

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE**

**Monday, March 10, 2014
10:40 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2241, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO**

Senate Bill 2241, Senate Draft 1 proposes to include taro lands and taro growing structures as special agricultural lands to be protected from development. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of this bill and offers the following comments with suggested amendments.**

The bill prohibits the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) from acquiring for development projects, lands and infrastructures used or to be used for wetland taro growing. In addition the measure prohibits the Board from disturbing existing taro growing systems, ancient wetland taro lands or structural elements of ancient wetland taro growing systems on currently undeveloped public lands. The bill prohibitions are specific to only wetland taro lands and growing systems, of which there are only a limited number of lands left capable of maintaining those systems. The Department has worked closely with the Taro Security and Purity Task Force to refine the language of the bill this year. The Department recognizes the need to protect these sites in perpetuity for future food security.

The Department suggests the following amendments:

Page 2, Line 4 should read: "wetland taro lands (lo'i kalo) and ancient wetland agricultural"

Page 2, Line 5 should read: "structures on undeveloped state-owned or –acquired lands."

Page 2, Line 15 should read: "lands, or structural elements of ancient wetland taro-growing systems on undeveloped lands."

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

JESSE K. SOUKI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Page 4, Line 1 should read: “Undeveloped lands and infrastructures used or to be used for wetland taro-growing, including ancient wetland taro lands and structural elements of ancient taro-growing systems;”

Page 4, Line 6 should read: “(3), ~~and~~ (4) and (5) of this section or interests therein,”

Carl I. Evensen
45-744 Ko St.
Kaneohe, Hi. 96744

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

Personal Testimony Presented before the
House Committee on Agriculture

March 10, 2014 at 10:40am

SB 2241 SD1 RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO

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

My name is Carl Evensen and I serve as an Associate Dean of the University of Hawaii at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I am pleased to provide personal testimony in support of SB 2241. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii or CTAHR. I am a crop and soil scientist by training and have a special interest in the cultivation of taro. I also serve as a member of the Hawaii Taro Security and Purity Task Force and my testimony supports the position of this Task Force.

The purpose of SB 2241 is to improve protections for wetland taro land (*lo'i kalo*) and ancient agricultural structures on state-owned or state-acquired lands. Specifically the bill amends HRS Section 206-7 to include taro lands and structures in property which shall not be acquired for development projects such as residential development projects.

Wetland taro lands have very special characteristics, including rich soils which can retain impounded water and position in the landscape where irrigation can be provided by gravity flow of water from streams and springs. These lands were among the most productive and valuable agricultural lands in Hawaiian times, but have often been treated as wastelands in modern times due to their propensity for flooding. This very characteristic of being prone to flooding makes these lands unsuitable for residential, commercial or other development. Conversely the protection and future use of these lands for *lo'i kalo* would provide many benefits such as increased local food production, cultural preservation, and a wide variety of ecosystem services like wetland habitat, flood mitigation, and water quality improvement.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2241.

TARO SECURITY AND PURITY TASK FORCE

**Testimony of
MARK ALAPAKI LUKE
Chair**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE**

**Monday, March 10, 2014, 10:40AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2241
RELATING TO PROTECTION OF TARO**

Senate Bill 2241 proposes to amend the list of lands that the State shall not acquire for development purposes on the Island of Oahu, to include undeveloped lands where wetland taro lands and taro growing structures are present.

The Taro Security and Purity Task Force strongly supports this bill, with additional amendments.

The Taro Security and Purity Task Force was created by the legislature by Act 211 in 2008 specifically to guide policy and research related to taro and taro farming, as well as to support the vitality, economic viability and perpetuation of taro and taro farming in the state. In bringing this bill to the legislature we are fulfilling a portion of the kuleana that this body was tasked with under Act 211.

The Task Force's 2010 report to the legislature was the result of a year-long community consultation and included 89 recommendations across seven key issues. Legislators received an update on task force progress in relation to the recommendations of that report at the start of the 2014 legislative session. Access to affordable lands to grow taro was of significant importance to young taro growers and organizations looking to create resilient options for food security in their communities as well as mentoring programs that develop new farmers. This represents a different sector than existing commercial taro growers. The task force recognizes the important role that taro plays in addressing the need for staple starch production in Hawaii at a time when we are dependent on 85 percent of our food from out of state.

The task force has worked closely with the Department of Land and Natural Resources this year, and earlier with the Department of Agriculture, to refine the language of SB2241 and address concerns relating to the broadness of applicability of adding wetland taro lands to the list of lands not to be acquired for development by the State.

