



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014
10:01 A.M.
Room 312
HOUSE BILL NO. 2560, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2560, House Draft 1. This bill permits family child care homes on all agriculturally designated districts, if the care home is located in a farm dwelling constructed prior to July 1, 2014. The Department of Agriculture does not support legislation that seeks to establish uses and activities on agricultural land that have no relationship to agricultural production. We believe the existing special permit process described in Section 205-6 is the appropriate means by which uses such as that described in this measure may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.



onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: Sylvie Berg <sylvierauber@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 2:04 PM
To: AGRtestimony

My name is Sylvie Berg As a family child care provider who has provided services for families in our rural community for 7 years, I am in strong support of HB 2560 because it expands the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include family child care homes. I provide care for so many families. I would like to be able to move if needed without to check the zoning.

thank you

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 7:10 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: icalkins@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2560 on Feb 10, 2014 10:01AM
Attachments: .~lock.DEMOCRATIC PARTY LINE.odt#

HB2560

Submitted on: 2/6/2014

Testimony for AGR on Feb 10, 2014 10:01AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
IRA CALKINS	Individual	Support	No

Comments: IRA CALKINS INNER-GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCH 730 Captain Cook Ave Unit 426 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2161 808-4696434 808-3498667 FAX 5454707 Washington D.C. 202-697-9782 It does not matter what the people think, the Democratic Party has already decided for us on all bills before the State of Hawaii Legislature . The chairman's in all committee meetings has a script to follow that the Speaker of the House, and the Speaker of the Senate has given the Committee Chairs to follow, to instruct the committee how to vote on a any given bill in all committees of the State of Hawaii Legislature. It is determined ahead of time by the Democratic Party how a committee will vote on any given bill in the State of Hawaii Legislature there is no democracy in this state, no will of the people. It appears the Legislators are being black mailed in to voting the Democratic party line or the Democratic Party will not support them in there next election. Ira Calkins

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Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

Committee on Agriculture

Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date
Monday, February 10, 2014
10:01 AM in Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Wooley and Members of the Agricultural Committee:

My name is Shay Chan Hodges and I have been a Maui resident for twenty-two years, with the majority of that time spent Upcountry and on the North Shore. I have two sons who currently attend King Kekaulike High School, both of whom have been served by a variety of educational, day care, and recreational programs in this community.

For the majority of my years as a working mother in Hawaii, I have written grants for nonprofits in the human services arena. I also owned and operated **Maui Child Toys and Books** for six years in Makawao Town, and last November, published an ebook about the economic aspects of work and parenting called *Lean On and Lead, Mothering and Work in the 21st Century Economy*.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with child care providers in the Haiku, Makawao, and Pukalani areas to learn more about the issues that impact their ability to provide care for the children of Maui residents. While there are a number of issues that create challenges for those who provide family child care in their homes, the issue that is currently the most pressing for the majority of providers is the newly enforced requirement of a special use permit for those on agricultural land.

Most of the providers I spoke with who are on agricultural land do not have the funds, time, or expertise required to obtain the special use permit needed to continue to provide child care services. (**The initial fee for starting an application is \$550**, with additional costs adding up almost immediately.) In fact, more than one provider has chosen to close rather than lose her license; others are in fear of what the future holds as they do not see how they will be able to complete the permitting process; and I know of at least one who would like to move but cannot -- because almost all of the land in our community is zoned agricultural. Some providers may actually risk losing their homes.

This situation is particularly upsetting because many parents prefer the family-style atmosphere of child care in a private home; most providers are highly qualified and many had been providing services from their agricultural location for as many as twenty years; parents in our community prefer the wide open country-feeling spaces of agricultural land; and there are currently not enough care options available for the families on Maui.

From my own personal experience, my work with families, and my recent research on families and the economy, I know that laws like this can have a far-reaching domino effect on our communities. The unintended consequences of policies that discourage qualified individuals from offering care to Maui's working families are numerous. In addition to reducing work opportunities for child care providers (in a still difficult economy) and creating barriers for parents to work and provide for their families, reduced child care options means that our community also loses out on the intellectual "working" capital of our residents.

Child care providers represent a very important component of our early learning infrastructure, and have a profound impact on the success of our island community. Just one provider may serve as many as a dozen families. (Although providers are limited to caring for six children at a time, many children attend daycare part-time.) Considering that both parents work in most families, that means the loss of one provider can impact the ability of a few dozen individuals to work. Those individuals are teachers, firefighters, police officers, legislators, workers in retail and the visitor industry, doctors, nurses, employees of the renewable energy sectors, and of course farmers and agricultural workers of all kinds.

In my ebook, *Lean On and Lead*, I present a variety of first person narratives and interactive data that describe what parents need to significantly participate in the economy while raising children. Individuals interviewed include working women, mothers, and fathers from around the world who represent a broad variety of occupations, as well as some Hawaii residents: Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui, Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, Senator Brian Schatz, and Maui District 2010 Teacher of the Year Emily Haines-Swatek.

The stories told in the interviews make it very clear how important the support of working parents is to our economy. Further, they describe in detail the vital role child care plays when it comes to parents' work options – regardless of income or profession.

Please note also, that in our agricultural communities, family-based child care is not only often the preferred form of care due to the fact that it aligns with many rural families' values and lifestyles, it is one of the primary forms of care available on the neighbor islands. In the agricultural area of Kula, there are only two child care centers– Fun 2, 3 and Kamehameha Schools Preschool. In Makawao, there is only St. Joseph Preschool, and in Haiku, there is only ROOTS preschool. These centers do not have enough space to meet the needs of our families. If family child care providers are forced to close, families who live in agricultural communities will have to travel outside of their communities to find care. Many of these individuals do not work "in town." Having to

commute for child care will increase the amount of care that they need due to travel time, as well as impact the amount of quality time that they will be able to spend with their children.

Importantly, we need more family-based child care providers in our communities than we currently have – not less. Starting in August, when the minimum age for kindergarteners increases, the need for providers will be even higher. I spoke with a kindergarten teacher at Kula School yesterday who informed me that there will be approximately twenty-five additional children in that community who need child care, and if their parents are not able to find care, not only will the parents' work opportunities be affected, their children's access to early education will also be impacted, and those children will not be prepared for kindergarten once they are old enough.

And finally, when it comes to preparing our children for the future, if we want to preserve our rural and agricultural way of life, the best form of care will clearly be in an agricultural setting. Providing an environment that teaches children to respect and understand the values of farming, giving even the youngest members of our community opportunities to be responsible for other living things, and fostering love for what is unique about our islands from the start will provide enormous benefits to all of us in the future.

I had the opportunity to meet with some child care providers this weekend, and one of them had provided care for my younger son fifteen years ago. I would guess that in the last fifteen years, she has helped raise close to a hundred children, and provided invaluable support to that many families. It is time for us to return the favor.

