

**onishi1-Jerry**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 04, 2013 8:23 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** darakawa@lurf.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB485 on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM\*

**HB485**

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

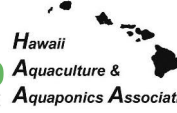
Testimony for AGR/WAL on Feb 4, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

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## Local Food Coalition

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND  
Monday, February 4, 2013 9:00 a.m. Auditorium

### **HB 485 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Authorizes general obligation bonds to fund capital improvements for the former Galbraith Estate lands.

Chair Wooley, Chair Evans, Vice Chair Onishi, Vice Chair Lowen and Members of the Committees:

My name is Dean Okimoto, and I represent the Local Food Coalition on this matter.

The Local Food Coalition (LFC) brings together farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other leading organizations, who collectively manage more than 1 million acres of land, and produce the majority of food in our state. Solving our challenge of increasing the local food supply — putting more local food on local plates — can best be accomplished by bringing people and organizations together who can work on the entire food value chain in a systematic way.

The Local Food Coalition strongly supports HB 485.

This is one the largest prime agricultural lands left on the island of Oahu that is now owned in whole or in part by the State. We believe this is an opportunity to further support and expand our opportunity to provide prime agricultural lands for farmers. As the land has remained idle for many years, it will take additional funds to cultivate the land and build the necessary infrastructure to accommodate smaller agricultural parcels. The Agribusiness Development Corporation is the lead agency on this exciting project and we support every effort to bring this land back into agricultural production.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in strong support of this measure.



**Hawaii Farm Bureau**  
F E D E R A T I O N

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February 4, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON HB 485  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Auditorium  
8:30 AM

Chair Wooley, Chair Evans, Vice Chair Onishi, Vice Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

I am Dean Okimoto, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,950 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF strongly supports HB 485 which authorizes general obligation bonds to fund capital improvements for the former Galbraith Estate lands.

This is one the largest prime agricultural lands left on the island of Oahu that is now owned in whole or in part by the State. We believe this is an opportunity to further support and expand our opportunity to provide prime agricultural lands for farmers. As the land has remained idle for many years, it will take additional funds to cultivate the land and build the necessary infrastructure to accommodate smaller agricultural parcels. The Agribusiness Development Corporation is the lead agency on this exciting project and we support every effort to bring this land back into agricultural production.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in strong support of this measure.