

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 4:25 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: redahi@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB96 on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM

HB96

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
B.A. McClintock	Respiratory & Environmental Disabilities Assoc HI	Comments Only	No

Comments: This bill needs amending. Please exclude any farms growing GMOs.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 7:56 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: watsonblake8@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB96 on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM*

HB96

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Blake Watson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 9:00 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: peepail@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB96 on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM

HB96

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Kasak	Occupy Monsanto (OWS~Maui)	Comments Only	No

Comments: Malama Aina! Allowing tax exemption for small family farms, cooperatives for the first \$50,000 of their income as incentive for local production. We love that this encourages local farming but we are deeply concerned this may allow GMO production and producers to receive tax breaks as the bill is written as long as they are under a certain size. We are seeking to end the tax breaks for genetically engineered farming and research in Hawaii and this loophole is alarming, it may allow biotechnology corporations to dissolve into smaller entities in order to continue receiving tax breaks. With the level of chemical exposure and the fact that the most open air genetically modified open air experimental field tests they are exposing Hawaii to, we cannot support any tax breaks for them and do not believe they should be farming here at all. This is the endangered species capitol of the world and we cannot support tax exemption for patented, incredibly invasive genetically engineered crops. We propose an amendment to exempt genetically modified farms from this tax relief and would only support the passage of HB96 if it is amended to exempt GMO farms.

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 2:24 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: collardgreen@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB96 on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM

HB96

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colleen Carswell	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Honorable Agriculture Committee Representatives, mahalo for your consideration of my testimony regarding HB96. I cannot support tax exemption for patented, incredibly invasive genetically engineered crops. I support the proposal of an amendment to exempt genetically modified farms from this tax relief. If HB96 is amended to exempt GMO farms, I will support it fully.

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

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: info@hfbf.org
www.hfbf.org

February 4, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 96
RELATING TO FARMS

Auditorium
9:30am

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi, 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 supports the intent of HB 96 which creates an income tax exemption on the first \$50,000 of income for family farms, family farm communities, and family farm cooperatives.

HFBF is supports any initiative that support Hawaii's small farmers and encourages new farming businesses.

We do recommend a broader definition of "Family farms" to include small farms that are incorporated.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our testimony on this important matter.

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 12:25 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: esfhawaii@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB96 on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM

HB96

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elijah Frank	Individual	Comments Only	No

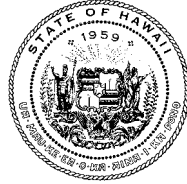
Comments: I support only if HB96 is amended to exclude GMO companies from using these tax exemption. This Bill should be for true small farmers growing food for local consumption.

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

FREDERICK D. PABLO
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

JOSHUA WISCH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

To: The Honorable Jessica Wooley, Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Date: Monday, February 4, 2013

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Auditorium, State Capitol

From: Frederick D. Pablo, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: H.B. 96, Relating to Farms

The Department of Taxation (Department) appreciates the intent of H.B. 96 and provides the following information and comments for your consideration.

This bill exempts from the Hawaii State income tax, the first \$50,000 of income received by a family farm, family farm community, or family farm cooperative.

The Department notes that it is not sufficiently staffed to administer and oversee compliance required under the provisions of this bill. The Department would not be able to determine what farms qualify as family farms and to determine how much income family farms receive from the sale of farm products, or to determine where those farm products are eventually consumed. Lacking sufficient resources and expertise in the subject matter substantially increases the possibility that exemptions are wrongfully claimed and for taxpayer noncompliance.

Aside from the compliance issues, the requirements of this bill will require substantial computer system changes to the income tax returns and instructions. Due to technological limitations with our current computer system, and the lack of sufficient staffing to implement these changes, the Department would need a minimum of twelve months to implement this measure. Therefore, the Department recommends that the effective date be changed to taxable years after December 31, 2013.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 8:35 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gfkonanui@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB96 on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM

HB96

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gladys Konanui	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha I support HB96. Please Pass HB96. mahalo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 8:09 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: konanuij001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB96 on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM

HB96

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jerry Konanui	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha mai kakou....I support HB96 please HB 96...mahalo.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 8:55 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jessicamitchell51@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB96 on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM

HB96

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Mitchell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need more small farmers they should be rewarded

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 1:36 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: hokuokekai50@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB96 on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM

HB96

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chairperson Representative Jessica Wooley House Committee on Agriculture Monday February 4, 2013 9:30am Capitol Auditorium Position: Support with Amendments Aloha Chair Wooley, Vice-Chair Onishi and Members of the Committee, my name is Mary Lacques and I am a resident of Hale'iwa, a predominantly rural and agricultural community. I have many small, sustainable farmer friends on the North Shore that would benefit from tax incentives that would enable their business to thrive. I support HB96 if it can be amended that no larger, specifically biotech companies can utilize this tax break. Sincerely, Mary Lacques P.O. Box 14 Hale'iwa HI 96712

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 8:39 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mdclark88@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB96 on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM

HB96

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monet Clark	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I SUPPORT ONLY IF AMENDED TO EXEMPT GMO FARMS

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 8:36 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: zaffbryan@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB96 on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM

HB96

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noel Bobilin	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I SUPPORT ONLY IF AMENDED TO EXEMPT GMO FARMS

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Comments on HB96
Hawaii House of Representatives
Agriculture Committee Members

February 4, 2013 9:30 AM

Aloha Honorable Agriculture Committee Representatives,

On behalf of Babes Against Biotech, a non-profit organization devoted to environmental awareness, we appreciate this opportunity to testify as we voice our support for HB98. We represent over 1,900 members and supporters and we are unanimous in strong support tax breaks for small non-GMO and organic farmers. We propose an amendment to exempt GMO farms from this tax break and then, we support it fully once GMO's are excluded. However much we would love to support this bill, we can only support this bill if it exempts GMO farms from tax relief.

Why should companies and farms who are introducing genetic toxins into our soil, environment and air, be allowed any tax relief whatsoever? GMO's are banned at some level in at least 29 countries, their makers have been exiled from numerous countries and sued time and again for chemical poisoning alone. The time has come for Hawaii to eject the biotechnology seed industry and abolish the global and political GMO safe-haven that has severely derailed our sustainable future and caused Hawaii to become the foremost site and worldwide ground zero for open air genetic experimentation.

Our organization was formed in response to the dire condition of our legislation and state of our agriculture and local food supply regarding GMO corporations. We advocate for citizen engagement in

these issues that are coming about when many are unaware they are even up for consideration. Biotechnology corporations conducting research and production of genetically engineered organisms are, in addition to threatening our fragile ecosystem, literally exposing us to components of war chemicals, spraying it next to schools, and kupuna homes.

Class action lawsuits are starting to address heavily exposed areas and incidentally, already 52,000 sea urchins were found dead off the coast of a GMO farm in Kauai alone. These are not farming companies, these are chemical companies who seek to increase the sale of chemicals and the pestilential expansion and cross-contamination of their patented, literally now viral, genetic alterations on life.

GMO's are the most endangering and invasive species of all, there is no recuperation from GMO's, we may never be able to grow food on GMO farm land again. We do not feel GMO's should even be allowed to farm in the open air in Hawaii as they contaminate conventional crops. This is the most pressing issue in Hawaii today. Over 1,000 citizens marched down Beretania to the Capitol on opening day just January 16th to a roar demanding the end of GMO's and at the very least, labeled toxins and that, should be a strong reflection of the community response to GMO's in Hawaii.

We must address GMO industry impacts on our local economy in addition to the social and environmental costs they are inducing. These companies are chemically farming an export GMO seed industry that receives obscene levels of tax relief and retains little to no benefit or profit for the state or the citizens. We desperately need local, non-toxic farming support, not In addition to performing literally the most open air experimental field trials in the world in Hawaii, they are depleting our natural resources. Hawaii's climate is ideal for agriculture and they are able to turn 3-4 crops per year as opposed to 1-2 most places in the United States. Few other countries allow GMO companies to perform unlimited open air genetic experiments.

The once rich soil, which they are monocropping compounds similar plantation and chemical farming damages on farm lands. The same nutrients are pulled from the soil over and over, they plant no cover crops and they do not rotate crops. Instead of using cows to fertilize, and chickens to eat the pests, they use chemical fertilizers and pesticides and herbicides which saturate our soil, contaminate groundwater and kill the healthy microorganisms and bacteria that are necessary for plant life. Supporting GMO tax breaks means supporting the potential and founded undesirable expressions of DNA forced into foreign species in laboratories and they are in our strong opinion, completely undeserving of tax breaks.

The companies that produce genetically engineered products are irresponsibly releasing highly controversial new life forms, of highly questionable ethics in regards to health and environmental safety and should not be receiving any tax incentives. We do not wish to provide any support whatsoever to

an industry that seems to have no moral compass guiding affairs of public health and ecological responsibility. The companies manufacturing GMO's have been exiled from dozens of countries, and the damages are piling here. As public concern begins to flow and more countries ban or demand labeling, we as a society must also stand up and cease GMO related tax breaks at the absolute, bare minimum.

They should be paying more tax to pay for risk management of their questionable practices. In fact, we propose here and now legislation that they be additionally, heavily, taxed. We want them gone altogether, that is our absolute preference. However if we could induce additional appropriate taxes on them at 75% or some other duly reasonable rate to compensate for the massive agricultural, economical, medical and nutritional rehabilitation that will be required to best amend the damages they have already caused, they would find it no longer favorable to do business here and leave of their own accord. The solely profit-minded chemical industry of genetically altered industrial farming, subjects us as unwilling participants in a toxic science experiment biotech multinational conglomerates already controlling the majority of the world's seed. We need to stop creating favorable conditions for biotechnology and discourage their presence altogether while we still have our resources.

We are supporting HB96 on the condition it includes our proposed amendment to exempt GMO farms from the tax break, which otherwise creates an income tax exemption on income for family farms, family farm communities, and family farm cooperatives. This is the industry we should be giving incentives to, family farmers. The hard working families that are cultivating the land and feeding our people good healthy, non-GMO food.

GMO companies have shown no regard to the environment or public health concerns and should be required to pay full taxes. We and our supporters passionately encourage them to abandon their work in Hawaii altogether. Tax incentives are for people and companies who are doing good things in society and increasing our sustainable growth and GMO corporations are literally the opposite.

Mahalo for considering this testimony in favor of amending HB96 to exempt GMO farms and thereby garnering our full support.

Best Regards,

Nomi Carmona
President

Babes Against Biotech 501(c)3

Honolulu, HI

nomi@babesagainstbiotech.org

www.babesagainstbiotech.org

www.facebook.com/babesagainstbiotech

www.twitter.com/babesagainstgmo

www.instagram.com/babesagainstbiotech

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 7:55 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: paul@kauainature.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB96 on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM

HB96

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Massey	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill because I believe that small farming operations in Hawai`i should be assisted with tax exemptions. Small farming is extremely important to our state's food security and food self-sufficiency. My support of this bill, however, is contingent on an amendment being added that excludes GMO farming, which does not support food security and self sufficiency, but rather threatens the health of the land, water, and the people of Hawai`i.

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Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 4:54 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: haysamsongs@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB96 on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM

HB96

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sheryl Samuel	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support this bill only if it exempts organic farmers. Otherwise, these small organic growers must not be taxed or fined. Mahalo.

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

Aloha Honorable Representatives,

I am writing to support HB 96, and the \$50,000 tax exemption for Hawaii's farmers. One amendment I would like to see is to the definition of the family farmer. I think a family farmer should be defined as someone who makes more than 50% of their income from sale of agricultural commodities. You currently define it at a threshold of 75%, and I would like to see that lowered to 51%, this will increase the range of the stimulus and result in more people farming in my opinion.

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

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 5:01 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: naritaslee@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB96 on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM

HB96

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Law	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this bill unless t is amended to exclude genetically modified farms (farms producing or testing GMO plants or foods) from this tax relief. We grow most of our food, so we may even qualify for this tax relief in the future, but it's important that GMO farms be carved out of receiving this tax relief! Thank you for reading, aloha, Susan Law

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Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 7:12 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: hunafive@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB96 on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM

HB96

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Howes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I love that this encourages local farming but we are deeply concerned this may allow GMO production and producers to receive tax breaks as the bill is written as long as they are under a certain size. Hawaii needs to end the tax breaks for genetically engineered farming and research in Hawaii and this loophole is alarming, it may allow biotechnology corporations to dissolve into smaller entities in order to continue receiving tax breaks. With the level of chemical exposure and the fact that the most open air genetically modified open air experimental field tests they are exposing Hawaii to, we cannot support any tax breaks for them and do not believe they should be farming here at all. This is the endangered species capitol of the world and we cannot support tax exemption for patented, incredibly invasive genetically engineered crops. We propose an amendment to exempt genetically modified farms from this tax relief and would only support the passage of HB96 if it is amended to exempt GMO farms.

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