

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING  
Thursday, February 16, 2011  
Room 225  
1:25 P.M.

SENATE BILL NO. 2926  
RELATING TO LAND USE

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 2969. The Department of Agriculture offers **comments**. This measure defines “prime farmlands” based on agricultural productivity and other factors; limits authority to the Land Use Commission to reclassify “prime farmlands”; requires certain boundary amendment petitions that were denied or voluntarily withdrawn from being considered for up to one year; requires subdivisions of “prime farmlands” to comply with the requirement that the subdivided lands be primarily in pursuit of an agricultural activity; adds preservation of “prime farmlands” to the Land Use Commission decision-making criteria; and prohibits reclassification of “prime farmlands” if they were used for intensive agricultural purposes for two years prior to a petition or the lands have high capacity for intensive agricultural purposes.

We note that the definition of “prime farmlands” is encompassed entirely within the eight criteria used to define potential Important Agricultural Lands (IAL). Both the IAL lands and “prime farmlands” are subsets within the State Agricultural District. As defined, “prime farmlands” are not Important Agricultural Lands, so “prime farmlands” by itself is not sufficient to qualify for the IAL Incentives that were passed by the Legislature

in 2008. Having “prime farmlands” and designated IAL with similar characteristics but protected through separate means may make difficult the management of agricultural land by both the State and the counties as the primary resource for achieving the State's food security goals.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Testimony Reference : SB 2926  
Committee : HLT

Date of Hearing: Jan 16

From: Hawaii Farmers Union United

## SUPPORT

Testimony:

The last known survey of land classification was done around 1972. At that time sugar and pineapple were the standard to measure PRIME land by. There was around 250,000 acres in cultivation on Oahu. Now we have only 18,000 acres in all of farming on Oahu.

Plantations days are gone. The land abandoned by the plantations has proved to be almost not capable of diversified AG.

What was prime land, now with the absence of water is not prime anymore.

One needs to create a modern definition of PRIME farm land.

KISS, Keep it simple stupid.....

- 1) land that is currently under cultivation is PRIME.
- 2) land that was recently or has a history in (non-plantation)cultivation is PRIME.
- 3) land that can profitably grow food is PRIME.
- 4) Land that can grow FOOD should be PRIORITY PRIME....not to be screwed with.

Reportedly of the 18,000 or so acres that are cultivated in agriculture on Oahu, less than 4,500 acres are growing FOOD. Studies show Oahu is 12,000 acres short on the land needed to feed our population. That would be less than 10% of what used to be farmed on Oahu just a few years ago.

The Land Commission has a miserable track record for saving agriculture land from development. Without firm direction, it is a vehicle to scam the citizens of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak for the family farmer in Hawaii.

Glenn Martinez

HFUU President

FYI:

Hawaii Farmer Union United is the largest agriculture organization in the State of Hawaii that represents the small family farmers at the exclusion of GMO and Mega Corporation mono-crop industrial farms. With small family farmers on every island Hawaii Farmers Union is the only Grassroots farm organization where the members have direct voice.

Any testimony given to the Legislature is vetted to the membership. Often the testimony is a blend of opinions voiced directly from membership. We also encourage all individual members to submit testimony directly, particularly where there voice is different then the majority, thus all farmer voices are heard, not just the loudest.



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February 16, 2012

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

SB 2926  
RELATING TO LAND USE

Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Members:

Hawaii's Thousand Friends supports SB 2926 to further define prime farmlands and requiring the land use commission to specifically consider prime farmlands as a factor in decisions related to agricultural district boundaries and permissible uses within the agricultural districts.

One critical component of this bill is the proposed criteria for LUC decision-making *to preserve prime farmlands to ensure local food security.*

This criteria isn't new but is embedded in our State Constitution Article XI Section 3 "*...conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands...*"

What is relatively new is the knowledge that approximately 85% of our food is imported. This is figure is astonishing and makes our islands extremely vulnerable to external catastrophes.

The Hawai`i 2050 Sustainability Plan identifies increased production and consumption of local foods and agricultural products as a priority and states that food self-sufficiency is one of the foundations of a sustainable community and thriving local farms will make us less vulnerable to outside forces.

