

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

APRIL 2, 2013
2:00 P.M.
ROOM 308

SENATE BILL NO. 5 SD 1
RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 5 SD1. The purpose of this bill is to provide several means of compensation in addition to rent reductions when the State withdraws, condemns, or takes public land leased for intensive agricultural or pastoral uses and renders the land unusable for the original purposes of the lease. The department supports the intent of this bill.

In the face of rising costs for agricultural inputs, our local livestock producers are finding it increasingly difficult to remain profitable. The Department is in support of any measure that will help to support our local ranchers remain successful.

The Department recognizes that language in this bill reflects a compromise that was made during the 2012 Legislative Session between the Legislature and the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



FINTestimony

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2013 9:52 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: diamondbranchhi@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB5 on Apr 2, 2013 14:00PM

SB5

Submitted on: 4/1/2013
Testimony for FIN on Apr 2, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brendan Balthazar	Maui Cattlemens Assn.	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this . It is only fair that the state be fair . We are not asking anything less then we get from private land owners. Fair compensation if they take it away before my lease ends or if they take a portion. This will cost me .

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.

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FINTestimony

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2013 8:08 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jasonmoniz73@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB5 on Apr 2, 2013 14:00PM

SB5

Submitted on: 4/1/2013

Testimony for FIN on Apr 2, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason & Jeri Moniz	KK Ranch	Support	No

Comments: SB 5 amends HRS 171 to allow for fair market value compensation for livestock displaced when a lease is prematurely terminated or parts thereof are withdrawn. HRS 171 currently allows for fair market compensation for other agricultural crop losses but not grazing livestock. As written HRS 171 treats livestock as if they can be liquidated for fair market value at a livestock market. However, there are no livestock markets in Hawaii and livestock not sold private treaty live can only be salvaged at cull value at slaughter facilities for a fraction of their market value. SB 5 as written corrects this shortfall and places livestock on an even field with other agricultural commodities. This shortfall nearly put our family ranch out of business when 1/3 of our lease was withdrawn and 30% of our cattle had to be sold at cull value. Please prevent this from happening again with this amendment.

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