The Island of Oahu is dependent on the neighbor islands as its source of raw taro in the production of poi. An estimated 30 acres of commercial taro is currently recorded for the

Contact: Emily Kandagawa, Taro Task Force Coordinator (808) 754-7395 or tsptfhi@gmail.com

island for a population of almost 1 million residents. In the event of environmental disasters, such as floods or hurricanes on Kauai, or earthquakes that disrupt large portions of Honolulu, Oahu suffers extreme poi shortages.

SB2241 prohibits the Board of Land and Natural Resources from acquiring for development projects, undeveloped lands and infrastructures used or to be used for wetland taro growing on the Island of Oahu. In addition the measure prohibits the Board from disturbing existing taro growing systems, as yet undisturbed ancient wetland taro lands or structural elements of ancient wetland taro growing systems.

Given the extreme shortage of wetland taro lands on Oahu, the task force feels that the State should not participate in the further reduction of lo'i lands through the acquisition of parcels for other purposes, including affordable housing units whose residents ironically are likely to be consumers of taro and poi. The bill does not prevent or inhibit a private landowner from the sale or development of their private property to a private buyer; nor does it impact already developed state-owned properties.

There is a growing interest in producing taro, as well as in the traditional Hawaiian taro cultivars, as indicated by the distribution of an estimated quarter million huli (taro planting stock) of 40 traditional taro varieties by task force members and taro collection projects in 2013. Many of these varieties are best suited to mid-elevation, cooler lo'i sites such as can be found on Conservation zoned lands under DLNR jurisdiction.

In addition, the task force notes that by state and federal definition, lo'i kalo are wetlands and retain wetland soil characteristics, whether they are active or have long been fallow. The physical character of such sites is a primary indicator for future and ongoing high costs of flood mitigation for the State and City and County of Honolulu. This includes where groundwater levels rise quickly and persistently in lowland areas, such as the Mapunapuna industrial district, or where topography indicates locations are collection points for upstream surface water flows such as Manoa, Palolo, Kuliouou and Punaluu – all former lo'i kalo lands. The instability of wetland soils translates to increased costs and higher risks for long-term structural integrity. SB2241 provides state agencies with a measure of liability protection by prohibiting the further acquisition of such lands by the state for development purposes.

Wetland taro growing sites represent important traditional agricultural resources and features, centers for cultural practice, and places of tremendous food productivity. Beyond the more well-known localities, lo'i kalo are typically small in size, with clay soils prone to flooding, and frequently in upland elevations which fall within state Conservation districts and outside urban district boundaries. The rehabilitation of lo'i kalo sites is an allowable use of public Conservation lands under HAR Chapter 13-5 Conservation district subzones. The DLNR retains authority over district boundaries for Conservation zoned lands (HRS205-5 and Chpt183C).

While taro lands have the potential to be designated as important agricultural lands (IAL), HRS 205-49.3 explicitly excludes "lands held in the conservation district" from the process of designation and adoption of IAL maps by the Land Use Commission.

Contact: Emily Kandagawa, Taro Task Force Coordinator (808) 754-7395 or tsptfhi@gmail.com

To support and enable implementation of SB2241, additional language is necessary to define taro lands under HRS171 Public lands, and create a fourth class for wetland taro lands on undeveloped, unencumbered public lands under HRS171-10 Classes of lands. The recommended amendments in this regard propose that the use of these conservation lands shall remain for taro production. This amendment eliminates the need for a district boundary amendment for lands designated as fourth class taro lands. In recognition of the importance of these historic agricultural structures, we recommend an additional amendment for the rehabilitation of wetland taro structures as an allowable activity under HRS205-4.5. The Taro Task Force further recommends that “the growth and perpetuation of traditional Hawaiian crops” be added to the State’s Planning objectives for agriculture under HRS226-7.

The task force has committed to assisting Department of Land and Natural Resources in the mapping of lo’i lands within state lands and has been actively pursuing resources to conduct GIS surveys on each island. The task force agrees with the DLNR that existing rules may be sufficient to support the changes in statute created by these amendments and recommends that language be changed to reflect this within the measure. We note suggestions earlier this session to require attachment of a list of sites to the proposed statute would 1) require immense resources on the part of DLNR; 2) require DLNR to come before the legislature every year to add hundreds of sites to the statute as survey work progresses, a process that would negatively impact staff time and duties already stretched thin by budget cuts, as well as lengthening the proposed statute to the extreme; and 3) these taro sites are primarily located on and within state Conservation lands, a zoning category for which DLNR has agency jurisdiction to define use through the HAR process.