In our efforts to support healthy communities, children who are loved and well-cared for, and a strong economy, we should be working to pass legislation that provides every possible support to family child care providers -- not creating financial and other barriers to their success.

I strongly urge you to expand the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include providing family child care in the caregivers' homes.

Mahalo,
Shay Chan Hodges

Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

Committee on Agriculture

Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date
Monday, February 10, 2014
10:01 AM in Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Wooley, Vice-Chair Onishi and Members of the Agricultural Committee:

My name is Ian Chan Hodges and I am testifying in support of HB 2560 because it seeks to expand the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include family child care in the residences of the providers. In Hawaii's rural, agricultural communities, particularly on the neighbor islands, family child care providers offer an invaluable service to working families—providing quality care and early learning to young children in our rural, agricultural communities and enabling parents to work. This is of particular importance to families who are involved in farming and ranching, whether on a full-time or part-time basis.

In fact, the availability of quality, home-based family child care in Hawaii's rural, agricultural communities is critical to perpetuating our agricultural heritage in a manner that increases food security — putting local food on local plates — as well as providing early learning that helps to ensure that the next generation is willing and able to take responsibility in the future for our local farms and ranches.

I would like to respectfully request that the following changes be made to the current language found in HD1:

Remove the restriction that family child care is only permitted in farm dwellings constructed prior to July 1, 2014. If it is good policy to allow for family child care in agriculturally zoned communities, which I believe it is, there does not seem to be a good policy reason for not allowing family child care in newly constructed (and properly permitted) farm dwellings within agriculturally designated zones.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes
Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date
Monday, February 10, 2014
10:01 AM in Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Wooley and Members of the Agricultural Committee.

Thank you for hearing HB 2560 and for the opportunity to testify before your committee.

My name is Lissa Strohecker and I wanted to express my strong support of HB 2560 in favor of expanding the use of the residential portion of agriculturally zoned property to allow for child care facilities without the burden of additional permitting.

Our son attends a daycare on land currently zoned for agricultural use and we chose this day care in part because of the setting. It's quiet and peaceful and he has learned where his bananas and oranges come from because he attends such a day care. I do not see how having children in such a setting would adversely affect the agricultural use of the land, in fact I hope that children will develop an early appreciation of growing their own food.

Additionally, the convenience of both the location-in the agricultural community we live in, and the affordability are very important factors in our choice of day care and I would encourage you not to jeopardize the future of such a facility.

Thank you for your consideration in the matter.

Lissa Strohecker

Makawao, HI

Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

Committee on Agriculture

Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date

Monday, February 10, 2014

[10:01 AM](#) in Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Wooley and Members of the Agricultural Committee:

Thank you for hearing HB 2560 and for the opportunity for me to submit my testimony to your committee.

My name is Theresa Thompson and my family has been ranching on Maui for three generations. I am writing to encourage you PASS this Bill 2560 to allow childcare centers in Agricultural areas. It expands the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include providing family childcare in caregivers' homes. It is important to have my child close, in a loving environment, while I am working outside of the home.

The permitting process is costly and time-consuming, and a number of providers have already had to shut their doors. If the law is not changed, many more providers will likely close, and many would-be child care providers will be discouraged from attempting to begin offering their services to the community.

Raising children around farms and animals and teaching them to respect an agricultural lifestyle perpetuates our rural lifestyle, cultural traditions, and helps support future generations of farmers and ranchers.

We live in a rural community; ensuring that we have childcare options in our community supports us as workers and parents.

Please consider passing HB 2560 so we can continue to raise and keep our children happy in our agricultural communities.

Thank you for your support and for making sure that the voices of our rural communities are heard.

Sincerely,
Theresa Thompson

From: yuana garvin <ygarvin@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 5:36 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: In support of House Bill 2560

Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes
Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date
Monday, February 10, 2014
10:01 AM in Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Wooley and Members of the Agricultural Committee.

Thank you for hearing HB 2560 and for the opportunity to testify before your committee.

My name is Yuana GARVIN, and I have been a daycare provider since seven years as well as the single mom of two boys, aged 16 and 18, since their dad died, seven year ago. I am writing to encourage you to pass this important bill, HB 2560, and in doing so expand the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include family child care homes.

My interest in education started at the beginning of my adult life. Born and raised in France I was for a few years an Art and History teacher in a professional high school before marrying an American citizen and making Maui my home.

I am a passionate believer in early childhood education as opposed to childhood training. By this I mean that children need to experiment life and not only learn about it. We need children who find their own questions and our job is to provide them with the tools which will enable them to find the answers.

In my home, I receive 5 days a week 6 children aged one to three and a half. I speak French to them and feed them organic meals. There is no TV here. The daycare is the first place for a child to interact with a wider group than his family but at the same time this is a small and intimate enough setting for the child to feel nurtured, loved uniquely.

At that age children discover their whole body and their senses as well as their curiosity are open wide. This is why the choice of an environment is so primordial and what better place than a natural setting where these little ones can observe insects, birds, farm animals, pick their own fruit ? HERE is a deep understanding of life. HERE is the place where they can run and shout and laugh. HERE is the place where they are going to invent a game with some stick. HERE is the place where they can isolate themselves under a tree just to watch,

feel the wind or take a breath. HERE is the place where they learn to share a place with other, learn to be independent and creative, learn to share but remained protected.

I deeply care about my work and believe that I found on this land its ideal setting. I am also aware that, as a renter, it would be almost impossible for me to find another place willing willing to accept this kind of structure. If we are refused the right to work on agricultural lands or if another tax is imposed on us, I then will have to close.

But then what will happen to these family depending on my services ? All of them work upcountry, teachers, self employed people, will they have to add to their day of work the two hours of trips downtown ? Most of upcountry area is on agricultural zoning.

Another point which I think deserve your attention is the fact that Maui is already short of family daycare providers. Few people are tempted by this work. This is a calling as the income is very low and the risks very high. We are alone, have to get insurances, pay excise taxes, we have yearly surprise visits by the DHS who inspect all the areas of our daycare and for those like me who serve meals, three more surprise visits from PATCH. We comply to it all, these control are absolutely necessary and we welcome them but another tax would mean our end.

Thank you for your support and for making sure family child care providers have a voice here in Hawaii.

Sincerely

Yuana GARVIN

From: Winifred Cambra <lw.cambra@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2014 11:12 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: HB 2560

Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

Committee on Agriculture

Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date
Monday, February 10, 2014
10:01 AM in Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Wooley and Members of the Agricultural Committee:

Thank you for hearing HB 2560 and for the opportunity to testify before your committee.

