

HB 2560 HD2 SD1

RELATING TO FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

Permits family child homes in agriculturally designated districts if located in a farm dwelling. Amends definition of "family child care home" to allow for care of one to six unrelated children. Effective 7/1/2050 (SD1)

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

KEN H. KAKESAKO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

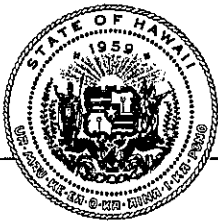
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2014
2:50 P.M.
Room 224
HOUSE BILL NO. 2560, HD2 SD1
RELATING TO FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

Chairperson Espero and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2560, Senate Draft 1. This bill makes family child care homes a permitted use in all agriculturally designated districts, if the care home is located in a farm dwelling and notwithstanding sections 205-2 and 205-4.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Department of Agriculture is concerned about allowing uses and activities on agricultural land that have no relationship to agricultural production. We are also concerned that other non-agricultural uses that are currently required to have special permits to operate on agricultural lands may seek the same legislative consideration. We believe the existing special permit process described in Section 205-6 is the appropriate means by which uses such as that described in this measure may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.





**OFFICE OF PLANNING
STATE OF HAWAII**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION
ACTING DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

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Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Acting Director, Office of Planning
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Thursday, March 27, 2014
2:50 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
HB 2560, HD2, SD1
RELATING TO FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES.

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs.

The Office of Planning offers the following comments on HB 2560, HD 2, SD1 which amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 46-15.3.5 to allow family child care homes in agriculturally designated districts if located in a farm dwelling. Currently, the State Land Use Law in HRS §§ 205-2 and 205-4.5 does not allow family child care homes as a permitted use.

Allowing non-agricultural uses in the State Agricultural District may contribute to the impermanence syndrome, whereby agricultural use declines due to farmers' disinvestment in their farm operations in anticipation of development. This has been observed to occur where competing uses are allowed in areas designed for agricultural uses.¹

The list of non-agricultural uses allowed in the State Agricultural District has grown over time. Currently, HRS § 205-2 allows the following non-agricultural uses: wind generated energy production; biofuel production; limited solar energy facilities; wind machines and wind farms;

¹ *Impermanence Syndrome – Have you got it?*, Rutgers, at <http://njsustainingfarms.rutgers.edu/farmlandissues.html> (last visited, Feb. 3, 2014).

small-scale meteorological, air quality, noise, and other scientific and environmental data collection and monitoring facilities; open area recreational facilities; and geothermal resources exploration and geothermal resources development. The list of non-food related uses is longer still.

The State Special Permit under HRS § 205-6 grants counties the authority to allow “certain unusual and reasonable uses within agricultural and rural districts other than those for which the district is classified[.]” In other words, the Special Permit process allows uses in the State Agricultural District that are not agricultural uses or related to agricultural uses on a case-by-case basis. Although we do not advocate for allowing non-agricultural uses within the State Agricultural District, this established process allows counties to review non-agricultural uses to mitigate impacts on the State Agricultural District.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Council Chair
Gladys C. Baisa

Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

Council Members
Elle Cochran
Donald G. Couch, Jr.
Stacy Crivello
Don S. Guzman
G. Riki Hokama
Michael P. Victorino
Mike White



Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/council

March 25, 2014

TO: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

FROM: Gladys C. Baisa
Council Chair *Gladys C. Baisa*

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 27, 2014; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2560, HD2,
SD 1, RELATING TO FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to permit family child care homes in agriculturally designated districts if located in a farm dwelling. The measure amends the definition of "family child care home" to allow for care of one to six unrelated children in the home.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. There is a lack of local, affordable child care available to farmers and others living in agricultural districts in Hawaii. This bill would provide much-needed local options for childcare to those communities, allowing parents to obtain care for their children in close proximity to their work and homes.
2. Many qualified childcare providers in Maui County's agricultural districts, including Haiku, Makawao, and Kula, do not have the funds, time, or expertise to obtain the special use permit currently required to provide child care services.
3. Quality child care is absolutely necessary for optimal child development, but it is often too expensive or too distant for farm families. This measure would allow farmers to take care of their own children, as well as other children in their communities, in an affordable, local environment.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs

FROM: Scott Morishige, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: Senate Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs

Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 2:50 p.m. in Conf. Rm. 224

Testimony in Support of HB2560 HD2 SD1, Relating to Family Child Care Homes.


Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2560, which would permit family child care homes to operate on agriculturally zoned lands. PHOCUSED is a statewide coalition of health, housing, and human services organizations committed to strengthening policies and programs that benefit the marginalized and underserved in Hawaii.

There is a shortage of licensed child care providers in Hawaii – it is estimated that one licensed child care space exists for every seven children under the age of 5. This shortage is even more severe in rural communities. Family Child Care providers (FCCs), which are licensed and regulated by the State Department of Human Services, are one safe option available for rural families in locations where licensed preschools and daycare centers are limited.

Although FCCs have operated on agriculturally zoned lands without controversy for many years, the DHS office in Maui County has recently declined to renew the annual licenses for FCCs on agriculturally zone lands unless they obtain a costly special use permit. Currently, State laws do not specifically permit the operation of FCCs on agriculturally zoned lands – this has created a loophole in the law that potentially places 25% of FCCs operating in Maui County in jeopardy despite the fact that these FCCs have operated for a number of years without previous restrictions.

HB2560 would close the loophole in the current law and clarify that FCCs are allowable in single family dwellings on agriculturally zoned lands without a special use permit, and would provide increased access to safe, regulated child care in rural communities. In particular, HB2560 would increase access to safe child care on the neighbor islands -- It is estimated that one in four FCCs in Maui County will be impacted by this law, and as many as one in three FCCs in Hawaii County.

Once again, PHOCUSED respectfully requests your support of this bill. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at admin@phocused-hawaii.org.

Good  Beginnings Alliance
Voices For Hawai'i's Children

March 26, 2014

TO: Chair Will Espero
Vice-Chair Rosalyn Baker
Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

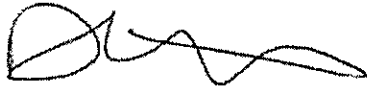
FROM: Deborah Zysman
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: **Support for HB2560 HD2 SD1: RELATING TO FAMILY CHILDCARE HOMES**

The Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA) **supports HB2560 HD2 SD1**, which would permit family childcare homes in agriculturally designated districts. The services offered by family childcare homes in these particular districts are for many families the only form of childcare that is available and affordable. We appreciate the concerns raised by the Department of Agriculture and hope that the stakeholders can work together to address the underlying issues that necessitate this measure – including the cost prohibitive aspect of applying for a special use permit.

