

SB 3065

Part I: Authorizes the State to exchange lands for certain agricultural and conservation lands owned by Dole Food Company, Inc. Part II: Expands the Kalaeloa community development district. Part III: Establishes the Whitmore project facility revenue bond special fund into which proceeds from revenue bonds shall be deposited for purchasing certain parcels of land from Dole Food Company, Inc. Appropriates funds to acquire certain Dole Food lands.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2014**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 3065, RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE.

BEFORE THE:

**SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS AND HOUSING AND ON WATER AND LAND AND ON AGRICULTURE**

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 **TIME:** 2:45 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

TESTIFIER(S): David M. Louie, Attorney General, or
Pamela K. Matsukawa, Deputy Attorney General

Chairs Dela Cruz, Solomon, and Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General opposes this bill because it impedes upon the responsibility and authority of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to manage and dispose of public lands pursuant to article XI, section 2, of the Hawaii Constitution, and sections 26-15 and chapter 171, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), including section 171-50, HRS, which authorizes the Board to exchange public land with private land, subject to legislative disapproval. This bill also contains unconstitutional special legislation and is unconstitutional under the subject and title of the bill.

In part I of the bill, the Board of Land and Natural Resources is required to exchange with Dole Food Company, Inc. (Dole), specific parcels of state-owned land identified by tax map key numbers with specific parcels of Dole private land identified by tax map key numbers.

In part II of the bill, section 206E-193, HRS, would be amended to expand the Kalaeloa Community Development District to include those specific parcels of land to be conveyed to Dole in the land exchange mandated in part I of the bill.

In part III of the bill, a new section would be added to chapter 163D, HRS, to establish a special fund to be known as the Whitmore project facility revenue bond special fund. Proceeds of revenue bonds would be deposited in the new fund for the purpose of purchasing certain parcels of land from Dole identified in section 40 of Act 134, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013. An unspecified amount is also appropriated for this acquisition of private lands. (We note that all of the Dole parcels identified in this bill for the purpose of the exchange mandated in part I are

included in section 40 of Act 134, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013.) It thus appears that this bill provides for both an exchange of state and Dole lands and funding for the purchase of Dole lands by the State.

The Department of the Attorney General opposes part I of the bill regarding the exchange of specified State-owned land with specified private parcels of land owned by Dole because part I amounts to special legislation that is prohibited by the Hawaii Constitution in article XI, section 5, which provides as follows:

The legislative power over the lands owned by or under the control of the State and its political subdivisions shall be exercised only by general laws, except in respect to transfers to or for the use of the State, or a political subdivision, or any department or agency thereof.

Part I, if enacted, would be an unconstitutional special law because it requires the conveyance of the specified state land to Dole, a private entity. The intent of the framers of this constitutional provision is shown in Standing Committee Report No. 78, 1 Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of Hawaii of 1950, at 233 (1960), in which the following was stated:

This section reiterates the legislative power of the State but does provide for the restriction that in administering or disposing of the natural resources the legislature must do so by general law. This is to control dissipation of assets by land exchanges under private laws or by homestead laws governing a particular tract of land and the like, however, it does not require a general law for a land transaction between departments of government.

The entire bill also violates article III, section 14, of the Hawaii Constitution, which provides in part that, "Each law shall embrace but one subject, which shall be expressed in its title." The subject expressed in the title of this bill is "land exchange." Part I of the bill mandates a land exchange. But parts II and III of the bill relate to, respectively, expanding the Kalaeloa Community Development District and establishing a special fund and appropriating funding for the purchase of lands from Dole. Parts II and III do not relate to a land exchange. The expansion of the Kalaeloa Community Development District is not necessary for a land exchange to occur. And establishing funding for a purchase of Dole's private lands runs counter to an exchange of lands with Dole.

Because Senate Bill No. 3065 would violate article XI, section 5, and article III, section 14, of the Hawaii Constitution, and would encroach upon the jurisdiction of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, we respectfully ask the Committees to not pass this bill in its original form. In order to remedy the bill's problems, we recommend that parts II and III be deleted from the bill, and part I be revised so that it does not mandate the exchange of particular state lands.

