

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

APRIL 2, 2014, 2:00 PM
ROOM 308

SENATE BILL NO. 2296, S.D.2 H.D. 1
RELATING TO THE DISPOSITION OF LANDS MANAGED BY THE STATE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2296 SD2 HD1. The purpose of this bill is to allow the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to select qualified applicants as backup lessees with whom the HDOA may negotiate upon the failure by the highest offering bidder. The HDOA supports the passage of this bill, with the following change.

This measure amends section 166-11, HRS, by adding paragraph (4) (page 5, lines 7 to 11) to promote the goals of increased food security and food self-sufficiency strategy, as established by the Office of Planning in their "Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy" report of October 2012. The Strategy's three primary objectives are to increase production of, demand for, and access to locally grown foods, and to provide policy and organizational support to meet food self-sufficiency needs. The objectives of the Agricultural Parks Program are broader in scope than food production. We provide agricultural land for horticultural, floricultural, trees as well as the production of food such as livestock, poultry, aquaculture, and crops. The proposed amendment establishes a higher priority for food production when evaluating



persons seeking leases. HDOA's mission is to support all agriculture and we therefore request that paragraph 4 (page 5, lines 7 to 11) not be included at this time.

Specifically, the HDOA respectfully requests section 3 of the bill to read as follows:

SECTION 3. Section 166-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"~~{}~~**\$166-11**~~}~~ **Lease negotiation.** (a) The department of agriculture may negotiate and enter into leases with any person who:

(1) ~~[As of July 1, 1996, holds]~~ Holds a revocable permit for agricultural purposes; ~~[or]~~

(2) Has formerly held an agricultural lease ~~[which]~~ or holdover lease of public land that expired within the last ten years ~~[preceding July 1, 1996,]~~ and has continued to occupy the state land; or

(3) Does not own agriculturally-zoned land of twenty-five acres or more in the State, individually or jointly with a spouse, or whose spouse does not own twenty-five acres or more of agriculturally-zoned land in the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.