

**SB 1155**

**nishihara5 - Randy**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:24 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** Leslie.Campaniano@hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** SB1155\_AGR\_2-3-2011\_AGL-final.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position:  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: James Nakatani  
Organization: Hawaii Department of Agriculture  
Address:  
Phone: 973-9552  
E-mail: [Leslie.Campaniano@hawaii.gov](mailto:Leslie.Campaniano@hawaii.gov)  
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

**RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**JAMES J. NAKATANI**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2011  
2:45 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1155  
RELATING TO THE LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL LEASE TASK FORCE**

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1155. 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, economic development and moving toward food sustainability being two of the more notable impacts. 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.

If the intent of this bill is to encourage private landowners such as Kamehameha Schools, Alexander and Baldwin, and Grove Farms, to make their lands available for long-term leasing, we respectfully recommend that they be included in the task force composition. In addition, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands has agricultural lands in inventory and may be interested in participating.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**nishihara5 - Randy**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:07 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Alan Gottlieb  
Organization: Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Address:  
Phone: 808-306-7769  
E-mail: [gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

**nishihara5 - Randy**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 7:59 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** farmfreshhawaii@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** testimony[1].doc

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Juanita Kawamoto Brown  
Organization: Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii  
Address: 1926A Fern St. Honolulu, Hawaii  
Phone: 808-330-6224  
E-mail: [farmfreshhawaii@yahoo.com](mailto:farmfreshhawaii@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

**Comments:**

Please support SB1155 task force to discuss State of Hawaii Long Term Ag leases.

# Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

State Democratic Headquarters ♦ 1050 Ala Moana Boulevard, D26 ♦ Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96814  
(808) 596-2980 ♦ <http://EnvironmentalCaucusoftheDemocraticPartyofHawaii.com>

February 3, 2011

## Re: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1155

Aloha Chairman Nishihara, Vice Chairman Gilbert Kahele, and members of the Agricultural Committee,

My name is Mrs. Juanita C. Kawamoto Brown, and I am here as the designated representative of The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 1155 – Relating to Long Term Agricultural Leases within the State of Hawaii and the Food Farms they currently affect.

**Here is the problem as we see it.** Current long-term agricultural leases are too short. Local farmers have no incentives to invest in long-term food farms when they can't count on how long they will have access to the land in certain areas. Additionally, many well-established farmers can't find investment funding because of the uncertainty of their leases. Unless current practices are changed, the number of Hawai'i's food farmers will continue to decline. The lack of viable food farms directly influences Hawai'i's need to reduce the import of food to these islands.

Currently, residences of Hawai'i have little choice but to spend nearly all of their food budgets on imported foods. These food imports add to our State's carbon footprint. They send our State's much needed monies out of the state rather into the pockets of our local farmers. They cost our state millions in potential revenues from actively farmed agricultural leases and any resulting state taxes. We live on a most fertile island, yet we seem to have forgotten how to feed ourselves.

Senate Bill 1155 will create a task force focused on the process by which State Ag leases are currently handled and come up with a solution to address amendments or structure policies that represent the need for better conditions for state agricultural leases focused on Food farms in the State of Hawaii. SB1155 provides us with a means to protect Hawai'i's precious Ag lands and maintain a healthier environment throughout the State of Hawaii.

The Environmental Caucus has been in extensive discussions with food farmers through out the State of Hawaii, including the Hawaii Farmer's Union, the Hawaii Farm Bureau, the Hawaii Cooperative of Organic Farmers, the Hawaii Fruit Growers Association, the Waihole – Waikane Community Association, the Waimanalo Neighborhood Board, the Kahaluu Neighborhood Board, the Hawaii North Kona Coffee growers Association, and the Kamilonui Farmer Alliance – Hawaii Kai.

**Together we urge you to support this bill.**

Mahalo,

Juanita C. Kawamoto Brown  
Subcommittee Chair  
Food and Farm Sustainability  
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

## nishihara5 - Randy

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 7:51 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** hfuglenn@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Glenn Martinez  
Organization: Hawaii Farmers Union  
Address: 41=1140 Waikupanaha Street Waimanalo  
Phone: 808 259 0223  
E-mail: [hfuglenn@gmail.com](mailto:hfuglenn@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

**Comments:**

Revocable Permits, 30 month to month and "long term" lease that have "renegotiation" every five years are crippling to making long term investments. Raise farmers lease rents to "market value" every five years is a killer, the farmers income could be going down as the State is arguing that the land value is going up! Farmers raising food must compete with mainland and foreign producers that have subsidized operations. Farmers should pay only the Sates carrying cost, cost directly associated with providing the land to the farmer.

**nishihara5 - Randy**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 11:19 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** hoalike5@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** longterm lease bill1155 2011

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Mary Barter  
Organization: Hawaii Farmers Union  
Address: 59-529 Hoalike Rd. Haleiwa, Hawaii  
Phone: 808-638-0283  
E-mail: [hoalike5@gmail.com](mailto:hoalike5@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:



From Mary Barter  
59-529 Hoalike Rd.  
Haleiwa, Hawaii Feb 1, 2011

In support of SB 1155—Relating to long Term Agricultural Lease Task Force.  
Committees on Agriculture  
Hearing:  
February 3, Thursday at 2:45 p.m.  
Rm 229

I am writing in strong support of SB1155. It is a modest bill that supports our governor's stated desire to promote food security. As a farmer just learning how to farm sustainably myself, the choice to put money and effort into the soil's fertility is an easy one as we own our own land. For many whom we know, it is not easy. It is very difficult, and they labor just out of their love for the aina and for the honor of providing good food.