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING, WATER AND LAND, AND
AGRICULTURE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3065

February 11, 2014

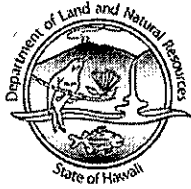
RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE

Senate Bill No. 3065 authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources to exchange lands for certain agricultural and conservation lands owned by the Dole Food Company, Inc., and establishes the Kalaeloa community development district. In addition, the bill further establishes the Whitmore Project Facility Revenue Bond special fund into which proceeds from revenue bonds shall be deposited for purchasing certain parcels of land from the Dole Food Company, Inc., and appropriates an undetermined amount of funds to acquire certain Dole Food lands.

While the Department of Budget and Finance does not take any position on the policy of acquiring agricultural and conservation lands and the establishment of the Kalaeloa community development district. The department requests the Legislature to ensure that the creation of special funds meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program; 2) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 3) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. In regards to this bill, it is difficult to determine whether the special fund will be self-sustaining.

The department would also like to note that the issuance of revenue bonds require, among other things, the project to generate sufficient revenues to pay debt service on the bonds.

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
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING
and
WATER AND LAND
and
AGRICULTURE

Tuesday, February 11, 2014
2:45 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3065
RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE

Senate Bill 3065 is a three-part bill that proposes: (1) an exchange of State lands for private lands owned by Dole Food Company, Inc. ("Dole Food"), (2) expands the Kalaeloa Community Development District, and (3) the establishment of a project facility revenue bond special fund to support the acquisition of the Dole Food lands. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources ("Department") opposes the bill to the extent it directs the Board of Land and Natural Resources ("BLNR") to exchange state lands for private lands.**

Senate Bill 3065 identifies 12 parcels of state lands and directs the BLNR to exchange them for private lands owned by Dole Food that are also identified in the bill. The tax map keys of the 12 state parcels and their corresponding ownership information are as follows:

91016120]
91016179] All University of Hawaii lands for its West Oahu campus.
91016180]
91016181]

91017094]
91017095] Executive Order No. 4277 to Department of Transportation for its
91017096] North-South Road.

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
KAIHOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

- 91017106 - BLNR approved the set-aside of this parcel to the Department of Education in October 2013. The executive order for the set-aside is being prepared.
- 91017107 - Owned by the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.
- 91017110 - Majority ownership in the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (“DHHL”).
- 91017111 - Owned by the City and County of Honolulu.
- 91151001 - Owned by DHHL.

The BLNR has no authority to exchange lands that it does not own. Of the four parcels (91017094, 91017095, 91017096 and 91017106) that remain under BLNR’s oversight pursuant to Section 171-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the existing executive orders would have to be canceled by the Governor with the BLNR’s approval before the parcels could be exchanged for private lands. The Department generally does not seek the cancellation of an existing executive order unless the agency holding the land requests the cancellation of the executive order and the return of the land to the BLNR, or the agency abandons the land.

Accordingly, because the parcels identified in the bill are owned by other state agencies or by the City and County, or have already been set-aside or approved for set-aside to another state agency, the BLNR would not be able to comply with this bill if it were to become law. The Department therefore opposes the bill.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of
Craig K. Hirai
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS AND HOUSING
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

February 11, 2014 at 2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229

In consideration of
S.B. 3065
RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE.

The HHFDC **offers the following comment** on S.B. 3065.

While HHFDC does not take a position on the overall merits of this bill, section 2 requires the Board of Land and Natural Resources to exchange several parcels of land, including an HHFDC-owned parcel identified as Tax Map Key number 91017107. This particular parcel is currently occupied by an 120-unit affordable rental housing project, Ko'oloa'ula Phase I, under a long term ground lease issued by HHFDC to the project owner, Kooloaula Limited Partnership.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-189

TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
AND HOUSING, WATER & LAND AND AGRICULTURE

Tuesday, February 11, 2014
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 229

SENATE BILL NO. 3065
RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE

Chairpersons Dela Cruz, Solomon, Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 3065, a bill to authorize the State to exchange lands for certain agricultural and conservation lands owned by Dole Food Company, Inc. In addition, this bill seeks to expand the Kalaeloa Community Development District and the Whitmore Project Facility Revenue Bond Special Fund. Further, this measure appropriates funds to acquire certain Dole Lands. The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports the intent of this measure, specifically Part III.

