

March 26, 2014

LATE TESTIMONY

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 River Siver and I have been a Maui resident for over 30 years. I have lived in the North Shore Haiku & Paia area since 1981 with my family. I have one son who attends Haiku School. I have been a full time working mother since my son's birth and have relied upon private day care to provide quality childcare until my son was old enough to attend Kindergarten. My son attended a fantastic PATCH approved family day care facility/home in Haiku for five and a half years, which is a few minutes drive from where I work. I chose this provider because of the home environment and the open country-feeling that the agricultural space provided. Being close to the day care enabled me to spend more quality time with my child, as I did not have to commute every day to a 'far away preschool'. My parents and husband all work full time so we have no family members who were able to care for our infant and our only option for childcare was a home based family childcare provider.

Having local quality childcare was essential in enabling me to return to work when my son was six-weeks old. The only way I could return to work was to find a childcare provider who could watch a six-week old infant. Preschools do not provide care for infants so if private childcare was not available I would not have been able to return to work, which would have meant my family becoming dependent upon the HI state for financial assistance. Luckily, I was able to return to work *only* because of the family childcare home I found from a private provider in Haiku. I do not work in 'town' but in rural Haiku so having child care available in Haiku is absolutely essential to me being able to stay employed.

Obtaining a special use permit is beyond the capacity of most providers. The process is costly and time consuming which will cause many providers to close their doors. If this happens, it will be extremely difficult to find quality childcare for infants and young children close to home. Childcare providers are an integral part of our economy because they enable Hawaii parents to work with a peace of mind knowing your child is receiving quality care in a home like environment with lots of space to enjoy the outside and fresh air. Supporting HB 2560 not only supports childcare providers but it also supports all the working families in Maui County.

I am in strong support of HB 2560 because it expands the permitted uses in agriculturally designated zones to include family childcare homes. In the rural agricultural communities on our island of Maui, family childcare homes offer invaluable service to working families. As a full time working mother who loves her child, we need more opportunities to be able to find high quality care for our children in family homes where our children can flourish, enjoy nature and life in an agricultural setting.

Sincerely,

River Siver

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Rick Camp <rick_camp@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 9:21 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Support for H.B. 2560: allowing child care on ag lands

RE: H.B. 2560

Description: Permits family child care homes in agriculturally zoned lands, if constructed prior to July 1, 2014.

Dear Representatives,

I am writing in support of H.B. 2560, which allows for child care in family homes in agriculturally zoned lands. Hawaii is a mixture of urban, suburban and agriculture zoned living areas, with agricultural zoned areas being by far the largest area. This creates a unique situation for our children where they can experience child care in an agricultural setting. For example, my daughter was in day care at a working farm with chickens, goats, sheep, cattle and a horse. Each day my daughter participated in feeding and caring for the animals. This experience taught her life lessons in animal husbandry, and responsibility to complete chores. These experiences have made her more kind to animals, essentially increasing her empathy toward all living creatures, and installing a good work ethic.

In addition, there was a working green house on the property where my daughter planted, watered and harvested fruits and vegetables she and the other children grew. This produce was prepared and served for lunch and snacks. This experience taught her important life lessons in growing your own food, living sustainably, and, again, installing a good work ethic.

Without child care in agriculturally zoned lands we would have had to commute 25 miles, each way, to Hilo where my daughter would not have learned any of the above life lessons and without those experiences would be a poorer person. As a Hawaii resident and voting constituent, I support H.B. 2560, allowing for child care in family homes in agriculturally zoned lands as this allows broad experiences and allows for child care in the communities in which we live.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Camp
11-3848 8th St.
Volcano, HI 96785

LATE TESTIMONY

From: sarahcory nash <sarcornash@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 9:02 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: HB2560 support child care!

Aloha,

I support HB2560. As a rural resident of the Big Island, we have no option but to have child care in the homes of providers on ag land.

Many of these same people do farming or ranching, thereby teaching our young people about how to raise animals with care, how to grow foods locally, protect the aina, and support the communities in Hawai'i.

The childcare providers that I know and depend on do provide goods and services to the communities and use the land for agricultural purposes as well as the services that make our children grow up with the benefits that the state does not currently provide—affordable, safe, educational, experiential learning at an affordable cost.

Please pass this bill to protect our aina and our children.

aloha,
Sarah Nash
resident, homeowner, Volcano Village
Puna district
Big Island

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Lilia <lilia.carrillo1@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 10:32 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: 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

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Leayne Patch <leaynepatch@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 10:45 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: HB 2560

Aloha,

I am writing in regards to the HB 2560 and humbly asking that this bill is supported. I am a science teacher and I also have a daughter who attends a pre-school that is located on Ag land. She and the other students learn the importance of farming, gardening and the life cycles of Hawaii's precious flora and fauna. When children are able to learn from hands-on experiences and place based content, the learning experiences are long-lasting and rich. This type of learning environment sets up children to be life long learners and it also helps them build their cognitive skills. Many who teach on Ag lands will be unable to pay for the expensive permits and if they do, this will only increase the already high price of pre-school and once again, hard working families will be financially affected.

Please support HB 2560!!!

Mahalo,

Leayne Patch-Highfill

LATE TESTIMONY

Hearing Date
Monday February 10, 2014
10:01 am Conference Room 312

Relating to Family Child Care in Homes

Aloha Rep. Wooley and members of the committee,

Thank you for hearing on bill 2650 and for giving my family a opportunity to be heard.

Our names are Jeanne and Scott McKay, our son Jove has attend a wonderful family style home daycare in Makawao the last one and a half years. Having this service is instrumental in our lives as we both work full time and are so thankful for our child to have a loving provider in a safe rural environment. Scotts family has ranched on Maui for 125 years and he works for the cattle operations. I also work full time and my job takes me all over the island. We live in Kula and our daycare is in Makawao close to the ranch. this gives me comfort knowing that our child is close to his fathers work not down in town. in case of one of us needing to get to him. We love that our sons daycare is small and on a beautiful piece of property where he gets to experience all the beauty our island has to offer as well as planting food and enjoying it with the other children they all get an understanding of how important this land is to us agriculturally

I have gone through the lengthy process of finding the right daycare for Jove and it is difficult there is not enough providers especially upcountry and to think of ours having to close would be devastating to our family financially and emotionally on the children , they have created home away from homes for our children to grow and learn.

My understanding is that the process of permitting and the taxes that will be imposed will shut down many of these day cares, These men and women do a great service to our community and our economy by allowing us to work. and knowing that our children are safe. please consider how many people will be affected by this bill not passing and giving these very important and Loving homes for our children to continue to operate.

Mahalo for your time,

Jeanne, Scott and Jove

From: Christina Leopold <christinarleopold@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 10:44 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Support for amended HB2560

To Respective Hawaii State Representatives,

I am writing to support amended bill HB2560 that allows for childcare providers to exist on agricultural lands. Without providers in ag-zoned areas, there would be a childcare crisis on Hawaii Island. I live in Hawaiian Paradise Park and will soon have my son in daycare nearby. It is immensely convenient and we have found a wonderful provider that is state-certified and participates in the PATCH program. In many ag-zoned areas on Hawaii Island, the areas are primarily residential and this is the case in Hawaiian Paradise Park, Hawaiian Acres, and other subdivisions from Keaau up to Volcano. Please DO NOT prevent childcare services from operating legally in ag-zoned areas.

Mahalo,

Christina Leopold
15-1720 Maia Ave.
Keaau, HI 96749
808-896-1587

~~LATE TESTIMONY~~

From: Mino McLean <mino@mauimino.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 9:40 AM
To: PSMTestimony

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

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

Hawaii is already experiencing a child care crisis. With the increased age for children to be accepted in to Kindergarten, our in-home child care settings are in even higher demand. Please understand the importance of allowing these home-based businesses to thrive regardless of their zoning class.