GBA strongly supports HB2560 HD2 SD1 and thanks the committees for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Deborah Zysman
Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 2560 HD2

To: Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Chair: Senator Will Espero, Senate District 19

Vice Chair: Rosalyn H. Baker, Senate District 6

From: Katy Chen, Executive Director

PATCH – People Attentive to Children

Date: Thursday, March 27th, 2014 at 2:50pm.

Location: Conference Room 224

Subject: HB 2560 HD 2 - RELATING TO FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES & AGRICULTURAL LANDS <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/submittestimony.aspx>

PATCH supports HB 2560 HD2 as it will make family child care homes a permitted use on agricultural lands and thus fulfill a serious public need for safe, affordable child care in rural areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB2560 HD2. I am Katy Chen, Executive Director of PATCH – People Attentive to Children. PATCH is Hawaii's only statewide child care resource and referral nonprofit. We respond to 8,000+ enquiries each year from parents looking for referrals to safe, affordable, quality child care. PATCH also trains 4,000+ people each year in the field of early childhood education and care.

We are in favor of HB 2560 HD2. The bill is important to address a loophole in the laws regarding permitted uses on land designated as agricultural throughout the State of Hawaii. Currently 50+ family child care providers (FCCs) already licensed by the State Department of Human Services operate their daycare businesses in single family dwellings situated on agricultural lands. They serve over 300 children statewide. Many have operated for decades.

It has come to the attention of DHS that these family child care homes licensed by the DHS violate the land use laws for agricultural districts. DHS has declined to renew the annual licenses of some of these FCCs unless they obtain a special use permit, particularly in Maui County. Obtaining such permits are costly. For e.g. in Maui County, it requires an initial investment of \$550+ for the application fee and another \$3,000 to \$15,000 in consulting fees (e.g. surveyors) to complete the required attachments. These fees are too exorbitant for FCCs who earn on average \$20,000 a year as one of the lowest paid professions in America.

There is a child care crisis in Hawaii. Only one licensed child care space exists for every seven children under the age of 5 in Hawaii. This means many children are put into unlicensed, unregulated child care which can be unsafe.

For rural areas, the problem is even larger due to the scarcity of licensed preschools, daycare centers and daycare homes. PATCH has worked to increase the number of licensed child care spaces for years – a difficult task. Hawaii cannot afford to lose existing licensed child care spaces as parents will have no safe place to take their children while they go to work. On Maui, a quarter of all licensed FCCs are currently on agricultural land. On Hawaii Island, one-third of licensed FCCs are on agricultural land. If the FCCs in just these two counties were to shut down over this permitting issue, 300+ children would not have anywhere to go. This would be a devastating blow to the child care sector.

FCCs have a legal limit of just 6 children and must be operated within the confines of a single family home. We are asking only that any lawful single family dwelling in agricultural districts, also allow for FCC as a permitted use. These types of small businesses are operated like an extension of the family living there, hence the term, "Family Child Care."

The bill requires no additional construction to the family home nor does the bill mean to impact the designation of any agricultural district. It would simply allow DHS to license a legal private residence on agricultural land to care for up to 6 children – without a costly special use permit. Since DHS has already been doing this for years, it would fix a legal loophole, restore small business, and help those young families needing child care.

Others have testified that this bill should not pass because using a dwelling as a family child care home is not "agricultural use." This argument ignores the basic fact that in order for farmers and ranchers to effectively cultivate their land, they must be able to place their children in safe, affordable child care. Where would the critics have the rural families put their children? Drive far into the urban areas and then drive back to work, twice a day? Impractical. Take their children with them to the fields and pastures? Again, impractical and arguably unsafe.

Rural families, just like any other family, deserve safe, affordable child care throughout the State. Allowing FCCs on agricultural land makes it possible for the agricultural businesses to thrive. To do otherwise, would force farmers and ranchers to pursue other vocations that are more family friendly – or worse yet, find alternative child care that may not meet basic health and safety guidelines. HB 2560 HD2 is not just good sense, but good business and good sustainability for rural areas.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Katy Chen

Testimony in support of HB 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker Vice Chair

Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 2:50pm

Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

Here in Hawaii County we have some things in great abundance, such as agricultural land and families with children. However, our capacity to care for these children within licensed family childcare homes is not proportionate to the demand. We require more licensed family childcare homes to make space for the children of our community in order to set them up for healthy successful lives and to support their parents as they work and go to school. Building this critical capacity is a difficult task without the additional concern of childcare capacity being dramatically slashed.

If licensed family childcare homes on agricultural land closed down on the Big Island it would be devastating:

- We have 95 licensed family childcare homes
- Their combined capacity to care for children is 567 spaces
- Across the county 27% of licensed family childcare homes are on agriculturally zoned land
- We would lose 166 spaces where children currently are in care
- We would lose 28 small businesses that are a critical support to our community

I support this bill because I believe that we should be actively working to support and improve the quality and availability of care for the young people of Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Okumura
Associate Director
PATCH



1806 South King Street, Suite 30 | Honolulu, HI 96826 | Ph: (808) 942-4708 | haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org

Date: March 27, 2014
Time: 2:50 p.m.
Place: Room 224

From: Katherine Murphy, Executive Director
Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC)

RE: HB 2560 HD2 – Relating to Family Child Care Homes

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker and members of the Committee. Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) supports HB2560HD2, SD1.

Family child care homes are an integral part of our early care and learning system. Allowing family child care on agricultural lands will benefit rural communities (especially on Neighbor Islands) that have limited access to center-based programs, and many family child care providers offer care for younger children – meeting a crucial need in communities.

The 2005 book “Last Child in the Woods – Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder” (Richard Louv) outlines the benefits of children having access to nature. Family child care homes on agricultural zoned land provide plentiful opportunities for children in our media and technology based world to connect with nature and its richness, which contributes to healthy development and learning.

We acknowledge the vision and courage it takes for legislators to enact laws that will come to full fruition after they leave office. Investing in early childhood development and education will be a lasting legacy. This bill would have immediate positive effects for keiki and 'ohana in rural communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Katherine E. Murphy
Executive Director
HAEYC

From: yuana garvin <ygarvin@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 3:43 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 2560

Testimony in support of HB 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker Vice Chair

Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 2:50pm

Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for hearing HB 2560 and for the opportunity to testify before your committee.

My name is Yuana GARVIN, and I have been a daycare provider since seven years as well as the single mom of two boys, aged 16 and 18, since their dad died, seven year ago. I am writing to encourage you to pass this important bill, HB 2560, and in doing so expand the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include family child care homes.

My interest in education started at the beginning of my adult life. Born and raised in France I was for a few years an Art and History teacher in a professional high school before marrying an American citizen and making Maui my home.

I am a passionate believer in early childhood education as opposed to childhood training. By this I mean that children need to experiment life and not only learn about it. We need children who find their own questions and our job is to provide them with the tools which will enable them to find the answers.

