

**LATE**

## Testimony for Support of HB1365

My name is Alan Joaquin, I am the Founder of FarmRoof, a local Hawaii business that specializes in designing, installing and maintaining sustainable rooftop farms. I have over 23 years of experience in the agriculture, horticulture, landscape & environmental protection industries and have worked extensively throughout the State of Hawaii on Private, City, County, State & Federal contracts. I would like to voice my support for the proposed rooftop farm on the 5th floor of the State Capitol.

Symbolically, there's no better place to plant the seeds for a sustainable Hawaii. Structurally, it makes perfect sense. I have performed several site visits of the 5th Floor of the Capitol and reviewed preliminary drawings and engineering data of the Capitol alongside a Hawaii licensed structural engineer.

In my professional opinion, there should be no concerns about a rooftop farm adding unsafe weight to the rooftop of the Capitol. The existing rooftop is more than strong enough to accommodate a modern day modular green roof system. The addition of a green roof system on the 5th floor could actually help combat costly structural and drainage issues and could even reduce the overall weight of the rooftop.

During my site visits I have observed severe roof drainage issues that are directly related to the existing planter boxes and accompanying irrigation systems. These planter boxes are extremely heavy and directly contribute to the drainage and structural issues currently plaguing the roof of the Capitol. The existing planters present a maintenance challenge, add unnecessary weight, contribute to excessive water accumulation, and do not provide any real calculable or measurable benefits to the public.

While I believe that the existing planter boxes could be repaired and a rooftop farm could be installed in conjunction with the planter boxes, a formal structural analysis must be made to officially determine all of the load bearing limitations. Should the formal structural analysis dictate a need to avoid any additional weight being added to the rooftop, a viable option worth considering would be to replace the existing planter boxes with a modular rooftop farming system. This option would eliminate the structural and drainage issues caused by the existing planter boxes and would allow for an unobstructed rooftop farm installation that would weigh the same as or less than the existing planter boxes.

With respect to concerns about a rooftop farm causing the roof to leak, a modern day modular rooftop farm would in fact provide a secondary level of waterproofing to the Capitol's rooftop. It's a win win scenario because that would make it more resistant to leakage and extend the lifespan of the rooftop.

In my opinion, a rooftop farm would greatly benefit the Public by causing a “Ripple Effect” on our legislative system. Imagine a rooftop farm at the State Capitol growing hyper-local organic produce for Lawmakers and Staffers and being distributed through an on-site Community Supported Agriculture, or “CSA” program. Our lawmakers and their families would enjoy healthy, sustainable produce that was grown literally above their heads. This intimate relationship with urban farming would have a profound positive impact on how our lawmakers would look at issues that concern agriculture, healthy eating, sustainable development, and environmental stewardship. A rooftop farm at the Capitol has the potential to define, shape and inspire laws that would be beneficial to the People of Hawaii for generations to come.

While Lawmakers and Staffers would have the opportunity to “get their hands dirty”, a rooftop farm at the State Capitol would have the ability to engage others in our community as well. Imagine the educational attributes of having a working organic farm at the Capitol. It would be the ultimate “living classroom”. School children could visit and learn about how food is grown, what types of foods are healthy, and why they should eat local. Workshops could be held which would give children the basic skills to go home and plant some of their own food. Give a child some food and feed her for a day. Teach a child to grow and feed her for life.

Imagine the example this rooftop farm would make to our State’s planning, developing, and building industries. A rooftop farm at the State Capitol would be a model for Hawaii and for the world. The idea of a rooftop farm at the Capitol may be “Pie in the Sky” to some of you, but it is in fact doable, affordable, and it is time.

Support this vision, support this change, support Hawaii’s Future, support this bill.

Thank you for your time today, it was an honor to speak in support of this very important bill.

Alan Joaquin

**FINTestimony**

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 9:02 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** Ablukens@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1365 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM\*

**HB1365**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ashley Lukens	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

## FINTestimony

---

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 9:12 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** hoalike5@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1365 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM

### **HB1365**

Submitted on: 2/22/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Barter	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Instead of a rooftop garden at the State Capitol I think a Solar Voltaic system should be installed on the roof, which would help the environment and save the State and taxpayers money.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)