

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 8:20 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Ablukens@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB483 on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM

HB483

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/WAL on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Lukens	Individual		Yes

Comments: I support the subsidization of taro farming, as taro is an integral component of our past and future food security.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 8:28 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: bonnieisland@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB483 on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM*

HB483

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/WAL on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bonnie Rasmussen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 8:11 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: lotuslover@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB483 on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM

HB483

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/WAL on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
courtney Bruch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Committee Members~ Please kokua and Support HB 734 and HB483. Taro Lands are vital. I support HB 734 and HB483. Mahalo~ Courtney Bruch

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 10:37 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: khalima@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB483 on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM

HB483

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/WAL on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ella Tokunaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha kakou a pau, I am writing this letter of support for HB 483. I do believe that in working together , the Dept of Agriculture, DLNR and the Taro Task Force...they will be able to allow the people of Hawaii to grow local healthy sustainable food sources...like kalo. I do believe that the convergence and communication with the Taro Task Force will help benefit all. I seek your support in favor of this bill... HB 483. My best regards for the work that you do. Aloha, Ella Kawahine Tokunaga

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 8:30 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: akamaimom@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB483 on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM

HB483

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/WAL on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Taro is sacred, even for the transplants who have lived here long enough to inhale the culture. I support HB483.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 10:17 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: amero.gregory@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB483 on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM*

HB483

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/WAL on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory Amero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 12:17 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: onipaalima@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB483 on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM

HB483

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/WAL on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
HARLEM	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To whom it may concern I am a supporter of hb 483. I believe that they should make farm lands affordable so people can make their own farms. Please pass hb 483

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 11:41 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: isabelleamina@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB483 on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM

HB483

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/WAL on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
isabelle quilana-amina	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To whom it may concern, I am writing this letter to support HB483. I support this bill because taro-growing lands should be more accessible for taro- farmers. Lease prices should be more reasonable because if its too high the accessibility of the lands for farmers would be low. Also, qualifications to gain taro-growing lands should be more fit to taro-farmers ex:a certain degree of education wouldn't be a qualification because not many taro-farmers have a degree a more fit qualification would be if they had taro-growing experience.

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Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

P. O. Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

Testimony of President Soulee Stroud

HOUSE JOINT COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND WATER & LAND HOUSE BILLS 483, 734 AND 484

RELATING TO TARO LANDS, THE PROTECTION OF TARO LANDS AND THE PROTECTION OF TARO

Aloha Madam Chair Wooley of the House Agriculture Committee, aloha Madam Chair Evans of the Water and Land Committee and members of the joint committees.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs supports HB 483 that requires the DLNR to identify taro lands, adjust lease rents and modify lease qualification criteria. We also support HB 734 that will use land classifications to add taro lands to unique ag lands. We further support HB 484 that places taro-growing structures and taro lands in the category of special agricultural lands for protection against development.

Thank you for introducing these bills to protect this very important Hawaiian staple food and the poi from which it is made. May we ask that you go a step further and research the amount of water that is legally added to commercially produced poi. The poi that appears on the grocery shelves does not seem to be consistent but almost seasonal with the abundance or lack of taro. Sometimes more watery, sometimes less so.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 9:09 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB483 on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM

HB483

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/WAL on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juanita Brown Kawamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill, Kalo farmers and Hawaiians and they culture and values must be perpetuated and preserved. The loss of Native Hawaiian Kalo inventory and loss of lands and resources to perpetuate this concern is very important. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 11:02 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: killah_kana@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB483 on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM

HB483

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/WAL on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanalani Kamai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To whom it may concern, I'm writing in support of HB483. I believe that all farmers have a right to plant kalo, regardless if their education levels or their financial status isn't that great. The lease qualification and the lease rent makes it nearly impossible for existing or future farmers to acquire land and that should change. Pass HB483!! Mahalo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 12:05 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kehaulani1228@Gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB483 on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM

HB483

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/WAL on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kehaulani Hosaka-Acojido	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I'm supporting HB483. I believe that farmers work with the Taro security and purity(condition) task force to recognize taro lands. Please help support HB484.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 11:14 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: hokumeole@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB483 on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM

HB483

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR/WAL on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Orion Quilana - Amina	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To whom it may concern, i am writing in support of the House Bill 483 which talks about the state designating taro as the state plant. The funding given to the task force has enabled it to gather information from taro-growing communities to improve taro farmers conditions. The purpose of this bill is to improve protections for taro lands and ancient structures on state owned or acquired lands. I think you should pass this bill because taro- growing farmers need conditions if they needed to produce taro.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 11:19 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB483 on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM

HB483

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR/WAL on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Penny Levin	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: There has been encouraging dialogue between the department of land and natural resources and the taro security and purity task force on this issue. This bill would also encourage the department of agriculture to participate in the dialogue and review its available lease lands and rental rates for those parcels that may contain the unique requirements necessary for taro farming, both wet and dry, a small subset of all ag lands. Section 2 (3) may need further discussion with the agencies as to the most effective means of creating affordable lease rent rates; however, taro lands parcels around the state are sometimes assessed at rates more than 100 times their counterparts on larger tracts of prime ag lands due to the assigned value of adjacent properties. A fair and balanced agriculture valuation is necessary if farmers are to survive. This issue is addressed in HB488. Section 2(4) and (5) are critically important if state lease lands are to be accessible to taro farmers. Criteria to qualify for agriculture leases vary according to agency or program. In some cases, a farmer is required to have a college degree in agriculture; in others a minimum financial equity or bond is set, typically out of reach of taro farmers. There is no agricultural degree that prepares an individual with the skills to be a taro farmer; that is learned through apprenticeship and practice. Currently at least 2 million pounds of raw taro are imported into the state. The taro task force has stated that there is no reason for local growers not to meet the needs of the state. Additionally, new niche markets are developing for hand-pounded poi. An accessible means of informing new and existing taro farmers about available leases will encourage greater production of this staple crop for subsistence and commercial production and will improve food security for Hawaii. The benefit will be an increasing number of small farmers fulfilling a growing demand for high quality taro among consumers and feeding their families on each island. It will also provide taro growers on existing farms who have not had the capacity to fallow their lands due to market demands or who need to fallow to reduce infestations of apple snails, the opportunity to open alternative lands and allow existing acreage to rest.

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Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 12:02 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: noenoe_808@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB483 on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM

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Submitted on: 2/4/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sanoe Whitmarsh	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To whom it may concern, I am writing in support of HB483. I agree that the lease of land should be more affordable and reasonable. Most of us are struggling financially and with the economy like ours, this bill will help a lot. I support HB483. Mahalo

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Simon Russell
Hui 'O Mālama 'Āina
910-A E. Kuiaha Rd
Haiku, HI 96078

Aloha Honorable Representatives,

Mahalo for HB 483. While at the Hana Taro Festival last year, they ran out of taro by 1:00 PM. I arrived at 2:00, expecting to get some fresh poi, but there was none to be had. Poi is \$6 / pound, and rising. We need more kalo cultivation in Hawaii Nei, and HB 483 is a good start to remediating our kalo shortage. Kalo makes up ½ of 1% of Hawaii's agricultural crop output as measured in dollars, according to HDOA in 2010, Hawaii grew \$2.5 million of kalo. To put that in perspective, Sugar and GMO seed production are about 51% of Hawaii's agricultural crop value at a little over \$300 million in sales, a large part of which leaves the state. GMO seeds are also exempt from state tax. We need to make an adjustment, more water and land for kalo please, because at \$6/Lb. someone can make a good living growing kalo, and the money will stay in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,
Simon Russell
Owner and Farmer
Hui 'O Mālama 'Āina