In my home, I receive 5 days a week 6 children aged one to three and a half. I speak French to them and feed them organic meals. There is no TV here. The daycare is the first place for a child to interact with a wider group than his family but at the same time this is a small and intimate enough setting for the child to feel nurtured, loved uniquely.

At that age children discover their whole body and their senses as well as their curiosity are open wide. This is why the choice of an environment is so primordial and what better place than a natural setting where these little ones can observe insects, birds, farm animals, pick their own fruit ? HERE is a deep understanding of

life. HERE is the place where they can run and shout and laugh. HERE is the place where they are going to invent a game with some stick. HERE is the place where they can isolate themselves under a tree just to watch, feel the wind or take a breath. HERE is the place where they learn to share a place with other, learn to be independent and creative, learn to share but remained protected.

I deeply care about my work and believe that I found on this land its ideal setting. I am also aware that, as a renter, it would be almost impossible for me to find another place willing willing to accept this kind of structure. If we are refused the right to work on agricultural lands or if another tax is imposed on us, I then will have to close.

But then what will happen to these family depending on my services ? All of them work upcountry, teachers, self employed people, will they have to add to their day of work the two hours of trips downtown ? Most of upcountry area is on agricultural zoning.

Another point which I think deserve your attention is the fact that Maui is already short of family daycare providers. Few people are tempted by this work. This is a calling as the income is very low and the risks very high. We are alone, have to get insurances, pay excise taxes, we have yearly surprise visits by the DHS who inspect all the areas of our daycare and for those like me who serve meals, three more surprise visits from PATCH. We comply to it all, these control are absolutely necessary and we welcome them but another tax would mean our end.

Thank you for your support and for making sure family child care providers have a voice here in Hawaii.

Sincerely

Yuana GARVIN

From: rbell11@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 9:36 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Aloha,

My name is Rebecca Bell and I run a licensed family child care program in Haiku HI. I have been licensed for 6 years now. I moved here from Oregon 11 years ago where I used to teach pre school and supervised an infant toddler program, and was head director for the afterschool program at our local elementary school as well as the site camp director for the summer camp at Wayne Morse Ranch, all which is ran through the City of Eugene.

I worked at Children of the Rainbow in Lahaina as a teachers assistant for a couple years and then went on maternity leave to have my baby girl Maiya. Well when Maiya was a baby she was diagnosed with stage four neuroblastoma cancer and I was forced to move to Oahu and basically live at either Kaiser or Kapiolani during her 8 courses of chemo and surgeries. I so wanted to come home to Maui but the doctors told us Maui is just not equipped to take care of kids with cancer so Oahu was our temporary home. (Thank goodness for Hanai family) Well she beat the cancer like I knew she would but the mama inside of me didnt want to leave her but I knew I needed to provide for my family as I have 2 other daughters as well. So I thought I have this space what a great place to have a little daycare/pre-school and use all my education and experience with young children and at the same time help families here that need daycare and keep my little one close to me incase symptoms arose that no one else would see but me. So I told Maiya, You know how mama used to teach pre-school, and she said ya mama why and I said to her, I think I am going to start a pre-school/daycare program here from our home to help all the mama's and daddies here and I was just hoping that you could help give it a name? and at 3 years old she puts her finger on her little chin in a thought process and says hmmmmmm I think it should be called Little Miracles Mama! I about cried right there on the spot as that is what I have always told her from her first chemo treatment at 6 months old. "You can do this baby girl! You are my little miracle! It floored me when she said it and it made sense as well. So I opened my daycare doors after complying with all of DHS laws. Now I have been in business for 6 years now and I cant imagine doing anything else. I am a single parent raising 3 daughters. I am also a second parent to many families who rely on me to care for their child as if they were my own and I dont take that task lightly. I love all my babies and when a child enrolls here , I usually get them at a very young age and they stay with Auntie Rebecca until they go off to kindergarten. From all my years of experience, parents feel safe and secure with their little ones being taken care of in a family child care setting, especially when they are so little. Its almost like they are going to there second home in a sense. To shut down upcountry daycares just because we are on ag land makes no sense to me. What better place whould you want your babies to be while you are at work but in the country, running around, getting dirty, planting gardens, learning to cook, making lifelong friends, and having an auntie who is like your second mama and treats you as such. My babies here may not be MY babies, but they always will be in my heart! This is what you get from a home based child care provider. So much love, compassion, and the love of what we are blessed to have around us everyday, THE CHILDREN!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Bell

From: rbell11@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 2:08 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: In Support of HB2560 relating to family childcare homes

Aloha,

I would also like to add to my testimony as a childcare provider in Haiku for the last 6 years who has complied with every DHS regulation that I would not have the means to come up with the money to pay for the required permits. Like I stated before I am a single mother of 3 girls and my only financial means to support my family is my childcare business. If I was forced to shut down I do not know what I would or could do. I fear that it could put me and my children in a homeless situation and it could cost a lot of parents there jobs if they do not have childcare available in there community which puts them at risk of being in a possible homeless situation as they could lose their source of income.

The children in my program do gardening, raise chickens from baby chicks, collect the eggs, harvest the garden and are being taught to respect agriculture. They love the outdoors where I am located and they learn so much from being in the country. Also childcare on Ag land supports farmers and ranchers and all those who care about agriculture. For a parent to have to drive into Kahului or Wailuku to a daycare to drop off their child and then come back up country to go to work, then have to go back down town to pick up their children would be a huge expense for them in gas and time out of there day that they dont need to waste in travel time when they have wonderful childcare resources right here in their community.

Please approve family childcare on Ag land. It would be devastating to so many people if it is not approved.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Bell
Owner/Operator of Little Miracles Childcare

From: Miranda Lewitsky <heartlighteducation@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:37 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 2560

Testimony in support of HB 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

I have run a child care business on ag land on the Hamakua Coast, Hawaii Island, for six years. My child care business is a Montessori program in my home. My home is in a neighborhood, Paauhau, which used to be a sugar cane camp. My neighbors support my business and have the children visit for the holidays singing carols, trick-or-treat, etc. My daughter plays with the neighbor children and has many friends being raised in our home care Montessori program.

There are not many child care/educational options in our rural area. Many of my students come from another child care home setting which takes children through age three, and I teach them from age 3-6. My child care offers a school program for students driving as far south towards Hilo and 30 miles away, and several students from Laupahoe through Paauillo, Honoka'a, and Ahulaoa. I offer families the choice of attending 1-3 days week, wich you can not find other places.

All of my students have done well, for example understanding multiplication at age 4 or 6 and reading above grade level in their elementary schools.

I am very busy with keeping my home clean and safe, caring for my daughter and husband, and caring for my students. I also have the usual office work. Please do not make it more difficult for my humble business by creating obstacles to our happy home because our neighborhood is zoned as ag land.

Mahalo,

Miranda Lewitsky

From: mary matis <sismatis@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 8:05 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: HB2560 Scheduled for Thursday, March 27 at 2:50!

As a grandmother living on Maui, one of the first things I took notice of when I moved to Hawaii, 8 years ago, was the need for young parents to have access to affordable day care in order for their families to grow and thrive.

The need still exceeds the opportunity here on Maui. Many young families here have few if any relatives to depend on for advice, care and nurturing of their wee ones. As I look into opening a day care for infants, I have come to realize there is a shortage of infant daycare on Maui, as well as care for toddlers.

Today, twenty day care centers located on ag land may soon be faced with a new tax proposed for such centers. I am unsure of the rationale behind such a tax. Twenty day care centers on Maui make up one-fourth of all such centers here on our fair island alone!

The proposed tax would certainly impact many daycare centers to the point of having to close down, as dedicated providers work for a meager sum, by any standard. This tax would take them out of commission. Where would families with babies turn for such help?

To complicate the matter by the end of March 2014 Human Services refuses to renew licenses for daycare centers on ag land for the year if the problem is not addressed.

Please consider standing strongly against the proposal, as an already under-served populace, our most vulnerable, will be the most to suffer.... our newborns, our toddlers, our keiki. Combine this with the threat to their families livelihood, and of course the income for day care providers whose business just happens to be located on ag land !

A daycare provider to 6 toddlers, a widowed Mom herself, will lose her source of income for she and her sons, because she runs her day care from her rented home on ag land. Day care owners and workers are dedicated to their work, out of love and respect to our youngest population, and in most cases struggle to survive, since the income from such work is seldom sufficient compensation for the hard work and loving dedication involved in caring for babies full time.

Our youngest cannot speak for themselves, all who recognize the idiocy of such a tax must speak in their favor.

I for one stand against such a proposal and all of the ramifications that would result from such a tax.

Sincere regards,

Mary Matis
808-264-2764
125 Peahi Rd.
Haiku, HI 96708

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:37 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: carina11@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2560 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM*

HB2560

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for PSM on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carina11@msn.com	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.

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Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 2:50pm
Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Baker and members of the Committee:

My name is Ian Chan Hodges and I am testifying in support of HB 2560 SD 1 because it will expand the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include family child care in the residences of the providers. In Hawaii's rural, agricultural communities, particularly on the neighbor islands, family child care providers offer an invaluable service to working families—providing quality care and early learning to young children in our rural, agricultural communities and enabling parents to work. This is of particular importance to families who are involved in farming and ranching, whether on a full-time or part-time basis.

In fact, the availability of quality, home-based family child care in Hawaii's rural, agricultural communities is critical to perpetuating our agricultural heritage in a manner that increases food security — putting local food on local plates — as well as providing early learning that helps to ensure that the next generation is willing and able to take responsibility in the future for our local farms and ranches.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Testimony in support of HB 2560
Relating to Family Child Care Homes**

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker Vice Chair

Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 2:50pm
Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shay Chan Hodges and I have been a Maui resident for twenty-two years, with the majority of that time spent Upcountry and on the North Shore. I have two sons who currently attend King Kekaulike High School, both of whom have been served by a variety of educational, day care, and recreational programs in this community.

For the majority of my years as a working mother in Hawaii, I have written grants for nonprofits in the human services arena. I also owned and operated **Maui Child Toys and Books** for six years in Makawao Town, and last November, published an ebook about the economic aspects of work and parenting called *Lean On and Lead, Mothering and Work in the 21st Century Economy*.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with child care providers in the Haiku, Makawao, and Pukalani areas to learn more about the issues that impact their ability to provide care for the children of Maui residents. While there are a number of issues that create challenges for those who provide family child care in their homes, the issue that is currently the most pressing for the majority of providers is the requirement of a special use permit for those on agricultural land.

Most of the providers I spoke with who are on agricultural land do not have the funds, time, or expertise required to obtain the special use permit needed to continue to provide child care services. **(The initial fee for starting an application is \$550, with additional costs adding up almost immediately.)** In fact, more than one provider has chosen to close rather than lose her license; others are in fear of what the future holds as they do not see how they will be able to complete the permitting process; and I know of at least one who would like to move but cannot -- because almost all of the land in our community is zoned agricultural. Some providers may actually risk losing their homes because they built or chose their homes based on their professional needs.

This situation is particularly upsetting because many parents prefer the family-style atmosphere of child care in a private home; most providers are highly qualified and many have been providing services from their agricultural location for as many as twenty years;

parents in our community prefer the wide open country-feeling spaces of agricultural land; and there are currently not enough care options available for the families on Maui.

From my own personal experience, my work with families, and my recent research on families and the economy, I know that laws like this can have a far-reaching domino effect on our communities. The unintended consequences of policies that discourage qualified individuals from offering care to Maui's working families are numerous. In addition to reducing work opportunities for child care providers (in a still difficult economy) and creating barriers for parents to work and provide for their families, reduced child care options means that our community also loses out on the intellectual "working" capital of our residents.

Child care providers represent a very important component of our early learning infrastructure, and have a profound impact on the educational and economic success of our island community. Just one provider may serve as many as a dozen families. (Although providers are limited to caring for six children at a time, many children attend daycare part-time.) Considering that both parents work in most families, that means the loss of one provider can impact the ability of a few dozen individuals to work. Those individuals are teachers, firefighters, police officers, legislators, workers in the retail and visitor industries, doctors, nurses, employees of the renewable energy sectors, and of course farmers and agricultural workers of all kinds.

In my ebook, *Lean On and Lead*, I present a variety of first person narratives and interactive data that describe what parents need to significantly participate in the economy while raising children. Individuals interviewed include working women, mothers, and fathers from around the world who represent a broad variety of occupations, as well as some Hawaii residents: Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui, Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, Senator Brian Schatz, Senator Jill Tokuda, and Maui District 2010 Teacher of the Year Emily Haines-Swatek.

The stories told in the interviews make it very clear how important the support of working parents is to our economy. Further, they describe in detail the vital role child care plays when it comes to parents' work options – regardless of income or profession.

Please note also, that in our agricultural communities, family-based child care is not only often the preferred form of care due to the fact that it aligns with many rural families' values and lifestyles, it is one of the primary forms of care available on the neighbor islands. In the agricultural area of Kula, there are only two child care centers—Fun 2, 3 and Kamehameha Schools Preschool. In Makawao, there is only St. Joseph Preschool, and in Haiku, there is only ROOTS preschool. These centers do not have enough space to meet the needs of our families. If family child care providers are forced to close, families who live in agricultural communities will have to travel outside of their communities to find care. Many of these individuals do not work "in town." Having to commute for child care will increase the amount of care that they need due to travel time, as well as impact the amount of quality time that they will be able to spend with their children. Further, when parents' work locations are not near where their children are cared for, this situation creates a great deal of anxiety for parents because they know they cannot reach their children quickly if there is an emergency.

Ironically, we need more family-based child care providers in our communities than we currently have – not less. Starting in August, when the minimum age for kindergarteners increases, the need for providers will be even higher. I spoke with a kindergarten teacher at Kula School recently who informed me that there will be approximately twenty-five additional children in that community who need child care, and if their parents are not able to find care, not only will the parents' work opportunities be affected, their children's access to early education will also be impacted, and those children will not be prepared for kindergarten once they are old enough.

When it comes to preparing our children for the future, if we want to preserve our rural and agricultural way of life, the best form of care will clearly be in an agricultural setting. Providing an environment that teaches children to respect and understand nature, giving even the youngest members of our community opportunities to be responsible for other living things, and fostering love for what is unique about our islands from the start will provide enormous benefits to all of us in the future.

I had the opportunity to meet with some providers last month, and one of them had provided care for one of my sons fifteen years ago. I would guess that in the last fifteen years, she has helped to care for close to a hundred children, and provided invaluable support to that many families. It is time for us to return the favor.

In our efforts to support healthy communities, children who are loved and well-cared for, and a strong economy, we should be working to pass legislation that provides every possible support to family child care providers -- not creating financial and other barriers to their success. **I strongly urge you to expand the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include family child care homes.**

Thank you for considering my views on this issue

Mahalo,

Shay Chan Hodges
Maui, Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 6:37 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: mae.kaler@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2560 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM

HB2560

Submitted on: 3/27/2014

Testimony for PSM on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Florence M. Kaler	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a day care provider on Ag land, I wish to support HB2560. Having my day care on ag land has allowed me to expose the children to farm animals. How to care for them by feeding, collecting eggs. Harvesting fruit, planting seedlings, walks in the banana, lemon, jabotacaba, picking green beans, tomatoes it is endless what can be learned when children are exposed to farm life. They love Moon Garden Farm School located on the Big Island. Let's keep this rich environment available to our young children. Please allow day cares on Ag Land. Thank you, Florence Mae Kaler

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

From: maile davis <mailedavis@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 11:50 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 2560

From: mailedavis@hotmail.com
To: hmstestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony in support of HB 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker Vice Chair

Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 2:50pm
Conference Room 224

I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2560. This is the first letter I have written to my elective officials and feel the need to speak out on something that will not only affect myself and family but also the community in which I live in for a variety of reasons. I feel that this Bill is something that needs to be addressed, discussed and deliberate about because it's outcome will impact us all as a community.

Please allow me to give a brief overview of my family childcare. I have been state licensed for almost 11 years. I started with my first child in care and have continued care in my house through all my children growing up with my youngest still in care. Over the years I have helped serve over 30 families. I do this because there is a need and I enjoy my job. I could easily use my degree and get paid much better somewhere but for now I am happy to watch children in my house. I am a proud small business owner and take pride in what I do. I have taken classes with PATCH, and later also became employed with them and taught over 250 hours to others who also wished to open a Family Child Care while at the same time also running my own child care. After my fourth child I took a break from teaching and in 2012 I won Patch Hawaii's 2012 Provider of the Year award which was a state wide search. While I work with children; their parents are busy being teacher (over 4 public school teachers currently, 9 more in the past), real estate agents, solar electricians, students, ER nurses, computer consultants, airline stewardess, chefs, vet assistants, county workers, NASA consultants, air traffic controller, mid wives, and several small business owners. I feel I serve a need not easily able to find in the upcountry area of Maui because most of my families use me part-time which is very hard to find space with a group preschool. Also location wise I am over 20 minutes away to the nearest preschool located in a more urban area. These parents are families looking to put their children in to a small setting with no more than six children and a more personalized feel to it.

I offer care in Haiku, Maui on Agricultural zoned land and have a lot to offer because of it. My playground is very large to let the children explore nature in. On our daily nature walks we learn more than you might think. We have butterfly bushes, chickens and ponds enabling us to study life cycles in person, first hand. I mention this because one of my clients is a public school teacher who teaches the fifth grade and was so happy that her son was able to experience this while in my care -while in her class of 25 children only 5 of them knew what caterpillars turned into. This is something all my three year olds in care not only know but have witnessed firsthand monthly and it never gets old. We eat fresh fruit daily. Yes, every day I am able to fill their growing bodies with freshly picked oranges, tangerines, starfruit, guavas, lilikois, avocados, papayas and more. I have the space to provide a large garden where weekly for lunch we can pick tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, beans, lettuce, pumpkins, watermelons, carrots and zucchini. We are able to watch worms in the dirt, plant vegetables from seeds and water a garden much larger because I am on Ag land. I find it hard to imagine that with the farmers and fresh local push in today's economy that you would want to deny young children their first farm experience and not want them to be open to it as a future possibility. I only operate 4 days a week and from 8am-3pm keep shorter hours than most farmers themselves-although I also feel the need to inform you that in my neighbor hood of over 14 properties we are the only family who actively farm the land in the way it was intended. The only property in our whole subdivision farming produce, plants and palms, along with cows, horses and chickens. It is an ideal place to have children learn about nature, compassion and farming skills.

I am currently considering closing my care and asking for your help to please consider HB 2560. To get a special land use permit is beyond my means while supporting my family. I began my small business in good faith with the state and county, operating with your knowledge, permits and even being paid with both County and State and Federal subsidies for providing care to children in my home. I know that early childhood education is a priority for everyone so please continue to make it so. If all providers who now require this permit close or operate illegally it will not only be putting a hardship on the providers but also families and their employers.

At this time I would also like to respectfully request that the following amendments be made to HB2560 HD2:

- 1) Strike the phrase "that was constructed prior to July 1, 2014" found on page 1, lines 14 & 15 of HD 2.
- 2) Amend the definition of "family child care home" found in section 46-15.35(b) striking the phrase "three to" so that the amended definition reads as follows
 - b) For the purposes of this section, "family child care home" means a private residence, including an apartment, unit, or townhouse, as those terms are defined in section 502C-1, at which care may be provided for no more than six children who are unrelated to the caregiver by blood, marriage, or adoption at any given time.

I urge you to support this measure and consider the impact it will have on our community and future. I thank you for your consideration to support this bill and allow a new generation of contributing members of our society learn and grow in a farm setting learning far more than we can even imagine.

