current land leasing topics.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2011 2:11 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** sadie.aer.green@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

**LATE**

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB1155

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sadie Green  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [sadie.aer.green@gmail.com](mailto:sadie.aer.green@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/1/2011

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support SB1155, because I support small family farms here in Hawaii. The creation of a long-term agricultural lease task force is an important first step in planning and implementing measures that will strengthen the abilities of our farmers to supply us with good, wholesome food and increase food security here in the state of Hawaii. We must reexamine the unfair appraisal techniques that heavily favor development over the value of agricultural products, and work as a community to increase incentives for investments in farm production and agricultural enterprises, for example, by increasing agricultural lease terms. Thank you, on behalf of all people of Hawaii who want to see this land perpetuated in righteousness, for passing this bill.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2011 9:44 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** waynetakamine@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM

**LATE**

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB1155

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Wayne Takamine  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [waynetakamine@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:waynetakamine@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha,

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Please accept this testimony in support of SB1155.

I am the current Chair of the Kaka'ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council (CPAC). Our current draft of the Kaka'ako Makai master plan will include a Farmer's Market that will help to transform this former landfill into the "Communities Gathering Place." Our group has been working closely with the Department of Agriculture along the various groups involved with the Farmer's Markets around the state. I believe SB1155 will be very instrumental in creating a better economic balance in Hawaii that includes educating others to support a locally sustainable agriculture industry.

Although I cannot speak for all of members of CPAC, I would like to offer my support to SB 1155.

Mahalo,

Wayne Takamine  
Honolulu