My name is Winifred Cambra. I have provided services for families in our rural community as a family childcare provider for fourteen years. I am also a parent, former Preschool teacher and my family have done ranching in the past as a second income. I am in strong support of HB 2560 because it expands the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include family child care homes. Presently I provide care for eight families. As a licensed childcare provider I can only provide services to six children daily. This does not have any major impact with traffic, noise, etc. in my rural community. Being able to do childcare on our Ag zoned property has allowed me to stay home to care for my two special needs children when needed. It has also provided an opportunity for children in my care to experience rural living. I strongly believe the children in my care are the lucky ones. They get to physically interact and visually see a different way of living from what they're accustomed to and at the same time they learn to respect an agricultural lifestyle. Children in my care are presented with opportunities to experience goats being pregnant, and having two and three kids at once, seeing them being nursed, feeding a goat with a bottle, seeing a horse being led by a ATV, hearing roosters crow, cows moo throughout the day, they learn not to be afraid of livestock, how to garden etc. What a blessing it would be for parents to continue to have the option to send their child daily to a childcare provider who lives in a rural community having the quiet open spaces with no traffic and few housing.

We providers living on Ag zoned areas provide an invaluable service to working families-providing quality care and early learning to children in our local communities. It will be very devastating for Family childcare homes, and working parents if House Bill 2560 don't get passed. Our services allows parents which includes farmers and ranchers to work which impacts the economy. Parents need options of care

that are in their communities. Without these options they will have to deal with various issues related to extra time in childcare and driving. Where will all these children go if we providers do not continue to offer childcare. Presently there are families that cannot or have a difficult time in finding childcare. If we stop our services our clients will have a difficult time in finding Family childcare homes with openings to accommodate their children. The permitting process is costly and time-consuming, and a number of providers have already had to shut their doors. If the law is not changed, many more providers will likely close, and many would-be child care providers will be discouraged from attempting to begin offering their services to the community.

We live in a rural community; ensuring that we have child care options in our community supports us as workers and parents. I ask that you support HB 2560.

Thank you for your support and for making sure family childcare providers have a voice here in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Winifred Cambra

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2014 5:02 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: sonyaniess@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2560 on Feb 10, 2014 10:01AM

HB2560

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for AGR on Feb 10, 2014 10:01AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sonya Niess	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the expansion to include Ag zone areas so that they do not have to get a special use permit. Especially in the outer islands it is hard to find day care and many of our zoning areas are Agricultural. Thank you. Sonya Niess, MPH

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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onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: Scarlet Wells <scarletveaudry@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2014 2:43 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony for Bill 2560

Aloha,

I am a parent and this bill, 2560 is in dire need of passing for our community on Maui. My children have been attending the same daycare on agricultural land for the last 4 years. I am in strong support of HB 2560 because this will allow wonderful childcare providers to keep their licenses and continue to provide wonderful care to our children on Maui.

Thank you for your support.

All my best,
Scarlet Wells

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: rbell11@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 9:36 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Aloha,

My name is Rebecca Bell and I run a licensed family child care program in Haiku HI. I have been licensed for 6 years now. I moved here from Oregon 11 years ago where I used to teach pre school and supervised an infant toddler program, and was head director for the afterschool program at our local elementary school as well as the site camp director for the summer camp at Wayne Morse Ranch, all which is ran through the City of Eugene.

I worked at Children of the Rainbow in Lahaina as a teachers assistant for a couple years and then went on maternity leave to have my baby girl Maiya. Well when Maiya was a baby she was diagnosed with stage four neuroblastoma cancer and I was forced to move to Oahu and basically live at either Kaiser or Kapiolani during her 8 courses of chemo and surgeries. I so wanted to come home to Maui but the doctors told us Maui is just not equipped to take care of kids with cancer so Oahu was our temporary home. (Thank goodness for Hanai family) Well she beat the cancer like I knew she would but the mama inside of me didnt want to leave her but I knew I needed to provide for my family as I have 2 other daughters as well. So I thought I have this space what a great place to have a little daycare/pre-school and use all my education and experience with young children and at the same time help families here that need daycare and keep my little one close to me incase symptoms arose that no one else would see but me. So I told Maiya, You know how mama used to teach pre-school, and she said ya mama why and I said to her, I think I am going to start a pre-school/daycare program here from our home to help all the mama's and daddies here and I was just hoping that you could help give it a name? and at 3 years old she puts her finger on her little chin in a thought process and says hmmmmmm I think it should be called Little Miracles Mama! I about cried right there on the spot as that is what I have always told her from her first chemo treatment at 6 months old. "You can do this baby girl! You are my little miracle! It floored me when she said it and it made sense as well. So I opened my daycare doors after complying with all of DHS laws. Now I have been in business for 6 years now and I cant imagine doing anything else. I am a single parent raising 3 daughters. I am also a second parent to many families who rely on me to care for their child as if they were my own and I dont take that task lightly. I love all my babies and when a child enrolls here , I usually get them at a very young age and they stay with Auntie Rebecca until they go off to kindergarten. From all my years of experience, parents feel safe and secure with their little ones being taken care of in a family child care setting, especially when they are so little. Its almost like they are going to there second home in a sense. To shut down upcountry daycares just b ecause we are on ag land makes no sense to me. What better place whould you want your babies to be while you are at work but in the country, running around, getting dirty, planting gardens, learning to cook, making lifelong friends, and having an auntie who is like your second mama and treats you as such. My babies here may not be MY babies, but they always will be in my heart! This is what you get from a home based child care provider. So much love, compassion, and the love of what we are blessed to have around us everyday, THE CHILDREN!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Bell

From: Rachel Czar <rachelczar@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 9:23 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: HB 2560

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2560
Relating to Family Child Care Homes

Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date
Monday, February 10, 2014
10am in Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Wooley and Members of the Agricultural Committee.

My name is Rachel Czar. I am a teacher and a single mother and sole provider for my two young children. My youngest child is in a wonderful home daycare located in a cottage on agriculturally zoned property. The daycare provider is offering an invaluable service to myself and five other lucky families. She has the children outside most of the day in the beautiful rural setting, which is why I chose her to care for both of my children (my daughter is now in kindergarten).

Our home daycare provider, and many others who are located on agriculturally zoned land, are providing a much needed service to the working parents in this community. Finding adequate, affordable childcare is already a tedious process because of the limited number of options available. If the permitted uses are not expanded to include these childcare homes on ag. land there will be even fewer options for the working families.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of HB 2560.

Sincerely,

Rachel Czar

PO Box 1496

Puunene, HI 96784

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: Marasco <info@marascomusic.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 12:44 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Upcountry Daycare

Hello

My name is Pio Marasco

Po box 480

Haiku,Hi 96708

I would like to point the fact of how important is for us to have daycare service upcountry. We have our little girl at Little Miracles daycare in Haiku.

The place is great and our daughter enjoy it a lot. My wife and I both work and it's very convenient to be so close to home.

Moving our daughter to Kahului it could be pretty much impossible for us due to our work schedule.

