

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii  
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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HOUSING  
&  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2012  
2:45 P.M.  
ROOM 229

**SENATE BILL NO. 3072**  
RELATING TO LAND

Chairpersons Dela Cruz and Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 3072. The purpose of this bill is to transfer title of all lands in the Waiahole valley agricultural park from the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) to the Department of Agriculture (DOA). The department respectfully opposes this bill.

The department understands the intent of this bill. Unfortunately, it will be difficult for the DOA to support acceptance of the subject lands and encumbrances unless it conforms to our existing land management programs. There are two land management programs in DOA, the Agricultural Park Program (Chapter 166, HRS) and the Non-Agricultural Park Lands Program (Chapter 166E, HRS), the latter of which was established specifically to receive public lands from the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Both programs and their respective administrative rules strictly limit the use of public lands to agricultural or aquacultural activities or purposes. Farm dwellings or employee housing are often not allowed. There is also a requirement that the majority of the total annual income of lessees come from agricultural and aquacultural activities. The purpose, rules, and management of these public lands by DOA are clearly supportive of agricultural production and, unlike the privately-owned lands under the IAL



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law, are not subject to reclassification, subdivision, lack of monitoring, and special permitted uses.

The DOA strives to maintain the integrity of its agricultural land management programs and any designated IAL public lands transferred from the Department of Land and Natural Resources. The Department does not want the public lands under its jurisdiction to possess or be subject to uses and activities that would jeopardize the department's mission to meet the statutory purpose and intent of its agricultural land management programs.

All this being stated, the Department is willing to work with HHFDC to determine if there is another reasonable alternative to address the situation. If you would consider deferring immediate action on this measure, it would allow the agencies to work on a possible resolution.



**Hawaii Farm Bureau**  
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FEBRUARY 2, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING

TESTIMONY ON SB 3072  
RELATING TO LANDS

Room 229  
2:45 PM

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF supports SB 3072, which transfers title of certain lands in the Waiahole valley agricultural park from the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to the Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

From an agricultural industry standpoint, we believe that HDOA is the more appropriate state agency that should have the authority to manage public lands within the agricultural land use district currently managed by Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation. HFBF believes that HDOA is better positioned to develop Waiahole Valley Agricultural park to its fullest potential.

I can be reached at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.