The Taro Security and Purity Task Force strongly supports SB2241 with the attached amendments.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Alapaki Luke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Alapaki Luke, Chair
Taro Security and Purity Task Force

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that section 205-41, Hawaii Revised Statutes, states that there is a compelling interest in preserving agricultural lands. Protecting such resources for Hawaii's future food security on public, as well as private, lands is in strong alignment with Governor Abercrombie's 2010 *A New Day in Hawaii* plan for food and agriculture. The legislature also finds that the taro security and purity task force established under Act 211, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, reported to the legislature in the 2010 legislative report *E ola hou ke kalo; ho'i hou ka 'āina lē'ia: The taro lives; abundance returns to the land* and recommended improved protections for taro growing lands, including lo'i (wet fields and terraces), mala (dry fields and terraces), kuauna or paepae pohaku (stone walls), and 'auwai (irrigation ditches). The taro task force found that these key structural elements for viable

wetland taro production were being destroyed, severed, and built upon by private and public development because of gaps in land use, historic preservation, and planning laws and policies.

The purpose of this Act is to improve protections for wetland taro lands (lo'i kalo) and ancient agricultural structures on state-owned or -acquired lands.

SECTION 2. Section 206-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended as follows:

"§206-7 Property which shall not be acquired for development projects. In declaring development areas, and acquiring land therein, the board of land and natural resources shall avoid disturbing existing uses which are in accord with the highest use permitted under any existing zoning ordinance in the political subdivision concerned. The board shall not disturb existing taro-growing systems, ancient wetland taro lands, or structural elements of ancient **wetland** taro-growing systems.

The board shall not acquire for development projects:

- (1) Lands already developed and improved as business or industrial areas where use of the lands for residential purposes or as a part of a development project would be economically unsound or where an undue hardship would be suffered by

the community through loss of service because of the acquisition;

- (2) Lands already in use for residential purposes by the owner thereof or by a lessee holding a lease with an original term of twenty years or more, except where the acquisition of parts of the lands is reasonably necessary for the proper development of a project, but in no case shall any part of the lands be taken where the taking will reduce the parcel to less than three acres in extent;
- (3) Lands in the process of subdivision and development where the owner or the owner's agent has provided that at least fifty per cent of the lots to be sold shall be sold in fee simple, prepared subdivision and construction plans, arranged for financing, and applied to government agencies and otherwise taken such steps as may be appropriate for the construction of the proposed development in good faith and filed an affidavit with the board to that effect;
- (4) Lands used or to be used as sites for churches, private or parochial schools, clubs, meeting

houses, other private uses of a community, civic, social, or religious nature; and

- (5) Undeveloped lands and infrastructures used or to be used for wetland taro-growing, including ancient wetland taro lands and structural elements of ancient wetland taro-growing systems;

provided that portions of the lands mentioned under (1), (3), (4), and (5) of this section, or interests therein, may be taken to provide access and utility easements where no other reasonable means of access or utility easements are available.

In acquiring agricultural land for a development project, where the land though used for agricultural purposes is not being used in accord with the highest use permitted under any existing zoning ordinance, the board shall exercise all reasonable care not to jeopardize the agricultural enterprise concerned. If, however, the board finds that the land is necessary for a development project, it may provide assistance, monetary or otherwise, in relocating the enterprise elsewhere or pay such damages to the owner or operator of such enterprise as will reasonably compensate the owner or operator for the owner's or operator's loss, if the owner or operator has not already been so compensated under a lease agreement, or both."

SECTION 3. Section 171-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

"Taro lands" means any lands in wetland taro cultivation prior to statehood, or any traditional taro lands that retain historic structural evidence of lo'i kalo, such as 'auwai irrigation ditches, terraces, or walls."

SECTION 4. Section 171-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§171-10 Classes of lands. The board of land and natural resources shall classify all public lands and in doing so be guided by the following classifications:

1. Intensive agricultural use

(A) First class--Lands highly productive of intensive crops such as sugarcane, pineapples, truck crops, and orchard crops.

(B) Second class--Lands having medium productivity for intensive crops.

(C) Third class--Lands having fair to marginal productivity for intensive crops.

(D) Fourth class--Taro lands of no particular productivity determination but having cultural, social, economic, and food self-sufficiency value if preserved for

wetland taro cultivation. District boundary amendment of fourth class-taro lands shall be prohibited.

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, public land classified as fourth class-taro lands pursuant to section 171-10 shall not be subject to district boundary amendment.