Yes, I say Honor. For too long, due to the plantation history of many of our grandparents, working the land has not been afforded the dignity it deserves, and we have been too impressed by the corporate model, the monocultures which have devastated the health of our soils, our oceans, and our people.

So I ask you to take the simple step forward to support small farmers to have confidence that they have chosen a secure and honorable way to make a living. This should start by securing land and a decent cost.

I thank you as will the people, the land, and all who know of us in the future.

**nishihara5 - Randy**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 11:49 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** hfuoahu@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** Testimony on SB1155 .pdf

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lydi Morgan Bernal  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Honolulu, HI  
Phone: 808-295-3375  
E-mail: [hfuoahu@gmail.com](mailto:hfuoahu@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:

**Testimony on SB1155, Relating to the Long-Term Agricultural Lease Task Force**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Thursday, February 3, 2011

2:45 p.m.

Conference Room 229

**Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee,**

**I support SB1155**, which would establish the Long-Term Agricultural Lease Task Force for the purpose of developing a plan and making recommendations to expand the availability of long-term leases favorable to small farms and agricultural enterprises in order to improve community investments in long-term food sustainability in the State.

Food cultivation requires a LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP with the land, and long-term leases bring security to the profession of farming and stability to families and communities.

Let's see to it that our State makes a LONG TERM COMMITMENT to a healthy future for Hawaii by creating this important task force through which practical solutions can be formulated collectively and collaboratively.

Thank you for your attention to this most pressing issue for our state.

Sincerely,

Lydi Morgan Bernal  
Hawaii Farmers Union Member

[hfuoahu@gmail.com](mailto:hfuoahu@gmail.com)  
[www.hawaiifarmersunion.org](http://www.hawaiifarmersunion.org)  
[www.nfu.org](http://www.nfu.org)

Hawaii Farmers Union is a branch of the National Farmers Union – America's oldest and most distinguished farming organization, representing nearly 200,000 members nationwide and advocating for family farmers, ranchers, fishers and rural communities since 1902.

The mission of Hawaii Farmers Union is to advance the rights of farmers to create vibrant and prosperous agricultural communities for the benefit of all through cooperation, legislation, and education.

**nishihara5 - Randy**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 11:43 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** nredfeather@kohalacenter.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** Testimony SB1155.docx

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Nancy Redfeather  
Organization: Individual  
Address: P.O. Box 906 Kealakekua, Hawai'i  
Phone: 808-322-2801  
E-mail: [nredfeather@kohalacenter.org](mailto:nredfeather@kohalacenter.org)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Testimony submitted by:

Nancy Redfeather  
P.O. Box 906  
Kealahou, Hawai'i  
96750

Support for SB1155

Dear Chairman Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Agriculture Committee,

As Director of the Hawai'i Island School Garden Network working with all schools K-12 on Hawai'i Island to renew and support agricultural education, there is a great need to expand and establish rules and protocols that will lead to greater access of farmland for the young farmers of the future.

Currently with 96% of the land on Hawai'i Island owned by government entities and large landowners, it is extremely important to open new state lands and make available increased areas for farming. The State Land Cooperatives on Hawai'i Island are currently not working well, and the causes and remedies need to be found and changed.

A broad committee focused on cleaning up and strengthening the state's commitment to farming and long-term leases on state land is a step in the right direction for the future of food and farming.

Developing a strong and diversified agricultural economy is one of the steps to a sustainable food future for Hawai'i.

Aloha,

Nancy Redfeather  
Hawai'i Island School Garden Network  
The Kohala Center  
[www.kohalacenter.org/HISGN/about.html](http://www.kohalacenter.org/HISGN/about.html)  
808-322-2801  
nredfeather@kohalacenter.org

**nishihara5 - Randy**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:05 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: comments only  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Penny Levin  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Wailuku, Maui  
Phone:  
E-mail: [pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

**Comments:**

I support the intent of this bill and request an amendment to include a representative of the Taro Security and Purity Task Force in this group as well.

The taro task force was formed by the legislature in 2008 specifically to address similar issues. The knowledge and recommendations of this group need to be included in larger discussions of planning for agriculture's future in Hawaii. As a legislatively recognized body of expertise in agriculture, and representing taro growers statewide, they should also have a designated seat at the table in the same manner as the Cattlemen's Association and other so named organizations and agencies.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

**nishihara5 - Randy**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:10 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** kolea91@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Marcia Harter  
Organization: Individual  
Address: PO Box 280 Anahola, HI  
Phone: 808-635-6562  
E-mail: [kolea91@aol.com](mailto:kolea91@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

**Comments:**

In order to provide for a sustainable food supply on all the islands we need to support long term relationships between farmers and productive land, This bill will help to do that. I urge its passing.

**nishihara5 - Randy**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:38 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** espiritu.justine@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1155 on 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** Testimony SB 1155.odt

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Testimony for AGL 2/3/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1155

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Justine Espiritu  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [espiritu.justine@gmail.com](mailto:espiritu.justine@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:



This letter is in support of SB1155. I support the formation of a Task Force with the purpose to develop a plan and make recommendations to expand the availability of long-term leases favorable to small farms and agricultural enterprises in order to improve community investments in long-term food sustainability in the State.

I believe access to land via long term leases is a critical element of food farming. Land cultivation is a long term relationship, and requires a long term commitment from all involved. Too many farmers who currently have been waiting to be heard for way too many years exist on a month to month lease agreement and continue to struggle on everything from what to grow and how to grow it if you don't know how long you'll be there, or specifics on what is considered a violation and why.

We need to support our farmers any way we can!!

Justine Espiritu