

HB 1120

**LATE
TESTIMONY**



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March 19, 2014

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

TESTIMONY ON HB 1120, HD2
RELATING TO LAND USE

Room 225
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Solomon, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Galuteria, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committees:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,832 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.

Hawaii Farm Bureau **OPPOSES HB1120, HD2**, which requires a study by OSP of current and potential alternative systems of classifying and regulating agricultural land and to submit interim and final reports to the legislature.

The intent of the measure focuses on the impacts of climate change and the evolving suitability of lands for agriculture. What is missing is the evolution of agriculture itself. Many years ago, raising vegetables in trays above ground would have been considered cost prohibitive and limited to backyards or the far north where harsh climates would otherwise prohibit the growth of crops. Today, hydroponics is commonplace and we see products in the marketplace at cost competitive prices. Since soil conditions are no longer the prime variable, the best environment for reducing pest pressure and raising the best quality produce is important. Traditional measures of depth and quality of soil are no longer important.

Farmers are creative and evolve to identify ways to make their farms viable. Investment in helping farmers and ranchers farm and ranch is a better use of funds than another study that may or may not be used. Resources are scarce. We urge you to invest in farmers and ranchers or infrastructure such as water source development to make agriculture viable. More maps will not grow agriculture.

Please oppose HB1120, HD2. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1120 on Mar 19, 2014 13:15PM*
Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 9:24:27 AM

HB1120

Submitted on: 3/19/2014

Testimony for WTL/AGL on Mar 19, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lucia You	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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