According to the 2050 Plan about 15% of the food and 35% of fruits and vegetables we consume are grown locally. The UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources estimates that it is reasonable that 30% of food consumed and 85% of fruits and vegetables can be grown locally.

The 2012 Oahu Agricultural Liaison report to the City Council notes that Oahu distributors and retailers could sell two or three times the amount of local food today but while the demand for local food is high the availability of land to purchase or with long-term leases is low. The report states that land availability is the highest priority for continued food production.





## HAWAII BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

Gentry Pacific Design Center, Suite 215A \* 560 N. Nimitz Highway, #50 \* Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
(808) 524-2249 - FAX (808) 524-6893

February 15, 2012

REGINALD CASTANARES  
*President*  
Plumbers & Fitters Local 675

DAMIEN T.K. KIM  
*Vice President*  
International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers Local 1186

THADDEUS TOMEI  
*Treasurer*  
Elevator Constructors Local 126

GARY AYCOCK  
*Sergeant At Arms*  
Boilermakers, Ironship Builders  
Local 204

DOUGLAS FULP  
*Trustee*  
International Assoc. of Heat & Frost  
Insulators & Allied Workers Local 132

PETER GANABAN  
*Trustee*  
Laborers' International Union of  
North America Local 368

NOLAN MORIWAKI  
Bricklayers & Ceramic Tile Setters  
Local 1 & Plasterers  
Local 630 Cement Masons

JOSEPH O'DONNELL  
Iron Workers Local 625

ART TOLENTINO  
Sheet Metal Workers I.A. Local 293

LYNN KINNEY  
District Council 50  
Painters & Allied Trades Local 1791  
Carpet, Linoleum, & Soft Tile  
Local 1926  
Drywall, Tapers & Finishers  
Local 1944  
Glaziers, Architectural Metal &  
Glassworkers Local 1889

PANE MEATOGA  
Operating Engineers Local 3

RONAN KOZUMA  
Hawaii Teamsters & Allied  
Workers Local 996

VAUGHN CHONG  
Roofers, Waterproofers & Allied  
Workers United Union of Roofer  
Local 221

Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Honorable Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Water, Land and Housing  
Hawaii State Capital  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: **IN OPPOSITION** to SB2926 RELATING TO LAND USE  
Hearing: Thursday, February 16, 2012, 13:25 p.m. Conference Room 225

Honorable Chair(s), Vice Chair(s) and Committee Members;

The Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO is comprised of 16 out of 17 construction trade unions throughout Hawaii. With an estimated membership of 20,000 statewide, our primary mission is to provide employment opportunities and living wages to the many working men and women we represent.

The Council **OPPOSES** SB2926 which defines prime farmlands and requires the land use commission to specifically consider prime farmlands as a factor in decisions related to agricultural district boundaries and permissible uses within the agricultural districts. Prohibits the commission from taking prime farmlands out of agricultural districts if the land is used for agricultural purposes for at least two years prior to the boundary amendment petition or has a high capacity for intensive agricultural uses. Prohibits petitions for boundary amendments that cover substantially the same request as previously submitted to and subsequently denied by the commission or voluntarily withdrawn during a certain period of time after the denial or withdrawal, with certain exceptions.

The Council strongly supports the farming industry and the many hard working farmers of our state, but the Council feels that the provisions in this measure are over reaching and undermines the authority granted to the Land Use Commission in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities as is currently provided for in existing statutes.

This measure creates a new classification of "prime farmlands" which as defined in this measure is unclear and can be arbitrarily and unfairly applied. Further, the Council is unclear how the implementation of provisions within this measure may or may not be consistent with current law as it pertains to the designation of "prime agricultural land".

The Council supports responsible and sustainable development in planning for and managing population growth in Hawaii and is very mindful of the preservation of Hawaii's natural resources. However, the Council also recognizes the needs of our community and our members, and its reliance on government to ensure that the immediate needs of the public as it pertains to public health and welfare pursuant to article IX section 6 of the Hawaii State Constitution are met with fair and equitable treatment under the law.