ADC's mission is to acquire, and manage in partnership with farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture groups, selected high-value lands, water systems, and infrastructure for commercial agricultural use and to direct research into areas that will lead to the

development of new crops, markets, and lower production costs. This bill will assist ADC to achieve its mission and further provide the state with an opportunity to preserve the largest agricultural tract on Oahu.

ADC has recently undertaken the Whitmore Project which is a long-range plan to create a centralized hub for agricultural operations in Central Oahu that includes but is not limited to commercial farming, land acquisition, packing, processing, workforce housing, food safety, education, value-added, marketing, high-tech, agro-tourism and manufacturing.

In conjunction with the Whitmore Project, ADC has recently acquired property with existing infrastructure to provide support services for farmers on the Galbraith Lands. ADC supports Part III of this bill which establishes the Whitmore project facility revenue bond special fund. This fund would further enhance ADC's flexibility to achieve its mission. Monies from this fund will go towards the purchase of real property for the protection of agricultural lands, land banking, promotion of farm ownership, and agricultural diversity which would essentially increase the corporation's available agricultural land under its control that the corporation may license to qualified farmers, businesses, and agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



SB3065

RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate Committee on Agriculture

February 11, 2014

2:45 p.m.

Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **OPPOSES** SB3065, which would require the State to exchange certain public lands for specified agricultural and conservation lands owned by Dole Food Company, Inc., outside of the established oversight and review processes otherwise applicable to exchanges of public and private lands.

OHA supports the underlying purpose of this measure, "to protect and preserve unique natural assets, both for the enjoyment of future generations and to establish base lines for environmental impact." However, OHA believes that exchanges of public lands, including the exchange contemplated here, should take place via the established, agreed-upon process for such exchanges under Act 176 of the 2009 regular session.

Act 176, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2009, established a more comprehensive process for the sale, gift or exchange of state-owned lands, and reserved a larger oversight role for the Legislature to ensure that key information about such sales, gifts or exchanges of land is shared with the Legislature and with OHA in a timely manner. For contemplated exchanges, state departments must prepare and submit legislative resolutions containing detailed information regarding their anticipated land transactions, and share these resolutions with OHA at least three months prior to the opening of the legislative session. See HRS § 171-50(c). This three months detailed notice provides OHA with a meaningful opportunity to determine whether the land being exchanged constitutes "ceded" government or crown lands taken during the unlawful overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, or was previously received in exchange for such ceded lands. This process also provides OHA as well as members of the public sufficient time to ensure that the contemplated exchange is fair, equitable and in the best interests of the state.

Unlike the established Act 176 process for exchanges, as codified in section 171-50, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, the land exchange required under this bill does not provide the appraised fair market value of the lands to be exchanged, including the identity of the appraisers; does not have the benefit of Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) review and approval in principal; and has not provided OHA with the three months prior notice necessary to evaluate whether the lands to be exchanged constitute ceded lands.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committees to **HOLD** SB3065. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing,
Water and Land, and
Agriculture

February 11, 2014 at 2:45pm

by

Howard Todo

Vice President of Budget & Finance, and Chief Financial Officer
University of Hawai'i System

SB 3065 – RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE

Chairs Dela Cruz, Solomon, and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Slom, Galuteria, and Kouchi,
and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to express concerns on this measure.

Senate Bill 3065 has multiple components which: (1) Authorizes the State to exchange lands for certain agricultural and conservation lands owned by Dole Food Company, Inc. (2) Establishes the east Kapolei community development district. (3) Establishes the Whitmore project facility revenue bond special fund into which proceeds from revenue bonds shall be deposited for purchasing certain parcels of land from Dole Food Company, Inc. Appropriates funds to acquire certain Dole Food lands.

The Board of Regents is currently updating its Board policy on land and its statements on their purposes, which include the promotion and support of the University's educational and research mission while advancing the principals of environmental stewardship and sustainability. This legislative measure may conflict with the University in meeting its mission.

Accordingly we request that this measure be deferred.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawaii Rifle Association

State Affiliate of the National Rifle Association
Founded in 1857

February 6, 2014

Testimony on SB 3065
Before EGH/WTL/AGL, February 11, 2014, 2:45pm, Rm 229

IN SUPPORT

Hon. Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members,

HRA supports this bill. We like the part about:

(2) Approximately 9,000 acres of land to the department of land and natural resources for recreation, hiking, **hunting**, and watershed and species protection...

Please keep it in the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HRA.

Dr. Maxwell Cooper,
HRA Legislative Liaison
macooper.1941@gmail.com
225-6944



February 7, 2014

Before the Committees on Water and Land, on Agriculture and on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing.

Re: SB 3065 Supporting Testimony to SB3065 RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE

Dear Committee Chairs and Members:

This testimony is to provide the support of the Wahiawa Community and Business Association (WCBA) to this bill.

The WCBA is Wahiawa's oldest community association. For over 76 years it has stood for keeping the lands between the Ko'olau and Waianae range from Wahiawa to the North Shore in agriculture.

The corporation between the State of Hawaii and Dole Foods Inc. will allow the State to obtain approximately 20,000 acres of agricultural and conservation lands that are in either agriculture or in conservation. Much of the agricultural land is now fallow.

This bill will require that the exchange not be calculated on "acre for acre" but on the highest and best use value of the exchanged lands. Dole will acquire lands that are more suited for development.

The State will be able to more efficiently work with local farmers for long-term leases, for their access to water and for the infrastructure necessary to process agricultural goods. Furthermore, the state can apply its ample experience to protect native habitats and watersheds.

The lands between Wahiawa and the North Shore will become Hawaii's breadbasket. It will provide agricultural employment and food for Hawaii. As visitors and local families travel to and from the North Shore they will continue to see a beautiful and memorable view plane.

This is a really good deal for Hawaii. Make it happen.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Benavitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Walter R. Benavitz Jr.
WCBA Government Action Committee Chair

Wahiawa Community & Business Association
P. O. 861408
Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE



THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT OF THE INTENT OF SB 3065 RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE**

Senate Committees on Economic Development, Government Operations & Housing,
Water & Land, and Agriculture

Tuesday, February 11, 2:45 p.m., Room 229

The Trust for Public Land supports the intent of SB 3065 relating to land exchange. This bill proposes a land exchange of state owned lands in Kapolei for nearly 20,000 acres of agricultural and conservation lands owned by Dole Foods LLC on the North of O'ahu, expands the Kalaeloa community development district, and creates a special Whitmore project facility revenue bond fund into which the proceeds of revenue bonds are to be deposited for the purpose of purchase the Dole lands by the State Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). The Dole lands include prime agricultural land, watershed lands that produce our drinking water, lands that are the scenic gateway to the North Shore, and lands that are important habitat for dozens of endangered and threatened plant and animal species.

The Trust for Public Land is currently working with one of the largest renewable energy companies in the world to purchase the Dole lands and give the State time (3-5 years) to raise funds to purchase the Dole lands for agriculture and conservation of important watershed lands that produce our drinking water. The renewable energy company does not yet have a contract or deal with Dole, but hopes to have a tentative deal or letter of intent with Dole before the end of session. The Trust for Public Land is working with ADC and the Department of Land and Natural Resource to raise other sources of funding (e.g., federal, private) so that the burden is not entirely on the State. Purchasing the Dole land (listed at over \$200 million) will be a complex and difficult transaction. ADC and the State need flexibility and alternatives to achieve the goal of conserving all of the Dole lands and this bill attempts to provide such flexibility through land exchange and revenue bonds.