SECTION 5. Section 205-4.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

"(a) Within the agricultural district, all lands with soil classified by the land study bureau's detailed land classification as overall (master) productivity rating class A or B shall be restricted to the following permitted uses:

- (1) Cultivation of crops, including crops for bioenergy, flowers, vegetables, foliage, fruits, forage, and timber;
- (2) Game and fish propagation;
- (3) Raising of livestock, including poultry, bees, fish, or other animal or aquatic life that are propagated for economic or personal use;
- (4) Farm dwellings, employee housing, farm buildings, or activities or uses related to farming and animal husbandry. "Farm dwelling", as used in this paragraph, means a single-family dwelling located on and used in connection with a farm, including clusters of single-family farm dwellings permitted within agricultural parks developed by the State, or where agricultural activity provides income to the family occupying the dwelling;

- (5) Public institutions and buildings that are necessary for agricultural practices;
- (6) Public and private open area types of recreational uses, including day camps, picnic grounds, parks, and riding stables, but not including dragstrips, airports, drive-in theaters, golf courses, golf driving ranges, country clubs, and overnight camps;
- (7) Public, private, and quasi-public utility lines and roadways, transformer stations, communications equipment buildings, solid waste transfer stations, major water storage tanks, and appurtenant small buildings such as booster pumping stations, but not including offices or yards for equipment, material, vehicle storage, repair or maintenance, treatment plants, corporation yards, or other similar structures;
- (8) Retention, restoration, rehabilitation, or improvement of buildings:
 - (A) Buildings or sites of historic or scenic interest; and
 - (B) Walls, terraces, or supporting structures for lo'i taro fields;
- (9) Agricultural-based commercial operations as described in section [+]205-2(d)(15) [+];
- (10) Buildings and uses, including mills, storage, and processing facilities, maintenance facilities, photovoltaic, biogas, and other small-scale renewable energy systems producing energy solely for use in the agricultural activities of the fee or leasehold owner of the property, and vehicle and equipment storage areas that are normally considered

directly accessory to the above-mentioned uses and are permitted under section 205-2(d);

- (11) Agricultural parks;
- (12) Plantation community subdivisions, which as used in this chapter means an established subdivision or cluster of employee housing, community buildings, and agricultural support buildings on land currently or formerly owned, leased, or operated by a sugar or pineapple plantation; provided that the existing structures may be used or rehabilitated for use, and new employee housing and agricultural support buildings may be allowed on land within the subdivision as follows:
 - (A) The employee housing is occupied by employees or former employees of the plantation who have a property interest in the land;
 - (B) The employee housing units not owned by their occupants shall be rented or leased at affordable rates for agricultural workers; or
 - (C) The agricultural support buildings shall be rented or leased to agricultural business operators or agricultural support services;
- (13) Agricultural tourism conducted on a working farm, or a farming operation as defined in section 165-2, for the enjoyment, education, or involvement of visitors; provided that the agricultural tourism activity is accessory and secondary to the principal agricultural use and does not interfere with surrounding farm operations; and provided further that this paragraph shall apply only to a county

that has adopted ordinances regulating agricultural tourism under section 205-5;

- (14) Agricultural tourism activities, including overnight accommodations of twenty-one days or less, for any one stay within a county; provided that this paragraph shall apply only to a county that includes at least three islands and has adopted ordinances regulating agricultural tourism activities pursuant to section 205-5; provided further that the agricultural tourism activities coexist with a bona fide agricultural activity. For the purposes of this paragraph, "bona fide agricultural activity" means a farming operation as defined in section 165-2;
- (15) Wind energy facilities, including the appurtenances associated with the production and transmission of wind generated energy; provided that the wind energy facilities and appurtenances are compatible with agriculture uses and cause minimal adverse impact on agricultural land;
- (16) Biofuel processing facilities, including the appurtenances associated with the production and refining of biofuels that is normally considered directly accessory and secondary to the growing of the energy feedstock; provided that biofuel processing facilities and appurtenances do not adversely impact agricultural land and other agricultural uses in the vicinity.

For the purposes of this paragraph:

"Appurtenances" means operational infrastructure of the appropriate type and scale for economic commercial storage and distribution, and other similar handling of feedstock, fuels, and other products of biofuel processing facilities.

"Biofuel processing facility" means a facility that produces liquid or gaseous fuels from organic sources such as biomass crops, agricultural residues, and oil crops, including palm, canola, soybean, and waste cooking oils; grease; food wastes; and animal residues and wastes that can be used to generate energy;

- (17) Agricultural-energy facilities, including appurtenances necessary for an agricultural-energy enterprise; provided that the primary activity of the agricultural-energy enterprise is agricultural activity. To be considered the primary activity of an agricultural-energy enterprise, the total acreage devoted to agricultural activity shall be not less than ninety per cent of the total acreage of the agricultural-energy enterprise. The agricultural-energy facility shall be limited to lands owned, leased, licensed, or operated by the entity conducting the agricultural activity.

