

**LATE
TESTIMONY**

HB 111

Margaret Wille
Council Member
District 9 - North and South Kohala



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i

*Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720*

*Holomua Center
64-1067 Mamalahoa Highway, Suite C-5
Waimea, Hawai'i 96743*

*West Hawai'i Civic Center Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i, 96740*

LATE

March 12, 2013

Aloha Senator Solomon,

I hope mid-session finds you well.

I am writing about a House Bill of interest that I have been following, which has been referred to your Committee on Water and Land.

If you read it as I do, HB111 HD 2 would add another tool in the county's tool box, help spur innovative sustainable development, promote affordable housing, allow flexibility in the building code on agricultural lands under the county's jurisdiction and move towards our common goals of water conservation and grey water adoption.

I have been told that the Sustainable Living Research concept proposed would provide an alternative to the expense and length of the special-use permit process, which has caused frustration for individuals pursuing this type of development. The bill would still give the County of Hawai'i Planning Dept and Planning Commissions as well as the Department of Health sufficient oversight to safeguard the public health and protect consumers through the Sustainable Living Research permitting process.

Rep. Hanohano introduced this, and I believe it would benefit our constituents in North Kohala and South Kohala.

I have attached testimony I made to the House Committee on Finance on this proposal in my capacity as Chair of the Agriculture, Water and Energy Sustainability Committee for your reference.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Margaret Wille

MW/dh
att.

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Council Member
District 9 - North and South Kohala



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Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i, 96740

LATE

House Committee on Finance
Wednesday February 27th, 2013; 11:30am Rm 308
SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS FOR HB111 HD2
Relating to a Sustainable Alternative Building Code

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee,

My name is Maragret Wille, Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Committee on Agriculture, Water and Energy Sustainability, testifying in SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS of HB111 HD2: Relating to a Sustainable Alternative Building Code.

DESCRIPTION:

The measure permits the development of sustainable living research sites on land parcels between 1 to 15 acres in size that shall be exempt from certain state and county regulations but shall remain subject to county approval and oversight in order to stimulate research and development of sustainable living ideas, concepts, and innovations testing.

COMMENTS:

This bill is a measured approach that seeks to foster a climate of mutual respect and compliance between public health and zoning regulators and sustainability pioneers. HB111 HD2 enables innovators to practice and test ways of living that are ecological, sustainable and affordable, but currently outside of existing codes, while working in close coordination and approval of county planning departments and state department of health to ensure the public safety. The intent is to spur new research and development in sustainable affordable living research.

I suggest amending HB111 HD2 to clarify that lands eligible for permitting as sustainable living research sites are ONLY those under the jurisdiction of the respective county planning departments and not the state land use commission:

"Sustainable living research site" means an area that is:

(1) Between one and fifteen acres in size; in the agricultural, rural and urban districts;

March 22, 2013

Page 2 of 2

Of particular concern to the Finance Committee: Rulemaking by the county planning departments under HRS Chapter 91 can and should address the retroactive permitting of currently non-compliant properties that would qualify as sustainable living research sites, which are numerous in Hawai'i County. Legal compliance via HB111 HD2 will then allow for increased conveyance and bank financing of said properties as well as eligibility for certain R&D grantmaking which require properties to be fully permitted.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Margaret Wille
Council Member District 9
North & South Kohala

Piikea Tomczyk

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 11:50 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: anthonymarzi@easthawaii.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB111 on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM

HB111

Submitted on: 3/21/2013
Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Marzi	East Hawaii Community Development Corporation	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this measure.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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L A T E

Cynthia Marlin, Libertarian Party of Hawaii Big Island Coordinator

Water and Land committee
March 21st at 1:30 pm.

RE: HB 111

Aloha Chair Senator Malama Soloman,
Vice Chair Senator Maile Shimabukuro, and members of the committee,

The Libertarian Party supports the intent of HB111 for the following reasons:

- Many of the existing building codes are cumbersome and restrict people from freely pursuing a lifestyle that does no harm to others.
- Though we would prefer to see a repeal many of the building codes, this research bill which would allow study of alternative practices and provide a step in that direction.
- It is prudent to bring current zoning and land use codes into compliance with local community values.

Thanks for your consideration,
Cynthia Verschuur Marlin

Piikea Tomczyk

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 11:38 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: mojo@hedonisiahawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB111 on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM

HB111

Submitted on: 3/21/2013
 Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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Mojo Mustapha	Hedonisia Hawaii Sustainable Community	Support	No
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Comments: I support this bill for these reasons - Benefits from sustainable living research will include: an increase in real 'affordable' and sustainable green housing, Increases in employment in small business sustainable enterprises, the growth of small locally owned farms that educate and employ a new breed of young farmers, additional protection for consumers from the disruptions in transport of supplies to Hawaii islands, reduced dependence on imports of food and energy by promoting locally sustainable alternatives, an improvement in the island's landfill problems by increasing ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle. - We would like to not be treated as criminals because our community based agricultural eco-tourism model is very popular and is a wonderful alternative to the traditional hotel based tourism in Hawaii which has a very high environmental impact. Mahalo for your support of this bill, Mojo Mustapha

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Piikea Tomczyk

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To: WTLTestimony
Cc: iAmCarey.LT@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB111 on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM

HB111

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carey Lillis Tinsley	Sky island Ranch	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo!

