

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Deputy to the Chairperson

LATE TESTIMONY

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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MARCH 29, 2012, 1:30 P.M., ROOM 308

SENATE BILL NO. 3011, SD 2, HD 2
RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 3011, SD 2, HD 2. The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Agriculture to transfer title to specific public agricultural lands under its jurisdiction to the agribusiness development corporation (ADC). The Department of Agriculture opposes this bill and believes it is unnecessary.

These lands have recently been transferred to the department's Non-Agricultural Park Lands Program. This program (Chapter 166E, HRS) was established by Act 90 of Session Laws of 2003 with the intent to "...ensure the long-term productive use of public lands leased or available to be leased by the Department of Land and Natural Resources for agricultural purposes by allowing these lands to be transferred to and managed by the Department of Agriculture." To date, approximately 140 parcels have been transferred via Governor's Executive order with an additional 90 parcels in the queue. We continue to work with DLNR to identify additional lands appropriate for transfer under the spirit of this program and would be working with the ADC to determine the best uses for the identified lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