I hope you will consider this email, thank you so much Bests Pio Marasco

Marasco

info@marascomusic.com

Po Box 480

Haiku,Hi 96708

Sent from my space device

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: Moana <moanaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 7:12 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Yes to Child care on AG land

Aloha,

My name is Moana Wietecha. I grew up in Haiku, Maui. Haiku is a very densely populated AG zoned area in which many local middle-class families reside. Haiku is a beautiful country side of Maui filled with charm and old Hawai'i ways. Many residents farm, grow and raise their own food. It's a place where self sustainability is more often practiced than anywhere else in Maui county. The youth in this area are constantly exposed to gardens, farm animals and natural resources. They witness the efforts of farmers, homesteaders and yard workers on a daily basis. Many of my friends as well as family members rely on day cares in this area while they are at work. Most daycares in this area have excellent reviews. AG lands offer space, beauty and safety to insure a healthy and proper daycare set-up. Because of Haiku's isolation from the rustle and bustle of our more populated towns of Wailuku and Kahului finding reliable daycare is a constant challenge. Restricting this service on AG lands would cutoff many of our counties most prized daycares. It would not only add more of a burden on parents, but on daycare providers alike. I urge you to please consider this as many families will be affected by this decision in a negative way.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Moana

Sent from my iPhone

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: Michele Golberg <mgolberg@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 8:45 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony for daycare on Ag land

To Whom it may concern,

I have had my daughter, who is almost 20 months old now, in a home-style daycare here in Haiku since she was only 7 weeks old. She thrives in this home setting which also provides a nice big open space for the kids to play and run around outside. Even though I work in town (Kahului), Little Miracles Childcare is only a mile from our home and close to my son's school. This saves not only on time and gas, but eliminates having her sit in the car for long commutes twice a day.

It has been brought to my attention that because Little Miracles is on Agricultural Land, new permits are now being required in order to run the daycare on this land. Little Miracles is run by Rebecca Bell, a single mother of three children, who cannot afford the cost nor has the time or expertise required to obtain these permits. Her daycare is open from 7:00am – 5:30pm Monday through Friday. there are very few options for daycare here in Haiku especially with these hours.

Keeping her daycare open and properly licensed are critically important to me and my family. If the daycare is not able to keep it's license because of these permit requirements, it will not be providing the same level of service to me and the other families.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Golberg
808-575-9324

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: Melani_Palmer/MAKAWAO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 9:23 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: HB 2560

Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

Committee on Agriculture

Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date
Monday, February 10, 2014
[10:01 AM](#) in Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Wooley and Members of the Agricultural Committee:

Thank you for hearing HB 2560 and for the opportunity for me to submit my testimony to your committee. *My name is Melani Palmer. My family has lived on and worked on agricultural land in Ulupalakua for over 20 years. My husband and I raised our three children in our upcountry community. All three of my children attended daycare in agriculturally zoned lands. What's the problem?*

*I am writing to encourage you to **PASS this Bill 2560** to allow childcare centers in agricultural areas. It expands the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include providing family childcare in caregivers' homes. The process for obtaining childcare licensing is rigorous, costly and difficult as it stands. Many providers have already had to close and future providers will be discouraged with yet another hoop to negotiate. Our community is increasingly in need of childcare facilities. Our state and community has off and on through the years experienced shortages of childcare situations. We will continue to need daycare facilities in our community in the future.*

We live in a rural community. Supporting and encouraging childcare opportunities in our community, supports us as workers and parents.

Please consider passing HB 2560 so we can continue to raise and keep our children happy in our agricultural communities.

Thank you for your support and for making sure that the voices of our rural communities are heard.

Sincerely,
Melani Palmer
Sincerely,
Melani Palmer

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mary matis <sismatis@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 8:16 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Proposed tax on AG land Day Care

As a grandmother living on Maui, one of the first things I took notice of when I moved to Hawaii, 8 years ago, was the need for young parents to have access to affordable day care in order for their families to grow and thrive.

The need still exceeds the opportunity here on Maui. Many young families here have few if any relatives to depend on for advice, care and nurturing of their wee ones. As I look into opening a day care for infants, I have come to realize there is a shortage of infant daycare on Maui, as well as care for toddlers.

Today, twenty day care centers located on ag land may soon be faced with a new tax proposed for such centers. I am unsure of the rationale behind such a tax. Twenty day care centers on Maui make up one-fourth of all such centers here on our fair island alone!

The proposed tax would certainly impact many daycare centers to the point of having to close down, as dedicated providers work for a meager sum, by any standard. This tax would take them out of commission. Where would families with babies turn for such help?

To complicate the matter by the end of March 2014 Human Services refuses to renew licenses for daycare centers on ag land for the year if the problem is not addressed.

Please consider standing strongly against the proposal, as an already under-served populace, our most vulnerable, will be the most to suffer.... our newborns, our toddlers, our keiki, as well as their families livelihood, and of course the income for day care providers whose business just happens to be located on ag land !

A daycare provider to 6 toddlers, will lose her source of income for she and her sons, because she runs her day care from her rented home on ag land. Day care owners and workers are dedicated to their work, out of love and respect to our youngest population, and in most cases struggle to survive, since the income from such work is seldom sufficient compensation for the hard work and loving dedication involved in caring for babies full time.

Our youngest cannot speak for themselves, all who recognize the idiocy of such a tax must speak in their favor.

I for one stand against such a proposal and all of the ramifications that would result from such a tax.

Sincere regards,

Mary Matis
[808-264-2764](tel:808-264-2764)
125 Peahi Rd.
Haiku, HI 96708

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: maile davis <mailedavis@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2014 8:44 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Rep. Mele Carroll; Sen. J. Kalani English; Rep. Jessica Wooley; Rep. Richard Onishi
Subject: re-send House Bill 2560 Support Testimony

From: mailedavis@hotmail.com
To: agrtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
CC: repcarroll@capitol.hawaii.gov; senenglish@capitol.hawaii.gov; repwooley@capitol.hawaii.gov; reponishi@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: House Bill 2560
Date: Sat, 8 Feb 2014 20:10:20 -1000

Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date
Monday, February 10, 2014
10:01 AM in Conference Room 312

Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Aloha Chair Wooley and Members of the Agricultural Committee:

I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2560. This is the first letter I have written to my elective officials and feel the need to speak out on something that will not only affect myself and family but also the community in which I live in for a variety of reasons. I feel that this Bill is something that needs to be addressed, discussed and deliberate about because it's outcome will impact us all as a community. Please allow me to give a brief overview of my family childcare. I have been state licensed for almost 11 years. I started with my first child in care and have continued care in my house through all my children growing up with my youngest still in care. Over the years I have helped serve over 30 families. I do this because there is a need and I enjoy my job. I could easily use my degree and get paid much better somewhere but for now I am happy to watch children in my house. I am a proud small business owner and take pride in what I do. I have taken classes with PATCH, and later also became employed with them and taught over 250 hours to others who also wished to open a Family Child Care while at the same time also running my own child care. After my fourth child I took a break from teaching and in 2012 I won Patch Hawaii's 2012 Provider of the Year award which was a state wide search. While I work with children; their parents are busy being teacher (over 4 public school teachers currently, 9 more in the past), real estate agents, solar electricians, students, ER nurses, computer consultants, airline stewardess, chefs, vet assistants, county workers, NASA consultants, air traffic controller, mid wives, and several small business owners. I feel I serve a need not easily able to find in

the upcountry area of Maui because most of my families use me part-time which is very hard to find space with a group preschool. Also location wise I am over 20 minutes away to the nearest preschool located in a more urban area. These parents are families looking to put their children in to a small setting with no more than six children and a more personalized feel to it.