While the suggested lack of adequate farmable land for food production is highly debatable and speculative at best, the harsh realities of homelessness, poverty, suicide, divorce, drug abuse, child abuse and other social ills is brutally evident along our sidewalks, in our parks and amongst our membership. Our members, some unemployed for several years and as a result have lost homes, lost families and lost hope, are merely looking for an honest day's pay for an honest day's work. This measure is a direct attack on the efforts to rebuild our economy and restore hope.

For these reasons, we humbly ask that you HOLD Senate Bill 2926 in Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully;

Kika G. Bukoski. Executive Director- Hawaii Building and Construction Trades Council



February 15, 2012

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

**Opposition to SB 2926, Relating to Land Use** (Defines prime farmlands and requires the Land Use Commission (LUC) to specifically consider prime farmlands as a factor in decisions related to agricultural district boundaries and permissible uses within the agricultural districts. Prohibits the LUC from taking prime farmlands out of agricultural districts if the land is used for agricultural purposes for at least two years prior to the boundary amendment petition, or has a high capacity for intensive agricultural uses.)

**Thursday, February 16, 2012, 1:25 p.m., in CR 225**

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 provide testimony **in strong opposition** to SB 2926.

**SB 2926.** The purpose of this bill is reportedly to ensure that the State's prime farmlands are protected by:

- 1) defining prime farmlands and allowing prime farmlands within agricultural districts;
- 2) prohibiting petitions for boundary amendments that cover substantially the same request as previously submitted to and denied by the LUC, or voluntarily withdrawn during a period of time after denial or withdrawal;
- 3) requiring the LUC to specifically consider prime farmlands as a factor in decisions related to agricultural district boundaries and permissible uses within the agricultural districts; and
- 4) prohibiting the LUC from taking prime farmlands out of agricultural districts if the land is used for agricultural purposes for at least two years prior to the petition for a boundary amendment or has a high capacity for intensive agricultural uses.

**LURF's Position.** In short, this bill attempts to further restrict or prohibit landowners from amending the land use district boundaries of agricultural lands, despite there being valid, applicable, existing law effectively addressing and regulating the reclassification of such land.



- **The bill is inconsistent with the spirit, intent and principles of the existing Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) laws, and would subject landowners who have been complying with the IAL laws to an illegal, unconstitutional taking of their property.**

The IAL laws were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution, “to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands.” The IAL laws established a “new paradigm” which avoids requirements and mandates, and instead focuses on promoting agricultural viability by providing incentives for farmers and landowners to designate lands as IAL, and to build necessary infrastructure. The IAL laws have in fact afforded landowners an initial 3-year period for voluntary IAL designation, and have encouraged landowners to designate 50% of their lands as IAL in order to become eligible for various incentives, including the opportunity to reclassify their non-IAL lands (including A and B rated agricultural lands) to conservation, rural or urban State land use designations.

SB 2926 would now subject these landowners who have already designated lands as IAL to a further “taking” by retroactively revoking or restricting their right to reclassify their non-IAL, prime farmlands. Such a taking directly contradicts HRS Section 205-49(3), which expressly provides that if the majority of landowners’ landholdings are already designated as IAL, any additional lands of that landowner **shall not be taken**.

The IAL laws and processes which already exist and ensure the designation and protection of IAL now **allow reclassification of prime farmlands**. SB 2926 is therefore not only superfluous, but **inconsistent** with the existing laws, which are **not based on prime farmlands classifications**, and **do not prohibit boundary amendments of prime farmlands**.

The IAL laws were based on input by, and consensus amongst LURF, the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, and other agricultural and government stakeholders over the past several years. It is the position of LURF and these stakeholders that the designation of agricultural lands and the creation of standards relating to such lands are already encompassed in the IAL laws, and should not be affected, superseded, or contradicted by changes to the existing land use laws as proposed by this measure.

