

# **SB2691**

## Testimony

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Tuesday, January 31, 2012  
2:45 P.M.  
Room 229

SENATE BILL NO. 2691  
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

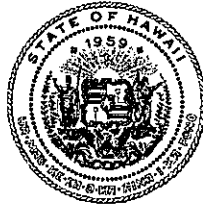
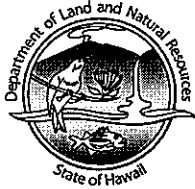
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2691. This bill proposes to allow ex-officio members of the Board of Agriculture to designate a representative to attend board meetings in their stead.

The Department strongly supports this bill. Currently, HRS section 26-16 requires that the Board of Agriculture be made up of 10 members, three of which are ex officio voting members: the Chairperson for the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, and the Dean of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Often the busy schedules of these ex officio members make it extremely difficult for them to attend board meetings and their inability to attend has resulted in failure of the Board to act on matters requiring timely action



Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of  
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
AGRICULTURE**

**Tuesday, January 31, 2012  
2:45 P.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2691  
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

Senate Bill 2691 seeks to allow ex officio members of the Board of Agriculture to designate a representative to attend Board meetings in their place. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this Administrative measure.

The Chairperson of the Department serves on numerous boards and commissions, including the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Commission on Water Resource Management, the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission, and the aforementioned Board of Agriculture. However there could arise instances when the Chairperson of the Department is unable to attend meetings due to a conflict in schedule or illness. This measure would permit a designated representative of the Department to continue to participate in discussions and decisions of the Board of Agriculture.

**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**GUY H. KAULUKUKUI**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**WILLIAM M. TAM**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS