

SB2241

Testimony

Includes taro lands and taro-growing structures as special agricultural lands to be protected from development.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE
and
WATER AND LAND
and
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2014
2:55PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2241
RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO**

Senate Bill 2241 proposes to include taro lands and taro growing structures as special agricultural lands to be protected from development. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of this bill and offers the following comments with suggested amendments.**

The bill prohibits the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) from acquiring for development projects, lands and infrastructures used or to be used for wetland taro growing. In addition the measure prohibits the Board from disturbing existing taro growing systems, ancient wetland taro lands or structural elements of ancient wetland taro growing systems on currently undeveloped public lands. The bill prohibitions are specific to only wetland taro lands and growing systems, of which there are only a limited number of lands left capable of maintaining those systems. The Department has worked closely with the Taro Security and Purity Task Force to refine the language of the bill this year. The Department recognizes the need to protect these sites in perpetuity for future food security.

The Department suggests the following amendments:

Page 2, Line 4 should read: "wetland taro lands (lo'i kalo) and ancient wetland agricultural"

Page 2, Line 5 should read: "structures on undeveloped state-owned or –acquired lands."

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESTHER KIA'AINA
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Page 2, Line 15 should read: “lands, or structural elements of ancient wetland taro-growing systems on undeveloped lands.”

Page 4, Line 1 should read: “Undeveloped ~~L~~lands and infrastructures used or to be used for wetland taro-growing, including ancient wetland taro lands and structural elements of ancient taro-growing systems;”

Page 4, Line 6 should read: “(3), ~~and~~ (4) and (5) of this section or interests therein,”

TARO SECURITY AND PURITY TASK FORCE

**Testimony of
MARK ALAPAKI LUKE
Chair**

**Before the Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE
and
WATER AND LAND
and
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 2:55PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2241
RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO**

Senate Bill 2241 proposes to amend the list of lands that the State shall not acquire for development purposes on the Island of Oahu, to include undeveloped lands where wetland taro lands and taro growing structures are present.

The Taro Security and Purity Task Force strongly supports this bill with minor amendments.

The Taro Security and Purity Task Force was created by the legislature by Act 211 in 2008 specifically to guide policy and research related to taro and taro farming, as well as to support the vitality, economic viability and perpetuation of taro and taro farming in the state. In bringing this bill to the legislature we are fulfilling a portion of the kuleana that this body was tasked with under Act 211.

The Task Force's 2010 report to the legislature was the result of a year-long community consultation and included 89 recommendations across seven key issues. Legislators received an update on task force progress in relation to the recommendations of that report at the start of the 2014 legislative session. Access to affordable lands to grow taro, near to where people lived, was of significant importance to young taro growers and organizations looking to create resilient options for food security in their communities as well as mentoring programs that develop new farmers. This represents a different sector than existing commercial taro growers. The task force recognizes the important role that taro plays in addressing the need for staple starch production in Hawaii at a time when we are dependent on 85 percent of our food from out of state.

The task force has worked closely with the Department of Land and Natural Resources this year, and earlier with the Department of Agriculture, to refine the language of SB2241 and address

concerns relating to the broadness of applicability of adding wetland taro lands to the list of lands not to be acquired for development by the State.

The Island of Oahu is dependent on the neighbor islands as its source of raw taro in the production of poi. An estimated 30 acres of commercial taro is currently recorded for the island for a population of almost 1 million residents. In the event of environmental disasters, such as floods or hurricanes on Kauai, or earthquakes that disrupt large portions of Honolulu, Oahu suffers extreme poi shortages.

SB2241 prohibits the Board of Land and Natural Resources from acquiring for development projects, undeveloped lands and infrastructures used or to be used for wetland taro growing on the Island of Oahu. In addition the measure prohibits the Board from disturbing existing taro growing systems, ancient wetland taro lands or structural elements of ancient wetland taro growing systems.

Given the extreme shortage of wetland taro lands on Oahu, the task force feels that the State should not participate in the further reduction of lo'i lands through the acquisition of parcels for other purposes, including affordable housing units whose residents ironically are likely to be consumers of taro and poi.

The task force makes recommendations to clarify that the proposed statute shall not affect currently encumbered projects or properties by inclusion of a savings clause. The bill does not prevent or inhibit a private landowner from the sale or development of their private property to a private buyer; nor does it impact already developed state-owned properties.

In addition, the task force notes that by state and federal definition, lo'i kalo are wetlands and retain wetland soil characteristics, whether they are active or have long been fallow. The physical character of such sites is a primary indicator for future and ongoing high costs of flood mitigation for the State and City and County of Honolulu. This includes where groundwater levels rise quickly and persistently in lowland areas, such as the Mapunapuna industrial district, or where topography indicates locations are collection points for upstream surface water flows such as Manoa, Palolo, Kuliouou and Punaluu – all former lo'i kalo lands. The instability of wetland soils translates to increased costs and higher risks for long-term structural integrity. SB2241 provides state agencies with a measure of liability protection by prohibiting the further acquisition of such lands by the state for development.

The Taro Security and Purity Task Force strongly supports SB2241 with the following minor amendments (in red):

SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that matured, developments, and proceedings that were begun before its effective date.

SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "Mark Alapaki Luke".

Mark Alapaki Luke
Chair, Taro Security and Purity Task Force

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: diannel@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 10:17:58 AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
dianne winter	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Comments Only	No

Comments: Support with the amendments recommended by the Taro Task Force.

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SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Sakala	Kona Chapter Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

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SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hui 'O Malama 'Aina	Support	No

Comments: We need more Kalo production on all islands and the resources to do that as well as the protections in place for what we have. Thank you for hearing this bill.

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SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Towers	PAN North America	Support	No

Comments: PAN North America supports SB2241 and efforts to protect taro wetlands on public lands, increase food security, and preserve cultural identity.

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SB2241

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
dr melissa yee	Seeds of Truth	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. There is a growing interest in preserving the Hawaiian culture and the environment and these two go hand in hand. Too long we have ignored the needs of the Hawaiian people and our vulnerability in the Pacific Ocean to the fluctuations of climate change and drought conditions on the mainland. Most recently the governor of California has declared that drought conditions will force limitations of water usage for farmers who provide a majority of produce to the whole country. Will we continue to wait for the ships to come in before we start to grow our own food? The time is coming for a food crisis that will hurt Hawaii in a major way. Please pass this bill. Respectfully submitted, Dr. Melissa Yee

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Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 6:25:36 PM
Attachments: [TARO LAND SUPPORT TESTIMONY.pages](#)

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert "Kealoha" Domingo	Kaaawa Community Association	Support	No

Comments:

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SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie Chen	Paradise Action Womens Alliance	Support	No

Comments: Yes lets please protect our precious brother, the TARO, from development!

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CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY

Senate Agriculture, Water and Land, and Hawaiian Affairs Committees

Center for Food Safety Strongly Supports SB 2241 and 2407

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Soloman, Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kouchi, Vice Chair Galuteria, Vice Chair Hee, and members of the committees:

My name is Dr. Ashley Lukens and I am the Hawai'i Program Director for the Center for Food Safety (CFS). CFS is a nationwide public interest, consumer and sustainable agriculture nonprofit organization whose mission includes centers on furthering the public's right to know how their food is produced, through labeling and other means. We have over 400,000 farmer and consumer members across the country, including many thousands in Hawai'i.

I am also an adjunct professor of Political Science at UH Mānoa and UH West Oahu, where I have taught classes on food, agriculture, and policy since 2006. Through my work with the Indigenous Politics Department and Sea Grant, I have spent several years working closely with Kāko'o 'oiwi, a 405-acre wetland farm project in He'eia, O'ahu working to restore agricultural and ecological productivity to this once abundant landscape.

Center for Food Safety strongly supports SB 2241 and 2407 as they help to protect and promote the native diversity of the Hawaiian Islands by protecting the lands and structures critical to kalo production. As established by the 2010 Legislative Report, *E ola hou ke kalo; ho 'i hou ka 'āina lē 'ia*, the production and consumption of kalo is under threat from many forces including the development of near-shore wetlands and the degradation of historical structures that constituted lo'i. The state is uniquely poised to protect these lands and structures, and by doing so they will help preserve the land-based culture of Native Hawaiians.

Despite the challenges facing kalo farmers, we have seen resurgence in consumer demand for kalo products and the re-integration of kalo into local diets. The protection of agricultural wetlands and the structures that have historically constituted lo'i kalo are vital to the revitalization of this industry and the preservation of our native diversity and food cultures here in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Ashley Lukens, PhD
Hawaii Program Director
Center for Food Safety

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SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Breene	Waihuena Farm	Support	No

Comments: Please support with the amendments recommended by the Taro Task Force

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SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Graham Ellis	president - Hawaii Sustainable Community Alliance	Support	No

Comments:

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SB2241

Submitted on: 2/6/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brad Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB2241

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Fritsch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB2241

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Saturday, February 08, 2014 4:45:54 AM
Attachments: [.-lock.DEMOCRATIC PARTY LINE.odt#](#)

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
IRA CALKINS	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: IRA CALKINS GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCHER 730 Captain Cook Ave Unit 426 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2161 Your actions will prove the following assertions to be the truth and factual. The Democratic Party Line has taken away the voice of the people in the making of laws. Taxation with out representation in the State of Hawaii. It appears the Hawaii State Legislators are being blackmailed in to voting the Democratic party line, or else the Democratic Party will not support the State of Hawaii Legislators in all state wide elections. It does not matter what the tax payers think, the Democratic Party line lays down the law on all bills before the State of Hawaii Legislature. The chairman's in all committee meetings has a predisposed script to follow that the Speaker of the House, and the Speaker of the Senate has given the Committee Chairs to follow, to instruct the committee members how to vote on a any given measures, all Bills in all committees of the State of Hawaii Legislature. It is determined ahead of time by the Democratic Party members how a committee member will vote when staying with in the party line on any given Bill in the State of Hawaii Legislature, Democracy has been taken away from the tax payers in the State of Hawaii. Ira Calkins Honolulu 4696434 or 3498667 FAX 808-545-4707 Washington D.C. 202-697-9782

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Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 8:23:31 AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryna Storch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support WITH AMENDMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE TARO TASK FORCE. I am a fulltime, young commercial farmer and recognize the need for this bill in increasing food security and supporting young farmers by protecting land best suited to the farming of taro. Mahalo. Finally some legislation that benefits taro farmers!

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SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support with Recommendations by the Taro Task Force.

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Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 11:00:57 AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Markus Faigle	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Support with the amendments recommended by the Taro Task Force.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 12:12:35 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support with the amendments recommended by the Taro Task Force.

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SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Orr	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I'm one of many people trying to build an excellent reference collection of taro at Waimea Valley. We're always working to learn more to improve our skills in growing healthy specimens of as many kinds of taro as possible. We're a distribution source for common and rarely-cultivated varieties for farmers and amateurs, and we want more land available for people to grow and further distribute the hierloom varieties we offer. For food security and so many other good reasons we support the amendments recommended by the taro task force.

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Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 1:02:09 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen Cain	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The State government needs to take a leadership role in protecting kalo (taro) wetlands for farming and food production for all the people. We cannot simply go around saying "Aloha 'aina"; we must ACT on that phrase. Kalo is a highly nutritious food source. We also need to respect the importance of kalo (taro) culturally and spiritual practices surrounding it. Farmers need to be able to find land and water for this important crop. In addition, food security is a crucial concern for our islands; this bill empowers us to feed our own people. It is foolish and unnecessary for the islands to be so dependent on outside food sources. Greater kalo (taro) production is an important step in the process of increasing food self-sufficiency here in Hawai'i. Please support this bill! Mahalo! Respectfully submitted, Eileen Cain, Honolulu

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SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
maureen Langberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Keep hawaiian taro real and protected!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: wao-hsl@WeAreOne.cc
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 1:41:58 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support with the amendments recommended by the Taro Task Force. I respectfully submit that there is no rational reason to pollute our own environment, or destroy ecosystems. www.WeAreOne.cc

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: mmcardle19@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 2:00:12 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peggy McArdle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii's Resources and Cultural Traditions must be protected. As Legislators, your upmost duty is to protect Hawaii's Resources and Culture. Please Support this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: strauch@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 2:45:36 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Strauch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senators, Please support SB 2241 with the amendments recommended by the Taro Task Force. Lands suitable for wetland kalo cultivation are all too rare, and need to be protected. I live in the Manoa/Makiki/Wakiki ahupua'a, an area once famous for its kalo production, in which most former lo'i have disappeared under development. What remains in all parts of the state is precious. As an educator at UH Manoa, I have brought classes to visit lo'i in Manoa and Windward O'ahu. Wetland kalo cultivation is important not only for the food it produces but for the social organization and cultural values it entails and reinforces. In my experience, students always enjoy and benefit from time spent in a lo'i. I was fortunate enough to be part of the Kalopa'a project, which maintained lo'i on public lands to produce kalo for local non-profit consumption, and to bring school groups to experience traditional Hawaiian agroecology. Similar projects, and programs in Hawai'i schools and at the University, have trained many enthusiastic students in the art of growing kalo, and I am sure that many would love to continue practicing this art, but are limited by the lack available land. I myself have dryland kalo in my garden, and still nourish hopes of being able to grow wetland kalo in the future, if I am able to find appropriate land. As a conscientious eater, I bemoan the fact that it is difficult to even find local kalo to buy. The Hawaiian/Polynesian varieties are really a different vegetable than araimo and Chinese taro, and are a staple of both traditional and modern island culture, nutritious and delicious! Creating a designation for land appropriate for wetland cultivation, and protecting these lands from destructive uses, are essential steps to encourage more local kalo production, benefiting everyone — growers and eaters, residents and visitors — in Hawai'i nei. Please do what you can to get this and its accompanying bill passed. mahalo, David Strauch

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: paulakomarajr@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 3:49:45 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul A. komara, Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support any and all organic farming practices that produce sustainable crops in Hawaii and the World.

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: islekisses@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 3:52:31 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Burch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support with the amendments recommended by the Taro Task Force.

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: brimohi@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 4:15:05 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Emmons	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Kalo is GREAT! Please support KALO!

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Cc: ahuntemer@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 5:44:04 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Huntemer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB2241. We need to protect our Taro. We need to grow much more of it.

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Cc: hyposusan@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 7:35:04 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Bambara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo for your support of this very import bill to preserve the very foundation of our Hawaiian culture. This is a no brainer. The people have spoken already loud and clear on this issue. Please support our voice and this bill. Thank-you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: hilobliss@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 9:05:47 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joy cash	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Protect taro, support this bill.

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: aniko2@juno.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 9:10:29 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Avi Okin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need the taro and its production must be keep free from development.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: veganmom@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 10:05:20 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dena Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: YES! I thoroughly support SB2241. Mahalo nui for doing the same!

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: akamaimom@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 10:39:31 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Taro is central to the culture and particularly important in my world at Waipa. There needs to be many more such growing areas around the islands in case we were ever needing to be nutritionally independent again.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: d_irie_1@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 12:06:23 AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Deluze	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha and mahalo for scheduling and hearing this bill. My name is Anthony Deluze I am a taro farmer in the ahupua'a of Kalauao. We cannot stress the importance of returning waters and preserving lo'i kalo lands these lands are precious and irreplaceable. Kalo is what can and will sustain this island. Kalo has more yield per sq foot than most crops and is very nutritious. we cant eat money nor can we eat buildings. enuff already with the concrete. please understand and support our right to survive. we would like to see more lo'i kalo open and more farmers being able to have access to good affordable lands. we support the amendments specifically for this bill as follows: s206-7 The board shall not disturb existing taro-growing systems, ancient wetland taro lands, or structural elements of ancient taro-growing systems. (5) Lands and infrastructures used or to be used for wetland taro-growing, including ancient wetland taro lands and structural elements of ancient taro-growing systems; SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that matured, developments, and proceedings that were begun before its effective date. SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored. SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval. mahalo in advance for doing the right thing for your constituents me ke aloha

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: vallohfoto@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 3:35:05 AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Loh	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please vote YES on SB2241. We must protect the future of taro farming, and include input from the Taro Task Force. We must maintain the ability to prevent or inhibit a private landowner from the sale or development of their property to a private buyer. Support SB2241 and vote YES. Mahalo!

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: paikoman@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 4:21:46 AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Hallett	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill. By the looks of it, it seems like legislation that is long overdue. Please pass this bill. Thank you for hearing my testimony. Mahalo, Todd Andrews, Llsa Hallett, Jessica Andrews

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: milolii12@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 7:26:07 AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melia Leslie	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please protect the taro lands!! MAHALO!

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: sarahkauai@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 8:36:11 AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: I am in favor of protecting the Taro. Please support this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: mauimarta@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 9:26:26 AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martha Lind	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill with the amendments recommended by the Taro Task force. Mahalo.

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Date: February 10, 2014

To: Senator Clarence K. Nishihara; Senator Ronald D. Kouchi; Senator Malama Solomon;
Senator Brickwood Galuteria; Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro; Senator Clayton Hee

Fr: Nicholas Needle

Re: SB2241

To whom it may concern:

My name is Nicholas Needle. I strongly support SB2241, relating to the special classification of taro lands and taro-growing structures as special agricultural lands to be protected from development. As an educator and taro farmer living in Kaneohe, Oahu, I know firsthand that taro lands, and more specifically wetland taro lands, are limited, invaluable resources that we must protect. Wetland taro lands provide the environmental conditions necessary to grow taro under wetland culture. Wetland taro culture has been practiced in Hawaii since time immemorial, and for many good reasons. For one, it provides many advantages to the taro farmer, including weed suppression and consistent irrigation. The water in a wetland taro patch prevents most weeds from growing and competing with the taro, and it provides the semi-aquatic conditions in which taro thrives and yields well. Taro farming (and indeed farming in general) is extremely laborious, and the wetland taro patch helps the taro farmer to save time and energy from weeding and irrigating and focus on other laborious aspects of taro farming, including planting, harvesting, and preparing the next wetland patch to be planted.

Another great advantage of wetland taro lands is their function in the watershed. If managed properly, wetland taro lands will act as filters in the watershed, capturing sedimentation and returning clean water to the *kahawai* or stream. From *mauka to makai* (mountains to the sea), this function is vital to keeping our watersheds clean and to protecting fragile ecosystems that are threatened by development, run-off, and erosion.

In addition to the value of wetland taro lands to taro farmers and the watershed, we must seriously consider the value of wetland taro lands to the people of Hawaii, both Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian alike, in terms of health, education, family, community, and culture. Taro, as most of us already know, is the cultural *piko* (center) of Hawaii. Taro is integral to the mental, physical, and spiritual health of Hawaiians, who view taro as their elder brother, *Haloanakalaukapalili*. In order to keep taro culture alive and flourishing into the future, we must obviously take all measures necessary to protect the house of *Haloa*, which is the wetland taro patch.

Although I am not Hawaiian, I understand the place and importance of taro in Hawaii. I also understand that taro cultivation in Hawaii is still a shadow of what it used to be. According to the Hawaii DOA, we have only around 500-acres left in taro production (which, by the way, is not all under wetland cultivation. The wetland taro lands we have left, whether fallow or in

production, are limited, finite resources. Once they are paved over or developed, they are lost forever. In a time where we are trying to strengthen our food security and sustainability in Hawaii, we cannot allow this to happen.

As our elected leaders, I ask that you all please seriously consider the social and economic importance of taro and taro lands in Hawaii, and that you work together to pass SB2241 so that we may protect taro lands for our future generations.

TO: Senate Agriculture, Water & Land and Hawaiian Affairs Committees
RE: SB2241
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

Prohibits district boundary amendments of taro lands. Amends public land classifications to add taro lands for wetland cultivation as a fourth class of intensive agricultural use lands. Defines taro lands. Requires retention of supporting structures associated with taro fields. Adds growth and perpetuation of traditional Hawaiian crops to agricultural state planning objectives.

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2014
TIME: 2:55pm
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol

February 10, 2014

Aloha to the Chairs, Vice Chairs and members of the AGL/WTL/HWN committees.

I am a member of the Taro Security Purity Task Force and I strongly support the submitted testimony from the Taro Task Force.

I am writing today as an individual and commercial taro farmer in Hanalei, Kaua`i.

All of our islands need to protect wetland kalo lands and the systems that would allow them to thrive.

Oahu has a large and hungry population, nearly 1 million. It makes a lot of sense that the lands there be doubly protected in **perpetuity** if all importation of food stops. Before that happens, let us be proactive by passing this bill so Oahu and her people can start working toward more self reliance in kalo production.

Mahalo for your support and vision for the now and future of our islands.