- **This bill ignores County General Plans and the detailed and lengthy approval processes in place for County Plans, LUC Boundary Amendments and County Zoning.**

The land uses shown on existing County General Plans and other County community plans are a result of various staff and administrative reviews, involving numerous public hearings, and Council and Planning Commission approval processes. Having gone through the County General Plan and other planning processes, some landowners may elect to amend their State land use boundaries and change their zoning to be consistent with the County General Plan and other County plans. SB 2926, however, would prohibit or restrict such boundary amendments, thereby overruling the County General Plans and the various land use approval processes. To change land uses to comply with the General Plan, a landowner must also go through further lengthy and costly land use approval processes imposed by the LUC and County zoning, which involve public hearings and input, and the introduction of evidence. These approval processes may also be subject to contested case hearings and judicial appeals.

By prohibiting and/or restricting boundary amendments which are otherwise consistent with General Plans, SB 2926 is **inconsistent** with Act 28 (2008) (which **amended the LUC**

**decision-making criteria to require that the LUC specifically consider the County General Plan**), as well as with all community, development, or community development plans adopted pursuant to the County General Plans, as they relate to lands subject to boundary amendments.

- **The true intent of the bill is questionable as it completely disregards and fails to address the need for water for the land which would be restricted to agricultural use.**

Restricting land for use as agriculture would be pointless if water is not available, or is not made available to support such mandated designation and use. If SB 2926 was truly intended to preserve agricultural land and to make such land viable, then issues relating to water, which is critically required to support such restriction and sustain the viability of such land, must be addressed by, and included in this bill.

The failure of SB 2926 to consider and address water-related issues also directly contradicts the existing IAL laws. One of the critical standards/criteria for IAL designation is that the lands have sufficient quantities of water to support viable agricultural production (*See HRS 205-44*).

- **Unintended negative consequences for farmers – Limitation of active farming operations.**

Although LURF supports the conservation and protection of important agricultural lands, supports land use laws including the IAL laws, and encourages active farming operations on IAL, it believes that SB 2926 is unconstitutional, unfair, and in addition to contradicting existing laws, will likely cause other, unintended negative consequences for farmers. As an example, in order to retain the flexibility to file future district boundary amendments, some landowners may allow their prime farmlands to remain fallow.

**CONCLUSION.** The intent and application of SB 2926 is unnecessary, unconstitutional, profoundly anti-business, and constitutes bad public policy. The State and county land use laws and processes (including IAL laws and processes) which are already in place, effectively regulate the designation and reclassification of agricultural lands, making SB 2926 confusing, redundant, and inconsistent with existing laws. LURF therefore respectfully request that this bill **be held** in Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.



Testimony of C. Mike Kido  
External Affairs  
The Pacific Resource Partnership

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing  
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

SB 2926 – Relating to Land Use  
Thursday, February 16, 2012  
1:25 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon, and Members of the Committee:

My name is C. Mike Kido, External Affairs of the Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP), a labor-management consortium representing over 240 signatory contractors and the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters (formerly the Hawaii Carpenters Union).

PRP opposes SB 2926 Relating to Land Use which defines prime farmlands and requires the land use commission to specifically consider prime farmlands as a factor in decisions related to agricultural district boundaries and permissible uses within the agricultural districts. The measure also prohibits the commission from taking prime farmlands out to agricultural districts if the land is used for agricultural purposes for at least two years prior to the boundary amendment petition or has a high capacity for intensive agricultural uses. It also prohibits petitions for boundary amendments that cover substantially the same request as previously submitted to and subsequently denied by the commission or voluntarily withdrawn during a certain period of time after the denial or withdrawal, with certain exceptions.

SB 2926 creates a new category of “prime farmlands” and attempts to further restrict or prohibit landowners from amending the land use district boundaries of agricultural lands, despite there being valid, applicable, existing law effectively addressing and regulating the reclassification of agricultural lands. It appears that this bill is targeting the two pending LUC petitions, as well as other landowners who are preparing to file LUC petitions.

The bill creates a new category of agricultural lands – “prime farmlands,” which is confusing, redundant, and inconsistent with existing laws.

The bill is inconsistent with the spirit, intent and principles of the existing Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) law, and would subject landowners who have been complying with the IAL laws to an illegal, unconstitutional taking of their property.

The bill lacks the input and consensus of major agricultural stakeholders, as opposed to the IAL laws, which were based on input by, and consensus amongst the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Department of Agriculture, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, Hawaii Agricultural Resource Center, LURF, and other agricultural and government stakeholders over the past several years.