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Piikea Tomczyk

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Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 9:04 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: worldofintuition@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB111 on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM*

HB111

Submitted on: 3/21/2013
Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tristan Graham	Honu World Yard Service	Support	No

Comments:

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Piikea Tomczyk

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 7:08 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: hawaii@oneisland.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB111 on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM

HB111

Submitted on: 3/21/2013
 Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marcy Montgomery	One Island	Support	No

Comments: Please support HB 111. Sustainable Living Research Sites need State approval to enable these demonstration models for community design and green economic practices to grow , thrive and contribute to the economy and wellbeing of Hawaii. Similar zoning legislation in mainland states has been successful in supporting the creation of multi-use community ag/residential developments. I've visited mainland co-housing compounds with cottage industry and agricultural businesses that are models that could effectively be replicated in Hawaii. These centers emphasize ohana principles of stewardship and multi-generational support networking. Your vote will support innovation and solution-driven efforts that can help Hawaii in many important ways, including building independent living skills. thank you

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Piikea Tomczyk

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To: WTLTestimony
Cc: clivechi3@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB111 on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM*

HB111

Submitted on: 3/20/2013
Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clive Cheetham	Koa'e Community Association	Support	No

Comments:

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Piikea Tomczyk

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 12:47 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: daleb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB111 on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM*

HB111

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Bonar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Piikea Tomczyk

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Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 7:56 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: wow3459@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB111 on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM

HB111

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Higgins	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please vote in support of this bill.

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Piikea Tomczyk

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Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 7:52 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: shan_higgins@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB111 on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM

HB111

Submitted on: 3/21/2013
 Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Higgins	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a freshman at the University of Hawaii Hilo, maintaining a 4.0 GPA, and I STRONGLY support this bill. Please vote in favor...for Hawaii's future, for our children's future, and for my future. Mahalo nui!

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Piikea Tomczyk

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To: WTLTestimony
Cc: gregselfa69@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB111 on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM

HB111

Submitted on: 3/20/2013

Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 21, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
greg self	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Senator Malama Soloman, Vice Chair Senator Maile Shimabukuro, and members of the committee, I support this bill for these reasons: • Over the past five years, sustainable development has found favor with an increasing number of national and international organizations, • State Legislature adopted the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan in 2008. We now need more tools to implement and to experiment in sustainability. • Benefits from sustainable living research will include: an increase in real 'affordable' and sustainable green housing, Increases in employment in small business sustainable enterprises, the growth of small locally owned farms that educate and employ a new breed of young farmers, additional protection for consumers from the disruptions in transport of supplies to Hawaii islands, reduced dependence on imports of food and energy by promoting locally sustainable alternatives, an improvement in the island's landfill problems by increasing ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle. • it will promote the development of think tanks focusing on sustainable research and development. • Now is the time to bring current zoning and land use codes into compliance with local community values. • Improve our State disaster preparedness by researching and developing practices to alleviate impacts due to a state of emergency. Mahalo for your support of this bill,

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L A T E

Testimony for HB111

February 4, 2013

Dena Smith Givens

veganmom@gmail.com

Aloha!

I am writing today to express my support of HB111, the "Sustainable Living Research Bill."

As a single mother of six children (four of which are still living at home with me), life is both a great joy and an occasional challenge. One of the daunting tasks that I face is properly providing a home for my family with the resources that I currently have.

I am incredibly fortunate and grateful to have made a home within an artistic ecovillage, located in lower Puna on the Big Island of Hawaii. I live in a quaint cottage, which is nestled amid several other such modest living structures. There are currently a total of about 20 adults and 10 children living together on our land.

My children walk to school every day (which is located onsite) and safely play within the boundaries of our land, knowing that there is always someone there for them nearby.

Our ecovillage is based on a desire to live interdependently, rather than independently. It's about caring and sharing, giving and receiving, thriving not just surviving. This revolutionary community structure provides me with invaluable support that I could never duplicate in a traditional neighborhood setting.

The problem is that our homes are threatened because what we have created here is so innovative and advanced that our current archaic laws have not caught up with us. This is where we need YOUR help!

Please know that we are not alone. There are dozens of such intentional communities sprinkled throughout Hawaii. Most are too fearful of condemnation and retaliation to advocate for themselves.

In these times of ecological and political distress and uncertainty, we have a strong need for sustainability pioneers. We are stepping forward into that role. We need support from our local and state government so that we can continue to experiment and innovate vital community building dynamics in order to provide valuable solutions for our future...a sustainable future.

Mahalo nui for your consideration & support of HB111.

And a bit more food for thought...

"Would I a house for happiness erect,
Nature alone should be my architect,
She'd build it more convenient than great,
And doubtless in the country choose her seat."

- Horace, 20 B.C.

"I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait till oil and coal run out before we tackle that." - *Thomas Edison*

"In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations." - *From The Great Law of The Iroquois Confederacy*