As used in this paragraph:

"Agricultural activity" means any activity described in paragraphs (1) to (3) of this subsection.

"Agricultural-energy enterprise" means an enterprise that integrally incorporates an agricultural activity with an agricultural-energy facility.

"Agricultural-energy facility" means a facility that generates, stores, or distributes renewable energy as defined in section 269-91 or renewable fuel including electrical or thermal energy or liquid or gaseous fuels from products of agricultural activities from agricultural lands located in the State.

"Appurtenances" means operational infrastructure of the appropriate type and scale for the economic commercial generation, storage, distribution, and other similar handling of energy, including equipment, feedstock, fuels, and other products of agricultural-energy facilities;

- (18) Construction and operation of wireless communication antennas; provided that, for the purposes of this paragraph, "wireless communication antenna" means communications equipment that is either freestanding or placed upon or attached to an already existing structure and that transmits and receives electromagnetic radio signals used in the provision of all types of wireless communications services; provided further that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to permit the construction of any new structure that is not deemed a permitted use under this subsection;
- (19) Agricultural education programs conducted on a farming operation as defined in section 165-2, for the education and participation of the general public; provided that the agricultural education programs are accessory and secondary to the principal agricultural use of the parcels or lots on which the agricultural education programs are to occur and do not interfere with surrounding farm operations. For the purposes of this section, "agricultural education programs" means activities or events designed to promote knowledge and understanding of agricultural activities and practices conducted on a farming operation as defined in section 165-2;

(20) Solar energy facilities that do not occupy more than ten per cent of the acreage of the parcel, or twenty acres of land, whichever is lesser; provided that this use shall not be permitted on lands with soil classified by the land study bureau's detailed land classification as overall (master) productivity rating class A; or

[+] (21) [+] Geothermal resources exploration and geothermal resources development, as defined under section 182-1.

SECTION 6. Section 226-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) Planning for the State's economy with regard to agriculture shall be directed towards achievement of the following objectives:

- (1) Viability of Hawaii's sugar and pineapple industries.
- (2) Growth and development of diversified agriculture throughout the State.
- (3) An agriculture industry that continues to constitute a dynamic and essential component of Hawaii's strategic, economic, and social well-being.
- (4) Growth and perpetuation of traditional Hawaiian crops."

SECTION 7. The board of land and natural resources, in conjunction with the taro security and purity task force, may create an inventory under chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, identifying lands classified as fourth class.

SECTION 8. This Act does not affect rights and duties that matured, developments, and proceedings that were begun before its effective date.

SECTION 9. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 9:31 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: rangien2010@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Puanani Rogers	Ho`okipa Network - Kauai	Support	No

Comments: Please support with the amendments recommended by the Taro Task Force.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 11:40 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ptowers@panna.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Towers	PAN	Support	No

Comments: Dear Committee Members, On behalf of PAN and our 8500 supporters across Hawaii, I'm writing in strong support of SB2241. The bill implements several of the findings the Taro Task Force made to the legislature, and protects and promotes the use of lands for the growth of taro. In short, the bill honors the cultural legacy of taro, and continues to preserve taro as an important Hawaiian food crop.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 12:56 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
	E kupaku ka aina	Support	No

Comments: E kupaku ka aina is in strong support of SB2241 and all of the amendments proposed by the Taro Security and Purity Task Force. There can be no better show of faith from the legislature than to support the protection of lo'i kalo on state conservation lands and to include the growth of traditional Hawaiian crops as a goal for State Planning towards food security in Hawaii. The task force 2010 recommendations report makes clear that the majority of lands that are the focus of this bill are 1) wetland kalo sites; 2) in upland areas typically zoned as Conservation, and that 3) there is a growing demand for affordable taro lands under DLNR jurisdiction. The State and counties will benefit by reducing flood liability between the uplands and residential communities and will provide DLNR with an increased capacity to lease lo'i lands specifically for the purpose of kalo production. State law regarding public lands (HRS171) and allowable uses of Conservation zoned lands (Chpt 13-5 HAR) does not impact private lands. It is consistent with existing statutes under HRS205. While IALs do allow for the designation of taro lands for agriculture, they have yet to be effectively applied. State land use statutes clearly indicate that conservation land use decisions are the solely the jurisdiction of DLNR, as they should be. SB2241 will aide DLNR, and help local organizations and young farmers, to rebuild communities, and bring ancient Hawaiian kalo growing sites back to life in each district. As an organization that has long supported the recovery of traditional Hawaiian kalo varieties and the unique lands that once grew them, we encourage the House Agriculture Committee to support this measure in full.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2014 11:55 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: rittew@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/8/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Walter Ritte	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha my name is Walter Ritte from the island of Molokai, and I am in strong support of SB 2241. Our culture and its activities are being regulated out of existence, and this bill will begin to reverse that trend. We need to protect our taro lands if we will reach our goal of making taro affordable. Walter Ritte.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 2:03 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: castanha@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM*