This bill ignores County General Plans and the detailed and lengthy approval processes in place for County Plans, LUC Boundary Amendments and County Zoning.

The true intent of the bill is questionable as it completely disregards and fails to address the need for water for the so-called prime farmland which would be restricted to agricultural use. The failure of SB 2926 to consider and address water-related issues also directly contradicts the existing IAL laws. One of the critical standards/criteria for IAL designation is that the lands have sufficient quantities of water to support viable agricultural production (*See* HRS 205-44).

The bill may result in unintended negative consequences for farmers – Given the proposed prohibition on reclassification of lands in agricultural production for the past two years, some landowners may allow their prime farmlands to remain fallow, in order to retain the flexibility to file future district boundary amendments.

The intent and application of SB 2926 is unnecessary, unconstitutional, profoundly anti-business, and constitutes bad public policy. The State and county land use laws and processes (including IAL laws and processes) which are already in place, effectively regulate the designation and reclassification of agricultural lands, making SB 2926 confusing, redundant, and inconsistent with existing laws.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views with you and we respectfully ask that this bill **be held** in Committee.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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February 15, 2012

TO: Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Malama Solomon  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

FROM: Barbara Polk  
Legislative Chair, Americans for Democratic Action

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR SB 2926 RELATING TO LAND USE

Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii is in strong support of this bill. Hawaii now imports almost all of our food. In an unstable world, we live with the threat of our food supply being cut off or greatly diminished. As a result, it is critically important to maintain our agricultural land.

The ability of developers to make requests to the Land Use Commission to convert agricultural lands into housing also contributes to the high costs of farming in Hawaii. The guarantee that land would stay in agriculture after two years would greatly ease the ability of would-be farmers to make a living, with the result that more of our food could be grown locally.

For these reasons, we urge you to pass SB 2926



Hawaii Reserves, Inc.  
A LAND MANAGEMENT COMPANY

February 15, 2012

**Via E-Mail: WLHtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov**

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Sen. Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

**Re: S.B.2926 (Re: Land Use)**

**Testimony In Opposition**

**Hearing: Thursday, February 16, 2012, 1:25 p.m., Conf. Rm. 225**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Committee Members:

Aloha, and thank you for the opportunity to testify in **opposition** to Senate Bill 2926 on behalf of **Hawaii Reserves, Inc.**, a land management company located in Laie, Oahu. We manage and own approximately 7,000 acres currently in agricultural, residential and commercial uses.

While this bill may be well-intentioned, it would threaten worthy community sustainability projects that could provide much needed affordable housing in Hawaii. It also is somewhat duplicative of existing IAL laws and does not focus on the challenges facing our ag industry, and it ignores current land use approval processes already in place.

First, this bill will threaten worthy projects that would provide much needed affordable housing. For example, our company and community have been exploring ways to facilitate an affordable housing project in a "sustainable affordable development" on land that is currently classified as agricultural (the land would first need to be reclassified for residential use). Sustainable affordable development projects require that 30% of the units must be affordable to persons in the county's median income range, and the sales price of at least 51% of the residential lots must be no higher than 80% of the fair market value of the lots in fee (HRS 516-1). Housing affordability and economic sustainability are the greatest concern for residents in our region – if passed this bill could stop the creation of much needed affordable housing and economic development in our community.

Second, this bill is somewhat duplicative of existing Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) laws and does not focus on the key challenges facing our local ag industry. This bill ignores the process initiated by the relatively recent passage of the IAL laws. At a time when farmers and landowners need incentives to compete in a global agricultural market, this bill does not address the challenges facing our local ag industry. Our county and state enjoy an abundance of agricultural lands subsequent to the decline in the pineapple and sugar cane industries, but our farmers are struggling financially. Based on our experience with our own farm business that ultimately folded – and as a landowner currently leasing to farmers – the

**Testimony in Opposition to S.B. 2926**

**February 15, 2012**

**Page 2 of 2**

key issues are how to help farmers and landowners make productive use of abundant agricultural lands, and how to strengthen and incentivize our local farm industry to better compete in the global marketplace.