I offer care in Haiku, Maui on Agricultural zoned land and have a lot to offer because of it. My playground is very large to let the children explore nature in. On our daily nature walks we learn more than you might think. We have butterfly bushes, chickens and ponds enabling us to study life cycles in person, first hand. I mention this because one of my clients is a public school teacher who teaches the fifth grade and was so happy that her son was able to experience this while in my care -while in her class of 25 children only 5 of them knew what caterpillars turned into. This is something all my three year olds in care not only know but have witnessed firsthand monthly and it never gets old. We eat fresh fruit daily. Yes, every day I am able to fill their growing bodies with freshly picked oranges, tangerines, starfruit, guavas, lilikois, avocados, papayas and more. I have the space to provide a large garden where weekly for lunch we can pick tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, beans, lettuce, pumpkins, watermelons, carrots and zucchini. We are able to watch worms in the dirt, plant vegetables from seeds and water a garden much larger because I am on Ag land. I find it hard to imagine that with the farmers and fresh local push in today's economy that you would want to deny young children their first farm experience and not want them to be open to it as a future possibility. I only operate 4 days a week and from 8am-3pm keep shorter hours than most farmers themselves- although I also feel the need to inform you that in my neighbor hood of over 14 properties we are the only family who actively farm the land in the way it was intended. The only property in our whole subdivision farming produce, plants and palms, along with cows, horses and chickens. It is an ideal place to have children learn about nature, compassion and farming skills.

I am currently considering closing my care and asking for your help to please consider HB 2560. To get a special land use permit is beyond my means while supporting my family. I began my small business in good faith with the state and county, operating with your knowledge, permits and even being paid with both County and State and Federal subsidies for providing care to children in my home. I know that early childhood education is a priority for everyone so please continue to make it so. If all providers who now require this permit close or operate illegally it will not only be putting a hardship on the providers but also families and their employers.

I urge you to support this measure and consider the impact it will have on our community and future. I thank you for your consideration to support this bill and allow a new generation of contributing members of our society learn and grow in a farm setting learning far more than we can even imagine.

Thank you for your time-

Maile Davis
4483 Opana Place
Haiku Hi 96708
808-572-4734

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: lilia.carrillo1@hawaiiantel.net
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 10:30 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony support for House Bill 2560

Dear Chair Wooley and Members of the Agricultural Committee,

Thank you for hearing HB 2560 and for your time and the opportunity to testify before your committee. My name is Lilia Doubleday. I am a parent who has benefitted from a family child care home on agricultural land for 2 years.

I am in strong support of HB 2560 because it expands the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include child care homes.

My child care provider took care of my son James, age 2, so I could go to work to support my family. I live and work in a rural area upcountry Maui.

It's very important to have my son in childcare close to my work place, for various reasons, such as emergency, sick calls, work late, least amount of drive time, etc.

One very important reason I chose my childcare provider to take care of James was because her child care center was located on 2 acres of farmland.

Wide open spaces with gardens, orchards and farm animals, the perfect learning environment for an active toddler to explore and learn many lessons that young children can only learn from hands on exploration. Two year old James couldn't sit still with older toddlers at different school classroom style preschool/daycare centers. Once he started going to the Family Child Care Home on 2 acres with farmlife, animals, gardening and plenty of outdoor play exploration he became a very happy little boy who learned about the wonderful world under his feet and at his little fingertips.

James had the best hands on learning childcare experiences possible because he was fortunate enough to have quality child care setting in a farm land setting, close to home, and only a few miles from my work place.

Again, my family and I have greatly benefitted from services provided by our childcare provider located on agricultural land, I am in strong support of HB 2560.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Lilia Doubleday

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: Kira Enge <kiraenge@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2014 9:46 PM
To: AGRtestimony@capitol.gov.hawaii; AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of the 2560 in support of family- based child care

To whom it may concern,

This is in the support of House bill 2560:

I am writing to you to stress the importance of child-care centers on AG land in Haiku. There are many families who depend on the excellent facilities, convenience and natural setting of Haiku for child care for their young children. I myself sent my 2 of my children when they were young to several child care facilities in Haiku. They were excellent and I depended on the location and quality of the care so I could work and not have to drive to Kahului or further.

There are many wonderful child care centers in Haiku that would be sorely missed. Please allow these centers to stay in operation for the families of Haiku who depend on them!

Thank you,

Have a beautiful day,

Aloha, Kira

Kira Enge

601 Hoolawa rd

Huelo

96708

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kathy McDonald <mcdanu@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 10:04 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

Committee on Agriculture

Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date
Monday, February 10, 2014
10:01 AM in Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Wooley and Members of the Agricultural Committee:

Thank you for hearing HB 2560 and for the opportunity to testify before your committee.

Aloha,

My name is Kathy McDonald. As a Licensed family child care provider with a Bachelors in Early Childhood Education, provided quality child care for eight years for over 40 families in our rural community. I am in strong support HB 2560 because it expands the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include family childcare home.

Family Child Care Homes provide an invaluable service to working families - provide quality care and early learning to this children in our local communities. The families I served were very appreciative to have quality child care close to them and their children prepared well for kindergarten. Children learned hands on about caring for chickens, goats and bunnies, picking, sorting and cleaning produce off the land and so much more.

As a Patch trainer I see many qualified care givers that are now unable to share their skills in providing quality care because they are on rural property.

Please, please consider strongly the need for quality care in these rural communities.

Thank you for your support and for making sure family childcare providers have a voice here in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Kathy McDonald
mcdanu@gmail.com
808-283-2989

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: jossreber@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 9:45 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Support of House Bill 2560

Aloha Representatives Wooley and Onishi,

My name is Josalind Akoi. I live on Ulupalakua Ranch on Maui, where my husband is a working cowboy. I am also a kindergarten teacher at Kula Elementary School; in this same district of Kula.

I am writing in support of House Bill 2560.

Next school year 2014 - 2015 the State of Hawaii Department of Education will no longer allow four year olds to enroll; as was previously allowed. This will mean at our school alone approximately 24 children and families will need to find alternative child care/ school arrangements.