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tony Castanha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 2:55 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tjsimms2000@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM*

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tj simms	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 2:25 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: sherrianwitt@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM*

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sherrian witt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 12:51 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: shannonkona@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strongly Support

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 9:48 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ponosize@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM*

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pono Kealoha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 8:43 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mmcardle19@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM*

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peggy McArdle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 7:25 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: markus.faigle@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Markus Faigle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support with the amendments recommended by the Taro Task Force.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 7:30 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: palolo@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynette Cruz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support with the amendments recommended by the Taro Task Force

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 5:28 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: lynhowe1946@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM*

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/7/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2014 3:49 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/8/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: There is a saying, a journey begins with a step. I read the report of the Committees on Agriculture, Water and Land, and Hawaiian Affairs to which was referred SB 2241, and while the committees passed out the bill, it did so with concerns. I wish to advocate that you not let those concerns stop the passage of this bill. While we wait for the most ideal situation, without a law, taro wetlands are threatened. Let's start with this modest bill and then build on it in future bills. Please pass SB 2241 SD2 and support the work of the Taro Security and Purity Task Force. (I would be at your hearing, but have a previous off-island commitment.)

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 3:03 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: koohanpaik@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM*

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Koohan Paik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 7:59 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: evernw@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM*

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Evern Williams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 7:10 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: unaviami@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryna Storch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a fulltime commercial farmer and I strongly support this bill with the amendments recommended by the Taro Task Force. Mahalo for hearing this bill and protecting our precious taro lands and Hawaiian crops.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 11:54 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: brimohi@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Emmons	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support with the amendments recommended by the Taro Task Force. Support giving priority for traditional Hawaiian crops to the State's planning goals for agriculture.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 11:16 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: slwsurfing@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments: Support with the amendments recommended by the Taro Task Force.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 4:15 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM*

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 4:13 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: annietbi@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Gommers	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB 2241 with the amendments recommended by the Taro Task Force. Thank you for your service to us all. Sincerely, Ann Gommers

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



SB2241 SD1
RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO
House Committee on Agriculture

March 10, 2014

10:40 a.m.

Room 312

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB2241 SD1, which recognizes kalo-growing lands and infrastructure on O‘ahu as special agricultural lands, and protects such lands and infrastructure from designation or acquisition by the state for development projects.

The traditional mo‘olelo of Wākea and Papahānaumoku explains that the first kalo plant, Hāloanakalaukapalili, is the elder brother of Native Hawaiians. As the elder sibling, Hāloa provides sustenance to Native Hawaiians and, in return, we as the younger siblings care for Hāloa by ensuring that kalo flourishes. The bond that connects Native Hawaiians to kalo remains a sacred one, and it is our kuleana to preserve it. As the plant that has sustained the people of Hawai‘i since time immemorial, kalo is not only integral to the identity of Native Hawaiians, but also to the State of Hawai‘i as a whole.

This legislature created the Taro Security and Purity Task Force (Act 211, Session Laws 2008) to explore ways to strengthen state policy to restore our once-flourishing kalo economy. In their 2010 report to the legislature, the Taro Task Force’s primary recommendation was for the state to take an active role in remedying the severe reduction in the amount of and access to kalo-growing lands. **The Task Force found that rapid development in the last 20 years has led to a catastrophic loss of lands with the unique set of natural conditions necessary for kalo growth, and the dismantling of ancient structures most efficient for fostering thriving kalo production.** Protecting these historic lands and structures from further destruction and development will ensure that they are available to help support our present and future kalo needs, and may facilitate our return to a more traditional, self-sufficient and sustainable model of local food production.

Ironically, while much of Hawai‘i’s resident population still relies on kalo as a staple starch, and while our tourism industry requires a high volume of kalo to create a more authentic cultural imprint upon our visitors, the lack of active kalo lands means that Hawai‘i must now import millions of pounds of kalo every year. **Accordingly, this bill would promote greater local production of kalo, to improve our state’s food self-sufficiency and keep jobs and resources in our local economy.**

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB2241 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SB2241, SD1 RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO

Monday, 3/10/14; 10:40 am; Room 312

Aloha Madam Chair Wooley, vice chair Onishi and members of the House Committee on Agriculture. As the progenitor of the Hawaiian people through Haloa, kalo, in all its aspects has had consistent support from the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs.