Third, this bill ignores current, comprehensive and careful land use approval processes already in place. This bill places yet another restriction on land use, however, the process to rezone land in our state is lengthy, involves a number of public hearings, and requires approval by both the State Land Use Commission and the applicable City/County Council. A well-devised system of checks and balances is already in place to ensure that agricultural land is not "upzoned" without many opportunities for public input, evaluation and ample time for careful deliberation by various decision makers at multiple levels.

For these reasons and others we request that you hold S.B. 2926.

Mahalo

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SKH', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Steve Keali'iwahamana Hoag, Esq.

Vice President, Administration

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2012 9:39 PM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Cc:** evernw@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2926 on 2/16/2012 1:25:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/16/2012 1:25:00 PM SB2926

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Evern Williams  
Organization: Kupaa Mahope O Liliuokalani  
E-mail: [evernw@aol.com](mailto:evernw@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:



**Jim Williams**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2012 9:45 PM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Cc:** kimo1246@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2926 on 2/16/2012 1:25:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/16/2012 1:25:00 PM **SB2926**

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: **Support**  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: **Jim Williams**  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [kimo1246@yahoo.com](mailto:kimo1246@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

**Comments:**

This legislation is badly needed to protect our aina and food source. Please pass it.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2012 7:59 PM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Cc:** bdshafer@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2926 on 2/16/2012 1:25:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/16/2012 1:25:00 PM SB2926

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Benjamin Shafer  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [bdshafer@gmail.com](mailto:bdshafer@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

[Redacted]

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2012 12:59 PM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Cc:** karingill@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2926 on 2/16/2012 1:25:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/16/2012 1:25:00 PM SB2926

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Karin Gill  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [karingill@yahoo.com](mailto:karingill@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:  
Strong support.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2012 7:17 AM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Cc:** dkapua@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2926 on 2/16/2012 1:25:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/16/2012 1:25:00 PM SB2926

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [dkapua@gmail.com](mailto:dkapua@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/16/2012

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 2926 Relating to Land Use and urge you to PASS THIS LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Aloha kakou,

My name is Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai and I ask you to pass SB 2926. I believe this bill will help to preserve Oahu's PRIME AGRICULTURAL lands for our future generations.

We need to protect AG lands, not allow it to be reclassified for residential use. There is a clear and compelling need to feed and provide for our residents, not to create new dwellings for new residents, furthering our dependence on imported fruits, vegetables and all other good things that come from the land. Not to mention the burden that new homes and residents will put on our limited water, waste management and energy resources. Nor the negative impact it will have on our roads and the significant traffic it will add.

As a Wai'anae Coast resident who travels eastward on a daily basis, I along with thousands of others, am all too familiar with traffic that usually starts at the Kunia off-ramp; and traffic that backs up to Kualakai Road (North-South Rd) several times a month. The addition of these 11,000 plus homes and the vehicles that will come with them, will significantly increase traffic and travel times.

As I travel eastward I love to see the open-space and farming activities along the way. This should be preserved for future generations to see and utilize as well. Yes, the Leeward area was designated for development but it should not be at the expense of sacrificing prime AG lands. So again, I urge this committee to PASS SB 2926 and allow for all the intended purposes of Prime Agriculture lands.

Mahalo,  
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai

Testimony of Glenn Ida  
45-284 Pahikaua St.  
Kaneohe, Hi. 96744

**In Strong Opposition to SB 2926**

Before the Senate Committee on:  
Water, Land, and Housing

Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012  
1:25 PM, Conference Room 225

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon and Members of the Committees,

My name is Glenn Ida, I'm a Kaneohe resident and I Strongly Oppose SB2926.

The introducer of this measure is representing himself as an intervener before the State Land Use Commission trying to stop the development of Ho'opili in Ewa. Now he is using his office and his position as a State Senator to pass legislation, which is against the development of the Ho'opili Project. Ewa is not his district.

I believe he should promoting agriculture, food production and helping farmers get the help they need to be successful in his district on the Windward side. If there were more farmers than land available to farm he would have a stronger case.

Therefore I **strongly oppose SB2926** and ask that this measure be held.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Glenn Ida  
808-295-1280