Our entire district is rural/ agricultural. We have 2 licensed preschools within our district, Kamehameha and Fun 2,3. Both of the enrollments are fairly small. Without Family Child Care Homes, families may not be able to find any child care at all and thus may not be able to work.

Working at Kula School in years past as the remedial teacher and Literacy Coach, I looked at a lot of testing data of our students. I found that the most difficult sub group of students to move to proficiency was the Hawaiian/Free and Reduced Lunch group. The next hardest group to move into proficiency was the Free and Reduced Lunch group.

Half of our student body at Kula School are on free and reduced lunch and half are Hawaiian. We need our families to be working to help insure the academic success of our keiki.

Pairing agricultural and child rearing practices are very good for children. We are in the process of putting in a large school garden at Kula School to help student learning. Animal husbandry with young children also facilitates excellent early learning opportunities.

Nearly all families in our district live on agricultural lands. Please allow Family Child Care Homes to remain in operation. They are serving an important need for the success of our Up-Country Kula families.

Aloha,

Josalind L. Akoi

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: Jennifer Oberg <info@theperfectfitmaui.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2014 10:00 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Support of House Bill 2560

Aloha,

My name is Jennifer Oberg, and I am a resident of Haiku, Hawaii. I have lived here for 12 years and my husband and I have two daughters, ages 9 and 11. I am very involved in the community here, and have been on the PTA board of Haiku Elementary School for 5 years. I also spent two years as an employee at Haiku School as the Parent-Community Networking Coordinator. I have served on the board of the Haiku Community Association, and am the President of the Haiku School Foundation. I also have a business making custom wedding gowns.

I am writing today in support of House Bill 2560, to make it possible for family-based daycares to be conducted on agricultural land on Maui. I used a family-based daycare for my daughters – Little Miracles run by Rebecca Bell. Rebecca is a wonderful person and a caring, loving individual. She is wonderful with children and I trust her completely with my children.

More importantly in regards to this bill, people like Rebecca Bell are desperately needed out here in Haiku. We have a busy population out here and many families are working multiple jobs to afford their homes and lives. People need to work, and they need decent family-based childcare that is within 10 minutes of their homes. I was told that if all these daycares shut down, families would have to drive 30 minutes to Kahului to place their child in daycare. That is ridiculous! If that happens, you will have so many angry people on your hands.

I worked for two years as the PCNC at Haiku School, and I will tell you without a doubt – people will be extremely upset and frustrated if the daycares out here go away. WE NEED THEM. We live 30 minutes from Kahului and for the folks who live in Huelo, it's even further. People need to work to afford to live – nearly 60% of students at Haiku School are on free or reduced lunch. And home family-based daycare is AFFORDABLE for most of these families. Making them in into their cars and spend gas money to get to Kahului is not.

And now that the Kindergarten cut-off age is changing so that children will need to be 5 years old when school starts, these family-based daycares are going to be even more important.

I cannot tell you how ridiculous I think it is to say that a family-based daycare cannot be run on agricultural land. I grew up in the farm country of Illinois, and just because you are a farmer doesn't mean you don't need daycare. Can you imagine going to a group of farmers in Illinois and telling them that the local woman who is running a daycare 3 miles down the road from them needs to close her daycare because it's "farm land", and those farmers will have to drive to the nearest city for daycare? Really?

You simply cannot let this happen out here in Haiku. These family-based daycares on AG land are a necessity.

Mahalo for listening,
Jennifer Oberg
269-0525



Jennifer Oberg Bridal Couture

The Fine Art of Dressmaking
Maui, Hawaii

808-269-0525

jennifer@thepperfectfitmaui.com

www.thepperfectfitmaui.com

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onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: Jeanne Givens <jeannegivens@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 11:06 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Fwd: Testimony in support of house bill 2560 relating to family child care homes

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jeanne Givens** <jeannegivens@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Feb 9, 2014 at 10:53 AM
Subject: Testimony in support of house bill 2560 relating to family child care homes
To: ARGtestimony@capitol.hawaii.com

Aloha Rep. Wooley and members of the committee,

Thank you for hearing on bill 2650 and for giving my family a opportunity to be heard. Our names are Jeanne and Scott McKay, our son Jove has attend a wonderful family style home daycare in Makawao the last one and a half years. Having this service is instrumental in our lives as we both work full time and are so thankful for our child to have a loving provider in a safe rural enviorment. Scotts family has ranched on Maui for 125 years and he works for the cattle operations. I also work full time and my job takes me all over the island. We live in Kula and our daycare is in Makawao close to the ranch this gives me comfort knowing that our child is close to his fathers work not down in town. in case of one of us needing to get to him. We love that our sons daycare is small and on a beautiful piece of property where he gets to experience all the beauty our island has to offer as well as planting food and enjoying it with the other children they all get an understanding of how important this land is to us agriculturally

I have gone through the lengthy process of finding the right daycare for Jove and it is difficult there is not enough providers especially upcountry and to think of ours having to close would be devastating to our family financially and emotionally on the children , they have created home away from homes for our children to grow and learn.

My understanding is that the process of permitting and the taxes that will be imposed will shut down many of these daycares, These men and women do a great service to our community and our economy by allowing us to work. and knowing that our children are safe. please consider how many people will be affected by this bill not passing and giving these very important and Loving homes for our children to continue to operate.

Mahalo for your time,
Jeanne, Scott and Jove

Mckay

From: Janet Oshiro <janet@healingamulets.com>
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 5:23 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes
Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date
Monday, February 10, 2014
10:01 AM in Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Wooley and Members of the Agricultural Committee:

Thank you for hearing HB 2560 and for the opportunity to testify before your committee.

My name is Janet Oshiro, I am a working mother of two children. Child care is needed in rural areas, a lot of land in rural areas are designated as agricultural and by allowing child care on agricultural land the tenant on the land and nearby families can both benefit. This provides an open space for young children to learn and play, it reduces travel time for the mothers (needing to sometimes drive 30 min just to get to the closest town to drop of at child care) and provides an additional income opportunity for families living on large areas of land that have the time and space to create a beautiful learning environment.

I am in strong support of HB 2560 because it expands the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include family child care homes.

*Thank you,
Janet Oshiro*

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: Gretchen Rhodes <gretch1usvi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 12:51 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Upcountry Daycare

To whom it may concern,

We have a young child that goes to Little Miracles Daycare. It has come to my attention that our daycare may be shut down. If this happens it will be devastating to our daughter. She has come to love Rebecca as a true blood Auntie. My husband and I both work and if we don't have the opportunity to use our trusted daycare provider, our whole family will be completely turned upside down. We need the convenience of having Little Miracles Daycare upcountry because our lives will be made extremely inconvenient. Rebecca is the best person to take care of our daughter and we wouldn't even consider having anybody else. Especially if we would have to move her far away to Kahului. Please try to understand what local young families need in our community. We need our trusted up country Aunties as they are the best choice we could possibly make.