Aloha,

Chris Kobayashi
Diversified Taro Farmer
Hanalei, Kaua`i

From: [Joan Conrow](#)
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Subject: Approve SB 2241, SB 2407
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 3:16:56 PM

Dear Senators,

I urge you to approve Senate Bills 2241 and 2407 without further amendment.

Food sustainability is a long-held goal for Hawaii, and much opportunity remains in the undeveloped public taro lands. These lands and irrigation systems are a very important and unique resource. These bills will help to protect these lands and their irrigation systems so that they may be returned to productive cultivation. Please give these measures your full support.

Mahalo,
Joan Conrow
Kapaa, Kauai

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: sherrianwitt@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM*
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 3:51:50 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sherrian witt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: res1z0vb@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM*
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 4:10:35 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana G. Moss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: lucialyou@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM*
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 6:27:05 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: foodsovereigntynow@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM*
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 7:25:37 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mitsuko Hayakawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: claudiarice25@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM*
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 8:38:52 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
claudia rice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: n1tya@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM*
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 9:04:23 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
fred hofer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM*
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 9:36:29 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: autumnness@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM*
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 11:20:17 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
autumn ness	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: naldajw@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM*
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 12:28:25 AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jw nalda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: yorkcarlton@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM*
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 4:11:03 AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carlton York	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: jsehydra@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM*
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 9:04:33 AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Silver	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM*
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 9:06:04 AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: deborah@imaginariums.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM*
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 10:26:51 AM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: mamaupin@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM*
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 12:19:55 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Maupin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Carl I. Evensen
45-744 Ko St.
Kaneohe, Hi. 96744

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

Personal Testimony Presented before the
Senate Committees on Agriculture
Water and Land
and
Hawaiian Affairs
February 11, 2014 at 2:55pm

SB 2241 RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO

Chairs Nishihara, Solomon, and Shimabukuro, Vice Chairs Kouchi, Galuteria and Hee, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Carl Evensen and I serve as an Associate Dean of the University of Hawaii at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I am pleased to provide personal testimony **in support of SB 2241**. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii or CTAHR. I am a crop and soil scientist by training and have a special interest in the cultivation of taro. I also serve as a member of the Hawaii Taro Security and Purity Task Force and my testimony supports the position of this Task Force.

The purpose of SB 2241 is to improve protections for wetland taro land (*lo'i kalo*) and ancient agricultural structures on state-owned or state-acquired lands. Specifically the bill amends HRS Section 206-7 to include taro lands and structures in property which shall not be acquired for development projects such as residential development projects.

Wetland taro lands have very special characteristics, including rich soils which can retain impounded water and position in the landscape where irrigation can be provided by gravity flow of water from streams and springs. These lands were among the most productive and valuable agricultural lands in Hawaiian times, but have often been treated as wastelands in modern times due to their propensity for flooding. This very characteristic of being prone to flooding makes these lands unsuitable for residential, commercial or other development. Conversely the protection and future use of these lands for *lo'i kalo* would provide many benefits such as increased local food production, cultural preservation, and a wide variety of ecosystem services like wetland habitat, flood mitigation, and water quality improvement.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2241.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: namaka@interpac.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 1:14:15 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Lander	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of this bill with the amendments recommended by the Taro Task Force.

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State of Hawaii, 27th Legislature, Second Regular Session

SB2241

RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO

Senate Committees on Agriculture, Water and Land, and Hawaiian Affairs
Public Hearing – Tuesday February 11, 2014
2:55 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 229

By
Dave Penn, Private Citizen
February 10, 2014
IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chairs Nishihara, Solomon, and Shimabukuro; Vice Chairs Kouchi, Galuteria, and Hee;
Senators and other readers

I wholeheartedly **support** SB2241 and urge you to pass it on the next committee. My only concern with the bill is its use of "ancient" to define a type of land, systems, and structures to be protected. Perhaps it would be more useful to employ a temporal criterion that is consistent with that utilized in SB2407, "prior to statehood."

Thank you for considering this mana`o on SB2241.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: jgelert@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 3:11:34 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Gelert	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please protect native Hawaiian taro fields!

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2241 on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM*
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 3:45:18 PM

SB2241

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for AGL/WTL/HWN on Feb 11, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Martinez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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