Sincerely,

Mino McLean

Sent from my phone

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Anne Farahi <annefarahi@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 2:00 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of child care on ag lands

Aloha,

I would like to show my support for group childcare on designated agricultural lands. This supports our farmers by allowing children to take part in the activities. It teaches our keiki to take part in these activities into adulthood. This is not hindering farmers it is supporting the future of farming.

Mahalo for your support,
Anne

~~LATE TESTIMONY~~

From: Danielle Carpenter <dscarpenter1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 1:23 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: SUPPORT OF HB2560

To Whom It May Concern,

I recently heard that there is a new bill and that if it gets passed, it won't allow childcare or preschools to operate on agriculture land. As an educator of ten years and a mother, I am deeply concerned of the devastating outcomes this bill would have on Hawaii's keiki. Therefore, I am writing in support of HB 2560.

I taught middle school English in Pennsylvania for six years before moving to the Big Island of Hawaii, and I currently teach English at Hawaii Community College. I have a Masters of Education from Pennsylvania State University, and I feel that I'm qualified to say that early childhood education is imperative and it directly benefits our community. According to *The Ounce of Prevention Fund* "At-risk children who don't receive a high-quality early childhood education are 60% more likely to never attend college [and] 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime." If preschools are closed down because of this bill, it's very likely that many children in Hawaii will not have the opportunity to receive early childhood education. For instance, on the East side of the Big Island, we have many remote communities and many families who do not have the means or transportation to send their children to preschools in town. By closing down preschools that are on agriculture land, these keiki will be deprived the chance to learn how to count, to learn how to read, to learn how to write... These keiki will not get the head start they need to be successful in K-12th grades. Losing access to preschools might not only affect their performance in grade school and high school, but also it might determine whether or not they have the opportunity to get into a 4-year college.

There are many excellent preschools and childcare centers that are located on agricultural land. For instance, Moon Garden Farm School in Mountain View, Hawaii is the perfect example of a wonderful Montessori preschool that helps children blossom into social, curious learners. Students learn through hands-on experiences and meaningful activities that they talk about for days. This preschool and others like it should not be shutdown because of their location. Instead, these preschools and childcare services should be supported so that children in remote locations all over Hawaii have the opportunity to develop and blossom into students that are ready to succeed at the K-12 level.

I implore you to support HB 2560 and let childcare centers and preschools operate on agriculture land.

Sincerely,

Danielle Carpenter

808-345-3077

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Edward Pratt, Jr. <enpratt13@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 12:35 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Support of HB2560

I hereby submit my support of HB2560.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Kiko Camp <kiko_mcmurry@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 1:30 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: HB2560 - Support of Bill

RE: H.B. 2560

Description: Permits family child care homes in agriculturally zoned lands, if constructed prior to July 1, 2014.

Dear Representatives,

I am writing in support of H.B. 2560, which allows for child care in family homes in agriculturally zoned lands. My husband, Richard Camp, has also submitted a letter of support describing the numerous life lessons that our daughter has learned by attending such a facility. I would like to add that her preschool is so well-appreciated that even the Volcano School of Arts and Sciences leads field-trips to it at least once a year. The children get to fish, feed the animals, learn about how our food is grown, etc. As our daughter transitioned to higher education, she routinely expressed the wish to return to her preschool for the fact that it provided an outdoor learning environment that cannot be replicated at public schools.

Not all child care facilities on agriculturally zoned lands have a farming facility. In fact, our daughter attended a child care setting in Mountain View that was in a family home on an ag parcel of less than 1 acre. Most of the family residents between Mountain View and Volcano are zoned agricultural, so not passing this law would make it logistically very difficult for rural Puna residents to find child care within 25 miles of their home. This in turn will create an unnecessary financial hardship on many families.

As a Hawaii resident and voting constituent, I support H.B. 2560, allowing for child care in family homes in agriculturally zoned lands as this allows broad experiences and allows for child care in the communities in which we live.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kiyoko Camp

11-3848 8th St.

Volcano, HI 96785

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 11:33 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: keliialoha@hotmail.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
James Tagupa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in SUPPORT of licensed child care providers caring for children on ag land. I grew up in Hoolehua on Molokai, where most of the lands there are agricultural either by state use/Dept. of Hawaiian Home Lands. Molokai has one licensed child care provider and I believe if this bill passes it will allow for more children to be cared for in a legal manner on our island. We have had families express that they would like to pursue this avenue as a career, but our island's people can't necessarily afford a special use permit to provide quality care for Molokai's families. I believe if HB2560 passes, it will bring about more interest and follow through on our island for licensed child care. Mahalo, James Tagupa

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

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Nicole Pratt <tonicolecase@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 12:33 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: SUPPORT OF HB2560

I herby submit my support of HB2560.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Seshia Lovelace-Ragon <seshalovelace@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 1:34 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: I support HB2560

Please allow childcare providers and preschools to operate on agricultural land. We are a fairly rural community and now allowing these providers to operate with negatively affect a huge amount of our community.

Sent from my iPhone

~~LATE TESTIMONY~~

From: Jennifer Thelen <jennthelen@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 2:34 PM
To: PSMTestimony

I am writing in support of HB 2560.

My son attends Moon Garden Farm School on the Big Island. His experience there has been nothing short of extraordinary. Aunty Mae has created an environment that combines learning and nature. With class jobs that include, feeding the chickens, collecting eggs, feeding pond fish, watering garden plants the children learn to take care of themselves while taking care of nature. Not to mention they grow many of their own snacks! Our experience at this facility is beyond anything we could have hoped for, and having it be on agriculture zoned land has a huge role in its success. The children growing up on these farm schools are the future leaders and successors of Hawaii and beyond. Please vote to support HB 2560.

Thank you,
Jennifer Thelen

--

jenni thelen

ajoyfulnest.blogspot.com

From: Jane Wells <janeval14@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 2:59 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Support of child care on Ag land

LATE TESTIMON

To whom it may concern,

I just became aware of a bill that is in the process of being passed that would not allow for child care on Ag land. Three years ago, my daughter attended preschool at Mae Keller's preschool which is on Ag land. As an educator and mother, I can testify that it is the best preschool on the Big Island! It would be a crime for her preschool to be shut down due to the fact it's on Ag land. One of the best parts about her preschool is that children can explore outdoors and receive place based education.

I am writing to oppose this decision and this bill. If you need more information, please contact me at 557-6974 or janeval14@hotmail.com Sincerely, Jane Wells

Sent from my iPhone

From: drginareyes@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 2:26 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: In support of hb2560

ATE TESTIMONY

I am a resident of the big island and just heard about this bill. I am in support of hb2560.

Sent from my iPhone

From: drea@plattinc.com
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 2:51 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB2560

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Hawaii State,

Children learn in all environments and should especially have access to learn and be cared for on land that allows them to be surrounded by nature. I would like to express my support of HN2560 to "allow family child care homes in agriculturally designated districts if located in a farm dwelling." I have seen a young family friend thrive in such a setting. That child has access to the wild and creatures in a way that he could not experience elsewhere, and that education is absolutely invaluable.

Mahaio nui,
Andrea Platt
Big Island

LATE TESTIMONY

From: John Lyle <kanakaukoa@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 8:28 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: HB 2560

Dear Folks, My wife and I will hope to send our son to a daycare facility located on ag lands therefore we fully support HB 2560. We know of an excellent day care close to us and have been anxious to get our son into this excellent program. PLease don't force day cares of ag lands! Thasnk you, John and Susanne Lyle, Ka'u, Hawai'i

Box 180324 HNP. HI 96718
808-985-8691