I hope u take this into consideration.

Very best,

Gretchen Rhodes Marasco

Sent from my iPhone

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2014 11:26 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mauifaith@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2560 on Feb 10, 2014 10:01AM*

HB2560

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for AGR on Feb 10, 2014 10:01AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faith Ewbank	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.

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From: Edward Paa <princepaa@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2014 8:41 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Agriculture Zoning - HB 2560

Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes
Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date
Monday, February 10, 2014
10:01 AM in Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Wooley and Members of the Agricultural Committee:

Thank you for hearing HB 2560 and for the opportunity to testify before your committee.

My name is Kelly Paa. As a family child`care provider who has provided services for families in our rural community for 12 years, I am a strong support of HB2560 because it expands the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include family child care homes.

Having a home on an AG zone is a BLESSING. We have a lot of open space, farm animals (horses, cows, chickens, roosters) everywhere you turn and is a quiet and safe environment. The children enjoy running in the yard, walking up to the pastures fence line and petting the horses and goats. A lot of families do not have that opportunity to see or pet horses and goats. If we do not get HB 2560 passed I will no longer be able to keep my day care doors open. My day care parents will have to send there child to another facility where they may not be exposed to farm animals or they may have to decrease there hours of work to take care of their child, which is an inconvenience for them and will hurt there pocket book.

I watch children from the ages of 10 months to 4 years of age. At this crucial age children are sponges, and I teach everything through play. MY JOB IS TO GET THE CHILDREN READY FOR THE NEXT BIG STEP IN THERE LIVES.....PRESCHOOL. Introducing them and exposing them to the animals helps them to want to absorb information easier. We count the horses, talk about there color and talk about how big they are. We use the goats to show how caring we should be to others as the mother goat is towards her kid. I even use the chicken poop to teach them about dirty things and how its not okay to do things that may make a mess where others play. They all are learning through interacting with the animals and through play and the children don't realize it. That is what is so beautiful about living on an AG zone. Day care providers who are from a non AG zone don't have the pleasure of giving thei r day care children this experience. They show them counting horses through books, which is fine, but is so much cooler to have the real thing in front of you.

Over the past 12 years I have been a provider for 58 families. I have been a provider for 63 children. It makes me smile and it tugs at my heart knowing I helped those families and children in my home. Seeing the children smile, laugh and learn and hearing from parents that their son/daughter love coming to my home makes me know that I'm doing the right thing by providing for these children.

Having the possibility of closing due to my daycare being in an AG zone is disheartening and its also a bit scary. My husband and I provide for our family and the possibility of my income gone upsets me be cause now I will put the burden on my husband. Thats not fair to him. I HAVE A JOB THAT I LOVE and is fun to do and I hope that you will pass HB 2560 so you will not put me out of job and you will not deny the children that I have now and the children that I may have in the future from learning and observing from my home which is in an AG zone.

Please pass HB 2560 to help all providers, parents, and children.

Thank you,
Kelly Paa

DayCare Provider.
PlayMate.
Referee.
Nurse.
Teacher.
Friend.
PottyTrainer.
LunchLady.
Shoulder To Cry On.

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: deb tavares <alohadebora@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2014 12:20 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: House Bill 2560

To whom it may concern,

As a parent of 3 kids and an online student myself I strongly see the need for Family childcare homes in Haiku. I couldn't go by my daily activities without and I know of many parents that also work in the area and need a childcare near their homes and work. Also, since kindergarden has been moved, not letting 5 year olds start early, we need another option to help our kids socialize with other children. Thank you so much for your attention.

Aloha,
Debora L. Tavares
Haiku resident

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 9:43 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: icalkins@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2560 on Feb 10, 2014 10:01AM
Attachments: .~lock.DEMOCRATIC PARTY LINE.odt#

HB2560

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for AGR on Feb 10, 2014 10:01AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
IRA CALKINS	Individual	Support	No

Comments: IRA CALKINS GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCHER 730 Captain Cook Ave Unit 426 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2161 Your actions will prove my statements of the following to be a fact and true. The Democratic Party Line has taken away the voice of the people in the making of laws, taxation with out representation in the State of Hawaii. It appears the Hawaii State Legislators are being blackmailed in to voting the Democratic party line, or the Democratic Party will not support the State of Hawaii Legislator in the next state wide election. It does not matter what the people think, the Democratic Party has already decided for us on all bills before the State of Hawaii Legislature . The chairman's in all committee meetings has a script to follow that the Speaker of the House, and the Speaker of the Senate has given the Committee Chairs to follow, to instruct the committee how to vote on a any given measures, all Bills in all committees of the State of Hawaii Legislature. It is determined ahead of time by the Democratic Party members how a committee member will vote when staying with the party line on any given Bill in the State of Hawaii Legislature, Democracy has been taken away from the tax payers in the State of Hawaii. Ira Calkins Honolulu 4696434 or 3498667 FAX 808-545-4707 Washington D.C. 202-697-9782

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

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: Dan E <arboristenso@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 9:22 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Aloha chair Wooley and members of the agricultural

Aloha chair Wooley and members of the agricultural committee,

My name is Daniel Enso and I'm a parent of two young boys, a voter in the state of Hawaii for 15 years and a make my income from agriculture. My children have been going to a child care home on ag land for 5 years. I would be unable to create an income if I wasn't able to have my children be at daycare. Now more than ever it's of the utmost importance that our state and county laws support farmers and agricultural workers to be able to produce more food and products. Our local economy depends on your support of HB 2560. It is hard enough to find a good child care provider and much more one that is close to the farmland I lease. I cannot afford the extra time and fuel it would take to drive my Keiki to a daycare further from the farm. If daycare was not available in our rural area I could no longer afford to be an agricultural producer. The culture of Hawaii depends on this bill and support of our childcare providers on ag lands. It gives us hope to know that our lawmakers are behind us to pass bills like HB 2560 that enable us to continue to move Hawaii toward a better future with a stronger local economy. Mahalo for your support!

Sincerely,
Daniel Enso

Sent from my iPhone

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: Bruce Glen <bruceglen@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 9:30 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Aloha Chair Wolley. Please note my letter of testimony in support of House Bill 2560, Dr. Bruce Glen

**Bruce Glen Ph.D. Clinical Psychologist Licensed Hawaii
Child, Family, Adult Psychotherapy**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1269, Makawao, Maui, Hawaii 96768
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Sunday February 9th, 2014, 0920 AM

Testimony in support of House Bill 2560
which expands the permitted use in agriculturally designated zones to include Family Child Care Homes

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Wooley, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Attention and Aloha to Chair Wolley and members of the Agricultural Committee:

My name is Dr. Bruce Glen, a licensed Clinical Psychologist in Hawaii since 1988. Earlier during my internship in the early 80's at Children's Place, Puunene, I worked with young children and their parents for several years. Later, as a psychologist, I have continued working with the presenting problems of children and their parents; many single working mother families. I have now been in practice for a total of just under 30 years.