The Trust for Public Land does not know and has questions regarding whether the affected state agencies, the Kapolei community, and the Kapolei legislators support the land exchange or expansion of the Kalaeloa community development district. However, in general, The Trust for Public Land supports the intent of the bill to secure the Dole lands. Although we support the intent of the bill, I will not be able to appear in person to testify.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify -

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lea Hong', written in a cursive style.

Lea Hong
Hawaiian Islands State Director
1136 Union Mall, Suite 202
Honolulu, HI 96813
524-8563 (office), 783-3653 (cell)



Food Company Hawaii
1116 Whitmore Avenue • Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786

Testimony by Dan Nellis
Operations Director, Dole Food Company Hawai'i
February 7, 2014

Senate Committees on
Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing
and
Water and Land
and
Agriculture

February 11, 2014
2:45 p.m.
Room 229

Support of:
SB 3065
Relating to Land Exchange

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Slom; Chair Solomon, Vice Chair Galuteria; Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi; and Members of Senate Committees on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing; Water and Land; and Agriculture.

I am Dan Nellis, Operations Director of Dole Food Company Hawai'i. We support SB 3065 as one method to acquire certain excess lands owned by Dole Food Company in the Central O'ahu and North Shore regions of O'ahu. Ownership of these lands could facilitate the State's mandate to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands, and to protect lands that are suitable for conservation or preservation.

Dole Food Company has a long history of agriculture in Hawai'i and our intent is to continue to support and promote diversified agriculture in Hawai'i. Our plan is to continue cultivation of existing pineapple, coffee and cacao crops and the operation of ancillary agricultural facilities.

However, we also have a large inventory of excess acreage. Various acreages are currently for sale on a parcel by parcel basis and at varying prices per parcels. We are willing to further discuss the State's interest in purchasing the excess acreage to support the State's mandate of promoting diversified agriculture and preserving conservation lands and habitats.

Identification of parcels, easements, encumbrances, conditions and sale prices per parcel or by bulk sales are specific details that need to be identified in order to move forward with any binding land transaction agreement with the State. We also need to clearly understand the State's expectation and its process of acquiring private lands.

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Dan Nellis, Operations Director
Dole Foods Company Hawai'i
dan.nellis@dole.com
808.621.3200

c: Harry Saunders, Castle & Cooke Hawai'i

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EGHTestimony](#)
Cc: hogdog44@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3065 on Feb 11, 2014 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, February 08, 2014 6:45:43 PM

SB3065

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for EGH/WTL/AGL on Feb 11, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dominic Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill because it continues to use the land as it should be. If you look at Kunia now since Del Monte houses are springing up all over and even looks to be a huge water tank at the top being constructed. All at the cost of prime Agriculture lands. Its so sad to see that it wasnt re appropriated for agriculture.

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

February 11, 2014, 2:45 pm, Conference Room #229

To: Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair

From: Darin Uesugi
1755 Glen Ave.
Wahiawa, HI 96786

Re: SB3065 Bill Exchange for Conservation Lands; Whitmore Project Facility Revenue Bond Special Fund; Dole Food Company; Kalaeloa Community Development District; Appropriation (\$)

In Support

Chairs & Committee Members:

As a long time resident of Wahiawa, and a member of the Wahiawa Community Based Development Organization (WCBDO), I support SB3065 for the following reasons:

The 20,000 acres of agricultural and conservational lands proposed for exchange represent a beneficial addition to the agricultural lands around Wahiawa. It would allow the state and the town of Wahiawa to continue to develop a new, diversified agricultural industry that will help to create sustainability for our state and create new industries and opportunities for the residents of Wahiawa, many of whom are economically disadvantaged.

As the Whitmore Agriculture Project develops, these additional lands will afford the state more access to water, additional revenues through long term leases with farmers, and increased acreage for diversified crops. The state would also be the right leadership for conserving the varied natural ecosystems that deserve protection. Retaining these lands is in line with the ideals that many in Wahiawa have for growing a new agricultural future while maintaining a balanced conservation of the environment and culture of the area.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.
Sincerely,
Darin Uesugi