Individual clubs have been very involved in the preservation and rehabilitation of lo`i, as well as preservation and sharing the huli of favored kalo varieties. Our clubs have in the past even adopted resolutions calling for a limit on the amount of water allowed in each bag of poi. Kalo is a serious concern to Hawaiians for spiritual as well as physical reasons.

We urge the passage of this bill that would protect kalo lands and the ancient kalo agricultural systems.

Contact: jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net

State of Hawaii, 27th Legislature, 2014 Regular Session

SB2241 SD1

RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO

House Committee on Agriculture
Public Hearing – Monday March 10, 2014
10:40 a.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 312

By
Dave Penn, Private Citizen
March 09, 2014
IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi, Representatives and other readers

I wholeheartedly **support** SB2241 SD1 and urge you to pass it on the next committee.

Please note that the written testimony received by the Senate demonstrated overwhelming support for this measure, with a complete absence of opposition.

My sole concern with the bill as written is its unqualified use of "ancient" to define and describe types of land, systems, and structures to be protected. Perhaps it would be useful to replace this terminology with a more quantitative temporal criterion such as "prior to statehood." Also, please note that I do not agree with the changes suggested to the Senate by the State Department of Land and Natural Resources.

My knowledge of this bill's subject matter stems from substantial experience with taro growing, lo'i kalo leasing and restoration, research and advocacy on wetland taro water rights and water use (including contributions to a taro industry analysis performed for the Governor's Agricultural Coordinating Committee and a taro production manual published by the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources), and federal-state regulation and planning of inland water quality under the Clean Water Act.

Thank you for considering this mana'o on SB2241 SD1.

**Aha Moku Advisory Committee
Testimony of Leimana DaMate**

Before the House Committee on
Agriculture

Monday, March 10, 2014
10:40 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

**In Support of
S.B. 2241, S.D. 1**

RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO

Senate Bill 2241 S.D. 1 proposes to prohibit the Board of Land and Natural Resources, in declaring residential developments areas and acquiring lands therein, from disturbing lands and infrastructure used or to be used for wetland taro growing, including ancient wetland taro lands and structural elements of ancient taro-growing systems. The Aha Moku Advisory Committee supports this measure but would suggest it include ancient dry land taro growing as well as wetland.

There are many areas throughout the moku of Hawaii where dry land taro growing has flourished such as Kona and Ka'u on Moku O Keawe, Island of Hawaii, as well in Moloaa Valley in Kilauea, and Kealia near Kapaa, Kauai. There are also areas that were terraced so that taro could be planted and an irrigation system was implemented that used a minimum of water. An ancient dry land taro system was also used in the ahupua'a of Maunalei on Lana'i.

We understand that the addition of protection of ancient dry land taro changes the make-up of this bill but ask that you consider it as ancient dry land taro lo'i are not as common or well-known as the wetland taro but both ways are accepted and practiced throughout the Hawaiian culture.

The Aha Moku System is comprised of Hawaiian communities and the general public within an ahupua'a and moku and is dedicated to the sustainability and protection of Hawaii's natural and cultural resources.

We are strongly in support of the Aha Moku system of which taro is a significant part and urge the Legislature to support S.B. 2241, S.D. 1.

Respectfully yours,

Leimana DaMate, Executive Director
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
Ph: 808-587-1498



1768 Kalawi Place
Wailuku (Maui), Hawaii 96793

March 9, 2014

Email Testimony

The Honorable Jessica Wooley
Chairwoman House Agriculture Committee
repwooley@capitol.hawaii.gov

Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Vincent Mina
President
Maui

House Agriculture Committee Hearing on SB 2241 SD1

Aloha Chair Wooley, Honorable Committee Members,,

Simon Russell
Vice-President
Maui

HFUU is **in Support of SB 2241 SD1.**

We agree with the Sate Commissioned Taro task Force that these protections for Taro and Taro farmers need to be put in place a robust future for Taro production in the near future. We have Taro farmers in our membership and can say that many more people will farm Taro when land and water are more abundant, as well as security in the long term availability of those 2 critical factors in the Taro Farming equation.

David Case
Secretary
Kona

We are of the opinion that Taro production in Hawaii has declined to dangerously low levels, and the availability of land and water to farm Taro has followed suit. We know hat needs to be done, preservation of the resource that we hold sacred.

Ray Maki
Treasurer
Kauai

Hawaii Nei should not need to import 50% of its taro used as we currently do. Whatever we need to do to maintain a sufficient supply of fresh Taro is the direction we need to be headed in. Paying other countries to export our State's historically staple food crop is at odds with our culture.