I write to you with the in-depth & long term experience mentioned above which urges me to express to you the dire need of passing the House Bill 2560. Young families with young children desperately need more Child Care Homes and need them in the country, not in a town setting. Allowing, actually promoting, Child Care Homes on Agricultural lands is a humane and psychologically therapeutic way of giving the gift of stability and the security of nature in a rural setting to these very young members of our community.

I understand that the existence of at least 30% of the current Child Care Homes are in danger of being closed because they cannot pay the high fees being considered or about to be levied. Many of these Child Care Homes are owned and well run by single mothers and to further burden them and close them down would be a singular shame.

Please consider the decidedly beneficial effects of allowing these Child Care Homes to remain open by passing # 2560 and easing the stress of all concerned. Thank you.

Dr. Bruce Glen Ph.D.

Clinical Psychologist

From: Bonnie Kim <bonniekim3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 7:32 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: House Bill 2560

Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes
Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date
Monday, February 10, 2014
10:01 AM in Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Wooley and Members of the Agricultural Committee:

Thank you for hearing HB 2560 and for the opportunity to testify before your committee.

I am writing to you not as a parent nor a provider but as a community member who plans to have children someday. I am getting in touch with you in hopes that this bill passes. My husband and I own a house in Haiku also on AG land. It is our hope to someday have a child enrolled in one of the many family day cares nearby which are all located on agriculturally zoned areas. This is because of the location and also because we feel it is one of the perks of living in the country. We want to raise our future children in wide open places and in a small setting of children. I have watched several friends struggle with finding care which fits their needs and believe that more choices in this area is critical in today's world. I would like to see my children grow in a setting in which they will learn, understand and live in harmony with agriculture and all it has to offer. With all of the many things we can grow on AG land isn't it important to also let our future grow and learn from the land in the form of our children.

I strongly support Bill 2560 and hope you will take this into consideration.

Thank you for your support and for making sure family child care providers have a voice here in Hawaii.

David and Bonnie Kim
299 Awalau Rd.
Haiku HI 96708
808-298-4458

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: Ben Diamond <chefdiamond@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2014 8:52 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Aloha,

Working with and sending our daughter to a Child Care Home has been the best thing for us. The care is excellent and we are very happy with our daughters and our experience.

Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

Committee on Agriculture

Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Mahalo,
Benjamin Diamond

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: Etisalat <aknranch@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 10:56 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: HB2560

Im in support of HB2560 What more do they want to take away from Ag , Childcare is great on Ag lands the kids get in love with all the animals they grow up to be cowboys and cowgirls.Mahalo Annette

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: Anne Carter <kulamanufarm@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2014 9:35 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: House Bill 2560- Family Childcare Home

To Whom it May Concern,

Please consider this my support of House Bill 2560. I am a single mother who owns and operates an organic farm in Kula, Maui. I needed to place my daughter in an home daycare when she was a baby, so I could work on my farm. I was so relieved to find an in home daycare in a rural setting for my daughter to be cared for while I worked on my farm. Many areas on Maui are zoned rural or agricultural and it would be a shame to make it prohibitive for these in home day cares to operate in rural and agricultural areas. A setting where children can be cared for in a rural environment is crucial to continuing our agricultural community. These day cares provide a great service to families, giving children safe, clean and wholesome outdoor environments to be cared for while parents work. As a farmer, I am asking you to support this bill.

Sincerely,
Anne Carter
Kulamanu Farm, LLC
12221 Haleakala Hwy.
Kula, HI 96790

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: Anna Blanch Molins <annittabm@yahoo.es>
Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2014 9:47 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Little Miracles Daycare in Haiku!

Hello My name is Anna Blanch and I am Koa's mom at little miracles Daycare.
For me and my family is essential to bring koa at this Daycare in Haiku.
My husband and I work Upcountry and we do not have much time too drive too far.
We love Rebecca and the little Miracles Daycare, same as my son.
He spent around 7 hours every day since he was 6 month old, he is 2 and 3 month now. The other kids are his best friends now, inside and outside Daycare.
We are very thankful how Rebecca is treating and teaching him, now she is not just a teacher she became her "Aunty".

So please keep Miracles Daycare open as is our MIRACLE here in Haiku, for the kids and for the parents!

Best Regards,
Anna

Anna Blanch Molins
www.annablanche20.com
T: +1 808 2053937
Skype: annittabm



onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: anna livia plurabelle <aplurabelle@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 1:30 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Aloha Chair Wooley and members of the Agricultural Committee,

My name is Masha Delfinden and I'm writing to voice my strong support for the HB2560 because it expands the permitted use

in agriculturally designated zones to include family child care homes.

As a parent to a little girl who goes to a family child care home located on agricultural land this issue is very important to our family.

We love the fact that our daughter gets to spend her days in close proximity to animals, close to the land. It teaches her a lot about the land.

We live in the countryside, so most of the daycare homes in our area are located on agriculturally designated lands and if those daycare homes

would have to shut down (and some already have due to their inability to pay the permitting fees and taxes) this would increase the already palpable shortage of daycare homes in our area. As is, two of my friends are waiting for an opening at a daycare for over 3 months.

Then our only option would be to spend an hour a day just to bring our daughter to an urban daycare center and back again.

That is a tremendous waste of time and gas money, amongst other things.

Parents need to work and we want to have community based, small, child-oriented options we can trust to leave our children with while we take care of what needs to be done.

It also is expensive to have your child in a private care home, and those providers who could afford to pay the fees would have to increase the monthly tuition

(because they hardly make any extra money to begin with) and that would make daycare unaffordable to many of us.

So please show you support for our community, its parents, children and childcare providers by supporting HB2560.

Thank you for your time
Masha Delfinden

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: Anders Friberg <andersfriberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 4:17 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Support for HB 2560

Dear Chairs Wooley and Onishi and members of the Agricultural Committee,

My name is Anders Friberg and I would like to thank you for considering HB 2560 and for supporting family child care homes in agriculturally designated zones.

I am a parent two little boys; one in preschool and one that currently attends daycare on Maui. The child care home is providing great service to 2 1/2 year old Oliver and to our family.

We live on the north shore of Maui and the child care is conveniently located for us only 15 minutes drive towards Haiku. It would be an added hardship to have to drive further just to find daycare in a different real estate zone. It would also be sad to see this particular child care disappear since it is providing great care.

Please consider changing the current rules so that these valuable child care centers can stay open.

Much Aloha,

Anders Friberg
8075 Hana Hwy
Maui