Thank you for your time-

Maile Davis
4483 Opana Place
Haiku Hi 96708
808-572-4734

From: Lilia Doubleday <lilia.carrillo1@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 11:19 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Testimony support for House Bill 2560

Subject: Testimony support for House Bill 2560

Testimony in support of HB 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for hearing HB 2560 and for your time and the opportunity to testify before your committee.

My name is Lilia Doubleday. I am a parent who has benefitted from a family child care home on agricultural land for 2 years.

I am in strong support of HB 2560 because it expands the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include child care homes.

My child care provider took care of my son James, age 2, so I could go to work to support my family. I live and work in a rural area upcountry Maui.

It's very important to have my son in childcare close to my work place, for various reasons, such as emergency, sick calls, work late, least amount of drive time, etc.

One very important reason I chose my childcare provider to take care of James was because her child care center was located on 2 acres of farmland.

Wide open spaces with gardens, orchards and farm animals, the perfect learning environment for an active toddler to explore and learn many lessons that young children can only learn from hands on exploration. Two year old James couldn't sit still with older toddlers at different school classroom style preschool/daycare centers. Once he started going to the Family Child Care Home on 2 acres with farmlife, animals, gardening and plenty of outdoor play exploration he became a very happy little boy who learned about the wonderful world under his feet and at his little fingertips.

James had the best, hands on learning, first childcare experience possible, because he was fortunate enough to have quality child care. I believe it was

because the childcare setting was on farm land ,close to our home, and only a few miles from my work place.

Every child deserves the same opportunity to this type of quality Childcare option to help promote early childhood education in their community.

Again, my family and I have greatly benefitted from services provided by our childcare provider located on agricultural land, I am in strong support of HB 2560.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Lilia Doubleday

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 2:50pm
Conference Room 224

Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Baker and members of the Committee:

I'm writing in support of HB 2560 which would amend HRS Chapter 46-15.35 to reflect the legislative determination that a family child care home is a permitted use in the agricultural district provided that the family child care home is located in a farm dwelling.

Although I am now retired, during my nine years as a Deputy Corporation Counsel for Maui County, my specialty was land use litigation. Many of my cases involved disputes over permitted uses in the Agricultural Districts. The County Council, the Planning Department and the County Planning Commission understood that their actions were constrained by the requirements of Chapter 205 with respect to permitted uses in the Agricultural District on Maui. It is not within the jurisdiction of the Maui County Council, the Maui Planning Department or the Maui Planning Commission to expand the scope of the permitted uses. This must be done by the state legislature.

Because it is clear to me that family child care homes are an critically important resource for rural families, I urge the Committee to pass HB 2560 SD1 as is.

Thank you.

Madelyn D'Enbeau
Attorney at Law (retired)

Testimony in support of House Bill 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees, ,

Recently, it has come to my attention that the County of Maui is trying to shut down family child care homes operating on land that is considered/or zoned as Agricultural. I, along with many others, are appalled with this information. By taking an action such as what is being proposed, you will be putting many families' welfare at risk. By welfare, I mean the family's withstanding in general, not welfare as in aid received by the government

Please consider that by closing the many daycare facilities already operating on agricultural land, you will leave many families without daycare options. Many parents will need to request off or call in to arrange for childcare. Arranging for childcare is a lengthy process in itself. First, parents will need to seek resources to find suitable childcare options in their area(s) of preference. Second, parents may need to re-apply for childcare tuition assistance if the lapse in care is too far apart. While reapplying for childcare assistance, you should also note that the portion of assistance may change depending on the type of daycare chosen. Another note should be that there may not be availability in the preferred daycare. Parents will have different ideas on where best to place their child for care, based on their own morals and values. Third, children will need to adapt once again to a new caregiver and environment.

This will cause anxiety in children as well as parents. At the end of this very lengthy and time consuming process, if the parent(s) are not comfortable with their options, they may choose to quit their job or drop out of school to stay home with the child(ren).

While this is not the most detrimental possibility, it is one that may have financial repercussions for a family in general. A single parent may have no choice but to apply for welfare assistance from the government because their daycare options are not suitable or there may not be any available options near them. Parents attending college are likely doing so in hopes of a better future for their family. This hope will obviously need to be delayed or given up until suitable childcare options are available for the parent. For those parents attending college, like myself, the outcome of having to drop out in the middle of a semester or after the refund eligibility period ends, will be consequential. Students are not eligible for a refund if the drop out of school or a class by the given date has passed. This will mean that parents who may be forced to drop out will need to take a loss on their college tuition.

Having to deal with a forced close down of our chosen daycare facility will put a lot of stress on families already enrolled as well as possibly cause financial hardship for the providers of these facilities. It will certainly cause stress and anxiety for my family. I was a stay at home mom for our youngest, now almost three years old, for the first two years. When I finally decided to go to college and seek out day care, I went through a lot of emotions. First and foremost, I wanted to feel assured that my daughter would be in a good environment with a provider that would interact with her, allow play time, teach and be more than anything, extremely caring. My experience with my older children was not a good one and I was extremely fearful of putting my baby in a family daycare setting where the provider might sit her in front of the television all day or treat her terribly. I spoke to Rochelle, my current daycare provider, a year ago and was almost certain, by phone conversation alone, that she would be a perfect fit for our family. I was very blessed that when I finally decided to enroll in college, Rochelle had an opening. Rochelle has had her daycare for nearly twenty years. She was a teacher before then for over ten years. Her philosophy of caring for our children as Jesus would and preparing them for preschool is very rare to find and perfect for us. I felt comfortable after I did a site visit and saw how wonderful she was with the children she already cared for. I chose to transition my daughter so that I could see how well she would take to the daycare setting and Rochelle. I was completely at ease after the first week of transition. We can see how much our daughter is learning by her behavior, the things she says and shares with us, the crafts she brings home and her reaction to Rochelle.

The idea and thought of having to find another daycare for our daughter is very scary. I am far from a parent that will put my child in any daycare with an opening. My husband and I have many standards to assure us of her safety and well-being while she is in someone else's care.

In all honesty, an agricultural land area is the best place to have a family child care. It gives children a lot of open space to play and explore, is usually far from dangers such as heavy traffic and speeding cars, will likely have animals in the neighborhood that the children can say "Hi" to and identify. I am in strong support of HB 2560 because it expands the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include family child care homes. The county of Maui should consider HB 2560 so that they are not adversely affecting so many people.

Finally, I respectfully request that the following amendments be made to HB2560 HD2:

- 1) Strike the phrase "that was constructed prior to July 1, 2014" found on page 1, lines 14 & 15 of HD 2.
- 2) Amend the definition of "family child care home" found in section 46-15.35(b) striking the phrase "three to" so that the amended definition reads as follows

b) For the purposes of this section, "family child care home" means a private residence, including an apartment, unit, or townhouse, as those terms are defined in section 502C-1, at which care may be provided for no more than six children who are unrelated to the caregiver by blood, marriage, or adoption at any given time.

I truly hope that the County of Maui considers its people and how an action such as this will greatly affect them before deciding on closing these family child care homes. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before your committee. Please feel free to contact me at the information listed below should you have any questions, comments or requests.

Sincerely,

Eve Balthazar
2780 Kaupakalua Road
Haiku, HI 96708
808-276-3684

From: celia friedrich doss <celiadoss@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 9:55 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 2560

Testimony in support of HB 2560
Relating to Family Child Care Homes
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker Vice Chair

Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 2:50pm
Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

Both of my children attend or attended a family child care home in Agricultural land on the west side of Maui. This location is ideal to give children a safe, peaceful environment to grow and socialize. They learn about plants, animals and good community values. Please protect the rights of the Family Child Care Homes to continue their offering in their permitted homes in agricultural land. There is no conflict for the state as I see it.

Sincerely,

Celia Doss
819 Front Street
Lahaina, HI 96761

From: Bruce Glen <bruceglen@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 9:33 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Testamony in support of House Bill 2560

**Bruce Glen Ph.D. Clinical Psychologist Licensed Hawaii
Child, Family, Adult Psychotherapy**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1269, Makawao, Maui, Hawaii 96768
808 572-6556 Fax: 808 573-1189
Email: bruceglen@me.com

March 26th, 2014, 0930 AM

Testamony in support of House Bill 2560
which expands the permitted use in agriculturally designated zones to include Family Child Care Homes
Relating to Family Child Care Homes ...

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker Vice Chair

Conference Room 224

Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 2:50pm

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Dr. Bruce Glen, a licensed Clinical Psychologist in Hawaii since 1988. Earlier during my internship in the early 80's at Children's Place, Puunene, I worked with young children and their parents for several years. Later, as a psychologist, I have continued working with the presenting problems of children and their parents; many single working mother families. I have now been in practice for a total of just under 30 years.

I write to you with the in-depth & long term experience mentioned above which urges me to express to you the dire need of passing the House Bill 2560. Young families with young children desperately need more Child Care Homes and need them in the country, not in a town setting. Allowing, actually promoting, Child Care Homes on Agricultural lands is a humane and psychologically therapeutic way of giving the gift of stability and the security of nature in a rural setting to these very young members of our community.

I understand that the existence of at least 30% of the current Child Care Homes are in danger of being closed because they cannot pay the high fees being considered or about to be levied. Many of these Child Care Homes are owned and well run by single mothers and to further burden them and close them down would be a singular shame.

Please consider the decidedly beneficial effects of allowing these Child Care Homes to remain open by passing # 2560 and easing the stress of all concerned. Thank you.

Dr. Bruce Glen Ph.D.

Clinical Psychologist

From: Ben Diamond <chefdiamond@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:08 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 2560

Testimony in support of HB 2560
Relating to Family Child Care Homes
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker Vice Chair

Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 2:50pm
Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

Sending our daughter to a Family Child Care Home has been the best thing for our family. We are very happy with our choice and do not want to lose this option.

Sincerely,

Ben Diamond

From: aloha12345678@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 2:10 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: HB2560 - Exemptions for Family Child Care on Ag. Land

Testimony in support of HB 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker Vice Chair

Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 2:50pm
Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Thomas Hall and I have recently become aware of the hearing HB 2560 and the opportunity to testify before your committee. As a Grandparent, my Grandchildren greatly benefit from the love and care they get at their child care provider, Because of this I am able to work part-time with Convention Services that drive a Large portion of the business economy in Hawaii. I value my work and depend on it in order to provide for my family. Currently I researched Care providers on Maui and some of the Very Best Loving Care Givers live in agriculture zones. Please consider this huge mistake to possibly close down some of the Very Best People available to love and help raise our children. I can't tell you how important this is for the island of Maui and its Growing population. Please strongly consider this Plea from the community.

I am in strong support of HB 2560 because it expands the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include family child care homes. In Hawaii's rural, agricultural communities on the neighbor islands, family child care homes offer an invaluable service to working families—providing quality care and early learning to the children in our local communities and enabling parents to work.

Obtaining a special use permit is beyond the capacity of most providers. The process is costly and time-consuming, and a number of providers have already had to shut their doors. If the law is not changed, many more providers will likely close, and many would-be child care providers will be discouraged from attempting to begin offering their services to the community.

Child care providers are integral to our economy because they enable Hawaii parents to work with peace of mind. Supporting HB2560 not only supports providers, but also supports hundreds of families in Maui County today and in the future, who need more -- not less -- options for quality care for their children.

Thank you for your support and for making sure family child care providers have a voice here in Hawaii.

Thomas Hall
2662 Kalialani Circle
Pukalani, HI. 96768
808-280-4447

From: anna livia plurabelle [mailto:aplurabelle@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 7:22 AM

To: PSMTestimony

Subject: Testimony in support of HB 2560

Testimony in support of HB 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker Vice Chair

Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 2:50pm

Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Masha Delfinden and I'm writing to voice my strong support for the HB2560 because it expands the permitted use in agriculturally designated zones to include family child care homes.

As a parent to a little girl who goes to a family child care home located on agricultural land this issue is very important to our family.

We love the fact that our daughter gets to spend her days in close proximity to animals, close to the land. It teaches her a lot about the land.

We live in the countryside, so most of the daycare homes in our area are located on agriculturally designated lands and if those daycare homes would have to shut down (and some already have due to their inability to pay the permitting fees and taxes)

this would increase the already palpable shortage of daycare homes in our area. As is, two of my friends are waiting for an opening at a daycare for over 3 months.

Then our only option would be to spend an hour a day just to bring our daughter to an urban daycare center and back again.

That is a tremendous waste of time and gas money, amongst other things.

Parents need to work and we want to have community based, small, child-oriented options we can trust to leave our children with while we take care of what needs to be done.

It also is expensive to have your child in a private care home, and those providers who could afford to pay the fees would have to increase the monthly tuition (because they hardly make any extra money to begin with) and that would make daycare unaffordable to many of us.

So please show you support for our community, its parents, children and childcare providers by supporting HB2560.

Sincerely ,

Masha Delfinden

From: aloha12345678@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 2:14 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Rochelle Alo's Ag.testimony for HB2560

Testimony in support of HB 2560

Relating to Family Child Care Homes

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker Vice Chair

Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 2:50pm
Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

Many thanks for this hearing, and for showing that you really do listen to the voice of your people. My name is Rochelle Alo and I have been a family childcare provider on Maui for nearly 20 years, and an early elementary teacher in Hawaii's schools for nearly 15 years before that. I am quite frankly puzzled at the State and County's desire to shut down daycare homes operating on agricultural land. When I received word of this I thought, "Aren't all of our legislators, from the President down to our regional representatives, constantly saying that "our children are our future and our greatest resource"? Doesn't everyone involved with youth in any way confirm that "a child's first 3 years are the most crucial to their development and to their success as an adult"? And what about the urgent stream of pleas we providers receive from new parents in our communities who are in desperate need of immediate care for their babies? What happened to all the pressure that daycare placement and assistance organizations, like PATCH, Childcare Connection, Arbor, Keiki O Ka Aina, Good Beginnings, and many others, are constantly under to locate enough quality childcare providers for their overflow of needy parents? There is already a screaming shortage of quality daycare providers in Hawaii, and the State intends to shut down a large number of us that have dedicated our lives to helping our keiki get a great start in life? I thought we were all on the same page when it came to helping our children?"

Honestly, I still just don't get it. I don't see how daycare homes operating on agricultural land are a detriment to society, or an incumbrance to our communities. After nearly 20 years, I have had no complaints from my neighbors, because the beauty of living on 2 acres of agricultural land is that your neighbors are far away, and traffic is far away, and pollution and vehicle exhaust is far away, and deafening city construction noises are far away. The puzzling, ironic truth is that agricultural land is THE BEST place to raise kids! Every single one of the hundreds of families I have served over the years has mentioned how the beauty of the country setting and the presence of neighboring farm animals all around us has enriched and nurtured their child. Just stop and picture that for a moment. Wouldn't you want this for your child? Would you really prefer your baby to be one of 20 other kids in an urban daycare center?

The fact that you are even taking the time to listen to us, gives me so much hope. I truly believe that you will take this REAL stand for our children...your children, and walk the talk that they "truly are our future and we support their optimal growth and development". I pray that you will be their ambassadors, the only voice they have in these high places, and pass this bill that puts Hawaii's money where her mouth is...where her heart is. We say we love our children...this is how we can show it. Please stand up for us, and for the kids and parents we are trying to help. Aren't we all trying to build a better tomorrow and a stronger Hawaii?

If you allow a zoning technicality to shut down the very arms that are raising and teaching our keiki how to be good, kind, independent, confident, serving, forgiving, helpful citizens, then what hope do we really have for this future generation to adeptly lead us, their parents and grandparents, in an honorable way. May God continue to bless you and this hearing, as you put into action the love I know you have for Hawaii and for her children.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Rochelle C. Alo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 5:52 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: waterbaby213@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2560 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM

HB2560

Submitted on: 3/27/2014

Testimony for PSM on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Tinga	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I have had personal experience of the success of a pre-school in a rural setting. Moon Garden Farm School, owned and operated by Florence Mae Kaler, in Mountain View, HI, is a sterling example of what our young children are capable of learning. She combines fun, learning, socialization, responsibility, leadership, in a Montessori based program, in an environment that is beautiful, safe, and rich with the natural world. When her children graduate and move on to kindergarten, they can read, write and do number sequences and sometimes basic math. Just ask any of her parents over the last 20 years... "Auntie Mae" gave these children a springboard into their lives... A joy of learning .

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 7:33 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: nityananda7@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2560 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM

HB2560

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for PSM on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: we need childcare in rural areas. in fact, child care in rural areas on the island has been one of the biggest blessings i've experienced.

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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From: Jamie Walker <jamie.walker.808@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 11:58 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Daycare on ag land

What is this about possibly not allowing daycare on ag land? My daughter had the most excellent experience in daycare on Makawao ag land. I can't fathom why the fact that it was ag land would be detrimental to her safety or anything else. This provider was in a safe area and had a perimeter fence, and was wonderful and caring and just plain amazing. Where I live most of the surrounding area is ag land. If we had to go to somewhere zoned otherwise, it would limit our options because I work in this same community. I would have had to drive miles to drop her off only to come miles back to very near home to work (?)

If this is about wanting the provider to live somewhere other than ag land, I feel this is unreasonable in our area, where SOOOO much is ag land, especially where there would be enough room to provide daycare that allows access to fresh air, room to run.

Childcare is a crucial commodity among working parents. We who are on a short tether of time and resources need child care to be provided close to home or the workplace. And we need at least a few choices so we can make a conscious choice in the best interest of our children.

Please explain why this is the hill we want our childcare options to die on.

Jamie
Makawao
Maui

From: Ilima Smallwood <ilimasmallwood@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 1:55 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Daycare On Ag land

Aloha,

I live in Haiku, Maui and it is very important that daycare's be permitted in our area. almost all the land in haiku is zoned Ag land - even residential developments where all the lots are 2 acres are usually Ag land. A lot of this area should probably realistically be changed to a different zone as it is rarely used for true agriculture above and beyond a moderate garden operation or a few horses. Anyhow that's not why i'm writing.

I am a single mother and I live in haiku and work in Paia. If daycares were not allowed on Ag land i would not be able to work. period. I have a great daycare provider that is conveniently located on my way to work. She has a lovely yard for the kids to play in and many fruit trees. I want my daughter to be close to nature and in a safe environment. I also want to be able to easily fit daycare into my already overtaxed schedule. The idea of having to drive to the central district or elsewhere to drop her off and pick her up would make my life unworkable.

It is not fair nor right to make these providers go through the cumbersome process of a special or conditional use permit. Most of the providers in these areas (all that i'm aware of on Maui anyway) are small 6 children max. home fascilities. These providers are not making a lot of money to throw at unnecessary permitting processes, most are probably just scraping by given the outrageous rents on island these days.

Please allow these daycares to stay where they are and to keep providing the critical services they do to keep maui's mamma's employed!

Mahalo nui loa for your time!

'ilima smallwood

From: Mary Fabbio <Mary.Fabbio@axiahomeloans.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:52 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Upcountry Day care

My name is Mary Fabbio and my daughter Valentina attended Little Miracles Day Care from the age of 2 until she started attending Haiku Elementary at the age of 5. I am a long time Upcountry resident and I cannot tell you how valuable it was to have a quality day care in a country setting in Haiku. The same children went there the whole entire time, we all became a small family. I would much prefer my child to be in this kind of setting than stuck in a stark classroom all day. These children were able to enjoy the outdoors on a daily basis and it was such a small intimate setting, I cannot say enough good things about the program that Rebecca Bell provided. Now Valentina is older but her younger brother now attends the same day care and friends of mine have children that attend there too. Rebecca provides a valuable much needed service in Haiku.

Please feel free to call me should you have any further questions, 298-1609.
Thank you

Mary Fabbio

Loan Originator / LOA | HI-372453

Axia Home Loans - Maui Branch | NMLS #943353
161 Wailea Ike Place Unit C-101, Suite 3, Wailea, HI 96753



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