Pamela Boyar
Member
Oahu

Respectfully submitted,

HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED

David Fisher
Member
Maui

Simon Russell, Vice-President

Steve Sakala
Member
Kona

The Hawaii Farmers Union and its Chapters is a nonprofit corporation formed under Hawaii law. It advocates for the sovereign right of farmers to create and sustain vibrant and prosperous agricultural communities for the benefit of all Hawaii through cooperation, education and legislation.

Aloha Senate members of the Agriculture committee,

We the practitioners of `Ai Pohaku- The Stone Eaters, a Wai`anae based community endeavor write in strong support of SB2241 with the amendments of the Taro Task Force. Please pass this important bill designed to protect traditional lo`i lands (wetland taro) that are or will be in the hands of the State of Hawaii. This bill does not impact private lands.

The Taro Task Force was appointed by the legislature to recommend actions and policy that will strengthen and protect Hawaii's ability to continue to produce taro and poi and therefore strengthen our island's self-sufficiency. Poi is a wonderful traditional food. It is hypo-allergenic, gluten free, non-spoiling, and contains enough nutrients to raise a new born infant. Not many foods can claim this. Poi is an extremely valuable food for our island communities.

By passing SB2241, wetland taro lands will be protected and made available to our up and coming generations of taro farmers. All of the young adults in our organization have participated in wetland taro cultivation and many of them would farm wetland taro if the wetland was available to them. We need more taro farmers.

SB2241 will strengthen our local taro industry by protecting existing lo`i lands that are in State hands, and making them available to our coming generations of taro farmers.

Please pass SB2241 with the amendments of the Taro Task Force.

aloha nui,

Vince Kana`i Dodge and `ohana of
`Ai Pohaku- The Stone Eaters

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 12:01 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: scoleman@surfrider.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stuart Coleman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Stuart Coleman, a resident in the McCully area and I am writing in support of SB 2241. As a supporter of several farmers and organizations growing taro, I support this bill to protect lands that can be used for taro farming. Mahalo.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 7:16 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: sustainablesakala@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM*

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Sakala	Kona Chapter Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 10:42 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: paulakomarajr@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul A. komara, Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill SB2241. This Bill protect the wet lands for the purpose of farming.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 6:53 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: pamelaboyar@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM*

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Boyar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 9:56 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: hokuokekai50@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM*

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 5:45 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: hilobliss@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joy cash	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Do the right thing support this bill.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 11:40 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: evernw@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Evern Williams	Ka Lei Maile Alii Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	No

Comments: We support this bill with the amendments recommended by the Taro Task Force

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 6:02 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: res1z0vb@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana G. Moss	Individual	Support	No

Comments: All of Mamoia valley was farm land at one time. Please we need to protect our wetland areas to preserve our Hawaiian culture and self sustainability ability for our keiki and future generations

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 7:09 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mh@interpac.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hello legislators, Please support this bill. Maybe we're finally getting our priorities straight! mahalo, Cory Harden

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 7:44 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kahiwal@cs.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clarence Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Kalo lands, and the water necessary to grow the crop, are so culturally important that they should be protected at all costs.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 6:53 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: clareloprinzi@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM*

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
clare loprinzi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 7:43 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: waioli2@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
	Individual	Support	No

Comments: aloha Senators of the Agriculture Committee. I am a member of the Taro Security and Purity Task Force. But I submit testimony today in strong support of SB2241 as an individual and a commercial taro farmer from Hanalei. This measure will "protect strictly wetland taro lands solely on undeveloped, unencumbered state lands in the State (public) Conservation district under the jurisdiction of DLNR. Provides for a fourth class taro lands designation under DLNR Public Lands, Land Use designations (HRS171); and Adds 'growth and perpetuation of Hawaiian crop s' to the State Office of Planning goals for agriculture." Especially on Oahu, there is a need for wetland taro lands for the poi and taro hungry nearly 1 million population. But where are the lands to grow and feed themselves? All the major taro growing areas have been developed. i.e. Waikiki These special lands should be designated and leased to emerging young (or older) kalo growers. There should be stipulations also that no chemical fertilizers or chemical pesticides can be used in those areas as everything above affects below. Please support and pass this bill with the amendments provided by the Taro Task Force. Mahalo nui! Chris Kobayashi Hanalei

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 8:35 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: autumnrose2010@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Autumn Rose	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please help our native people protect their wet land taro growing lands from developers. Pass this bill with the AMENDMENTS recommended by the Taro Task Force.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 2:00 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: angelavideotron@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM*

SB2241

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2014 10:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Breene	Waihuena Farm	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov