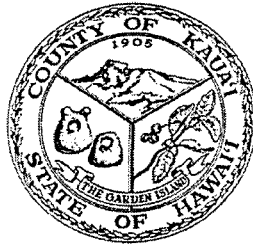


**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
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Arryl Kaneshiro  
KipuKai Kualii'i  
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Email [cokcouncil@kauai.gov](mailto:cokcouncil@kauai.gov)

**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

February 2, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF MASON K. CHOCK  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON**

**HB 205, RELATED TO AGRICULTURE**  
Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs  
Wednesday, February 4, 2015  
9:30 A.M.  
Conference Room 325

Dear Chair Ing and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 205 relating to traditional Hawaiian farming and small-scale farming. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Planning Committee Chair and as a Councilmember of the Kauai County Council.

The purpose of HB 205 is to expand the agricultural objectives of the State to include traditional Hawaiian farming systems, traditional Hawaiian crops, and small-scale farming. It is important for our State to continue its effort in perpetuating and promoting greater self-sufficiency, crop diversity, and food security in our islands, which I wholeheartedly support.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the Committee to approve this measure. Again, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

**MASON K. CHOCK**  
Councilmember, Kauai County Council

AB:aa



**HB205**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs

February 4, 2015

9:30 a.m.

Room 325

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB205, which is part of OHA's 2015 Legislative Package. HB205 promotes the food security, self-sufficiency, and cultural heritage of our islands, by recognizing the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian traditional farming techniques and crops and the growth and development of small farms, as agricultural objectives of the State.

OHA is the constitutionally-established agency responsible for protecting and promoting the rights and interests of Native Hawaiians. Accordingly, OHA has a kuleana to ensure the perpetuation of traditional practices and technologies, as well as advocate for the appropriate and sustainable use and development of our beneficiaries' ancestral lands.

Time-tested Native Hawaiian traditional farming methods represent successful agricultural technologies that are ecologically sustainable, culturally significant, and critical to Hawai'i's long-term food security and self-sufficiency goals. Traditional Native Hawaiian farming techniques, such as loko i'a and lo'i kalo, are integrated into natural ecological systems, and have a minimal impact on our environment while allowing our agricultural resources to remain viable for generations. These agricultural methods and crops are particularly suitable for our climate, and history demonstrates their ability to sustain a population commensurate with that of our islands today. In addition, traditional farming communities act as critical repositories of cultural knowledge and values. Therefore, promoting traditional farming methods and crops also supports the cultural heritage of our state.

Similarly, supporting Hawai'i's small farms, many of which already utilize such traditional farming methods, would also provide a substantial and durable increase in local food production. As noted in this bill, the United Nations Committee on Trade and Development strongly urges the promotion of both traditional farming methods and small farms as an essential response to the threat of climate change to regional food security. The flexibility and resilience of a well-developed small farm network will provide the greatest assurances of a local food supply notwithstanding changing environmental conditions, while also reducing our dependency on imported agricultural products.

Finally, OHA notes that this measure may represent an investment in our islands' economic stability. Small farms are small businesses. Supporting small farming operations in Hawai'i supports our local economy and the spirit of entrepreneurship, in the same manner as supporting other sectors of the small business community.

Finally, this bill levels the playing field for traditional agriculture and small farms, by expressly allowing state agencies to consider these important components of food security and self-sufficiency in supporting programs, leasing lands, and taking other relevant actions. It would ensure that traditional Hawaiian agriculture and small-scales are prioritized equally while maintaining the priority for large-scale farming operations that are already recognized in the state planning act. A diversified agriculture portfolio with both small- and large-scale farming operations, along with a variety of crops and farming technologies, will enhance our islands' food security and resilience to unexpected impacts, while also celebrating our cultural heritage and values.

As a housekeeping matter, OHA notes that the word "ulu" on page 6, line 7, is missing an 'okina; the correct spelling should be "'ulu". Accordingly, OHA would appreciate a technical amendment to correct this misspelling.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB205. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AND OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES &  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

February 4, 2015  
9:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

**HOUSE BILL NO. 205  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Ing and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 205. This bill would amend Section 226-7(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to include the following two new agriculture objectives: to perpetuate, promote and increase traditional Hawaiian farming, and to increase and develop small-scale farms. The Department of Agriculture (DOA) supports the intent of this bill and provides comments.

The Department supports the practice of traditional Hawaiian farming as a means to promote Hawaii's agricultural self-sufficiency. The DOA also supports all forms of commercial agricultural activities on a farm, regardless of size. After the state of Arizona, Hawaii's median farm size of five acres is the second smallest in the nation. We believe that an objective targeting small scale farms may not be necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





The Outdoor Circle **SUPPORTS HB205** which updates the State Planning Act. To improve Hawaii's land use system, the State Plan must be updated.

While supporting this bill, The Outdoor Circle also encourages this committee to expand the focus of this bill beyond traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops and small farms.

Hawaii's state plan has not been updated for several decades. All of the objectives in the state plan need to be re-visited and updated to reflect the current priorities of Hawaii's residents.

The Outdoor Circle urges the committee to **PASS** this bill with amendments.

Martha Townsend  
Executive Director  
The Outdoor Circle  
1314 South King Street, Suite 306  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
Phone: 808-593-0300  
[www.outdoorcircle.org](http://www.outdoorcircle.org)

Testimony Submitted to the  
Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs  
In Support of HB205  
February 4, 2015, 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Ing, Vice Chair Lowen and members of the Committee,

My name is Kehaulani Lum, and I am the President of the Ali`i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club, a chartered member of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, which manages the State's first community-based farm cultivating the beloved maile plant and restoring native forest on 26 acres of former plantation lands in Wailea, Hawai`i.

Ali`i Pauahi strongly **SUPPORTS HB205** which updates the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives to support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops, and small farms. Currently, our State Planning Act prioritizes sugar and pineapple industries and diversified agriculture. Although these objectives have merit, we believe it should be updated to reflect community-driven efforts to feed Hawaii's communities through traditional Hawaiian farming practices and small farms from mauka to makai.

Ours is a practice dedicated to uplifting the entire community. To remove the invasive species, such as albesia and myriad foreign weeds and trees, and replace them with a canopy of native and Polynesian-introduced trees and plants under which we can cultivate the maile, kalo, `uala and other important native crops. Our farm was created with the help of many hands and the support of the U.S. Department of Health, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Na Pua No`eau, ALU LIKE, the Hawaiian Civic Clubs of Hilo and Laupahoehoe, the Wailea Village Historic Preservation Community, and hundreds of community donors and friends. Even today, in order to sustain our work, we rely on volunteer kokua from friends and family. Increased State support of traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops and small farms would help us achieve our goal of replacing imports much faster.

We feel we can support the State's efforts to further food security and self-sufficiency by prioritizing traditional Hawaiian agriculture technologies such as loko i`a (fishponds), mala (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated patches). These agricultural systems have historically fed large number Hawaiian communities with minimal impact to the environment. I urge the committee to **PASS** this bill.

## ing2-Mary

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 1:12 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** bguerr4@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM

### **HB205**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benjamin Guerrero	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT HB205 which updates the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives to support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops, and small farms. Currently, our State Planning Act prioritizes sugar and pineapple industries and diversified agriculture. Although these objectives have merit, I believe it should be updated to reflect community-driven efforts to feed Hawaii's communities through traditional Hawaiian farming practices and small farms from mauka to makai. I feel we can support the State's efforts to further food security and self-sufficiency by prioritizing traditional Hawaiian agriculture technologies such as loko i'a (fishponds), mala (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated patches). These agricultural systems have historically fed large number Hawaiian communities with minimal impact to the environment. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:07 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** mealaaloha@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM

### **HB205**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Daniel Bishop	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In strong support

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 7:35 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** drodrigues2001@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM

### **HB205**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Darlene Rodrigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT HB205 which updates the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives to support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops, and small farms. Currently, our State Planning Act prioritizes sugar and pineapple industries and diversified agriculture. Although these objectives have merit, I believe it should be updated to reflect community-driven efforts to feed Hawaii's communities through traditional Hawaiian farming practices and small farms from mauka to makai. I feel we can support the State's efforts to further food security and self-sufficiency by prioritizing traditional Hawaiian agriculture technologies such as loko i'a (fishponds), mala (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated patches). These agricultural systems have historically fed large number Hawaiian communities with minimal impact to the environment. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

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**ing2-Mary**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:26 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** kaliko08@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM

**HB205**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Donna K Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I am from Kauai and I strongly SUPPORT HB205 which updates the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives to support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops, and small farms.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 10:39 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** akamaimom@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM

### **HB205**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support HB205 protecting traditional Hawaiian Farming methods. On Kauai we continue to have vibrant taro farming. The ahupuaa land management system is of high value to the potential of our future, the production of our present foods, as well as a living historical record that is valuable to our residents and visitors alike. This is Hawaii. It needs to stay Hawaii. Traditional agriculture is a foundation for our important host culture to grow increasingly stronger. The long-term preservation of this knowledge is Hawaii's gift to the world. There is a need to protect and cultivate this knowledge. It is difficult for traditional farming methods to not become obliterated by other development or industrial farming. Thank you in advance for offering protection to Hawaii's unique skills.

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## ing2-Mary

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 2:28 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** peepuhala@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM

### **HB205**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Iolani Kuoha	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a Native Hawaiian organic farmer, I strongly SUPPORT HB205 which updates the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives to support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops, and small farms. Currently, our State Planning Act prioritizes sugar and pineapple industries and diversified agriculture. Although these objectives have merit, I believe it should be updated to reflect community-driven efforts to feed Hawaii's communities through traditional Hawaiian farming practices and small farms from mauka to makai. I feel we can support the State's efforts to further food security and self-sufficiency by prioritizing traditional Hawaiian agriculture technologies such as loko i'a (fishponds), mala (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated patches). These agricultural systems have historically fed large number Hawaiian communities with minimal impact to the environment. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

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**ing2-Mary**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 1:53 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM\*

**HB205**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Juanita Kawamoto Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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## ing2-Mary

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 30, 2015 6:43 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** kalawaiag@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM\*

### **HB205**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kalawai'a Goo	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## ing2-Mary

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 11:18 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** kamakane73@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM\*

### **HB205**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## ing2-Mary

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 7:24 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** henoheal@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM

### **HB205**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Linda Henohea Linker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT HB205 which updates the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives to support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops, and small farms. Currently, our State Planning Act prioritizes sugar and pineapple industries and diversified agriculture. Although these objectives have merit, I believe it should be updated to reflect community-driven efforts to feed Hawaii's communities through traditional Hawaiian farming practices and small farms from mauka to makai. I feel we can support the State's efforts to further food security and self-sufficiency by prioritizing traditional Hawaiian agriculture technologies such as loko i'a (fishponds), mala (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated patches). These agricultural systems have historically fed large number Hawaiian communities with minimal impact to the environment. I urge the committee to PASS this bill. Mahalo for your support! L.Henohea Linker

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**ing2-Mary**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 30, 2015 9:51 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** mblazak@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM

**HB205**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Megan Blazak	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Rep. Ing, Vice Chair Rep. Lowen and Members of the Committee, Please support HB205. The bill itself says that its Intent is to make the absolute best use of natural resources. Indeed supporting traditional Hawaiian farming and food cultivation methods will provide invaluable wisdom and production capacity to our local food system. It is true that small, diversified farms produced an abundance of food, and are the solution Hawaii's food insecurity problems. This bill will accelerate the restoration of traditional agricultural systems, and make marked progress towards the goal of local food self-sufficiency and resiliency. Please support HB205. Thank you for your time. Best, Megan Blazak Hilo, HI District 2

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## ing2-Mary

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 11:06 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** rangien2010@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM

### **HB205**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Puanani Rogers	Ho`okipa Network - Kauai	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT HB205 which updates the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives to support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops, and small farms. Currently, our State Planning Act prioritizes sugar and pineapple industries and diversified agriculture. Although these objectives have merit, I believe it should be updated to reflect community-driven efforts to feed Hawaii's communities through traditional Hawaiian farming practices and small farms from mauka to makai. I feel we can support the State's efforts to further food security and self-sufficiency by prioritizing traditional Hawaiian agriculture technologies such as loko i'a (fishponds), mala (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated patches). These agricultural systems have historically fed large number Hawaiian communities with minimal impact to the environment. I urge the committee to PASS this bill. Mahalo for your support!

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## ing2-Mary

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:24 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** tammylynn.ross@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM

### **HB205**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tammy Lynn Ross	Hui Aloha Aina O Mana'e	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT HB205 which updates the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives to support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops, and small farms. Currently, our State Planning Act prioritizes sugar and pineapple industries and diversified agriculture. Although these objectives have merit, I believe it should be updated to reflect community-driven efforts to feed Hawaii's communities through traditional Hawaiian farming practices and small farms from mauka to makai. I feel we can support the State's efforts to further food security and self-sufficiency by prioritizing traditional Hawaiian agriculture technologies such as loko i'a (fishponds), mala (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated patches). These agricultural systems have historically fed large number Hawaiian communities with minimal impact to the environment. I urge the committee to PASS this bill. Mahalo for your support!

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I strongly SUPPORT HB205 which updates the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives to support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops, and small farms. Currently, our State Planning Act prioritizes sugar and pineapple industries and diversified agriculture. Although these objectives have merit, I believe it should be updated to reflect community-driven efforts to feed Hawaii's communities through traditional Hawaiian farming practices and small farms from mauka to makai. I feel we can support the State's efforts to further food security and self-sufficiency by prioritizing traditional Hawaiian agriculture technologies such as loko i'a (fishponds), mala (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated patches). These agricultural systems have historically fed large number Hawaiian communities with minimal impact to the environment. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

The reason this is a good idea is because these ideas work. Kanaka maoli have developed these systems over hundreds if not thousands of years. We want everyone, hawaiian and non-hawaiian alike to perpetuate these systems. These systems belong to the land in the sense that they fit together, they were developed together, and they do a good job at feeding people, teaching people, and keeping the 'āina and people healthy. Please support this bill.

Much Mahalo,

Wahineaipohaku Tong

**LATE**

## ing2-Mary

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 12:15 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** auliig@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM

### **HB205**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Aulii Dudoit	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT HB205 which updates the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives to support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops, and small farms. Currently, our State Planning Act prioritizes sugar and pineapple industries and diversified agriculture. Although these objectives have merit, I believe it should be updated to reflect community-driven efforts to feed Hawaii's communities through traditional Hawaiian farming practices and small farms from mauka to makai. I feel we can support the State's efforts to further food security and self-sufficiency by prioritizing traditional Hawaiian agriculture technologies such as loko i'a (fishponds), mala (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated patches). These agricultural systems have historically fed large number Hawaiian communities with minimal impact to the environment. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

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**LATE**

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*AmeriCorps VISTA Member*

Date: February 3, 2015

To: Representative Kaniela Ing, Chair, Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Brent Kakesako, Executive Director

Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development

Re: Strong Support for HB 206, Relating to Agriculture

Aloha Representative Ing, Representative Lowen, and members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED) strongly supports HB 205, which updates the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives to support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops and small farms.

HACBED was established in 1992 as a nonprofit statewide intermediary to address social, economic, and environmental justice concerns through community-based economic development and asset building strategies. HACBED is currently working with a number of community-based organizations in an attempt to explore a food system that restores ancestral abundance – food production and knowledge transfer. Many of the partners who have food producing components are smaller and often have cultural components to their work, which is a critical component of the knowledge transfer component. As such, HACBED strongly supports the proposed bill as it would support the efforts of these partners who are focused on feeding our island and nourishing our keiki.

HB 205 would update the State Planning Act to reflect community-driven efforts to feed communities across the state through traditional Hawaiian farming practices and small farms. Traditional Hawaiian agriculture technologies, such as *loko i'a* (fishponds), *mala* (cultivated gardens, and *lo'i* (irrigated patches), fed into agricultural systems that fed large number of Hawaiian communities with minimal environmental impact and could be the foundation for economic development that is culturally grounded and based in the values of this place -- Hawai'i.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

Brent N. Kakesako

Executive Director

Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED)

ing2-Mary

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 7:55 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** crystalkpaul@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM

**LATE**

**HB205**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Crystal Kia Paul	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Committee Chairs & Members, I strongly SUPPORT and urge you pass HB205 which updates the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives to support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops, and small farms. In light of the shipping company's strikes on the West Coast, we need to ensure Hawai'i residents have access to food, especially locally grown food like taro. The traditional farming techniques could feed thousands with minimal effect on the environment. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Crystal Kia-Paul

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Testimony of  
TARO SECURITY AND PURITY TASK FORCE

**LATE**

MARK ALAPAKI LUKE  
Chair

Before the House Committee on  
OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 9:30PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 205  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

House Bill 205 seeks to amend the Hawai'i's State planning goals for agricultural under HRS226-7 to include the growth and development of traditional Hawaiian farming systems and traditional Hawaiian crops, as well as the growth and development of small-scale farms. **The Taro Security & Purity Task Force strongly supports this measure.**

Over the previous two legislative sessions, the taro task force has included similar language to HB205 within our own legislation package. In recognition of the importance that traditional Hawaiian food crops and planting systems play in local food security, the task force supports this amendment to the agricultural objectives for the State.

Hawaiian food crops and cropping systems are what provided a foundation for prosperity in Hawai'i. These crops far surpassed even sugar in total acreage of food production prior to 1800. Kalo and kalo farming has played a key role in Hawai'i's cultural identity and economy for the last 1,200 years, and even though severely diminished in acreage, that continues in the present. Today the demand for locally-grown kalo, ulu, 'uala and other indigenous crops is rising again after a century of declining production. The traditional Hawaiian practices and agricultural technologies used in taro farming have a demonstrably positive impact on soil health, water quality, and aquifer recharge.

The existing goals for agriculture under HRS 226-7 have not been revisited for more than 20 years. They recognize our primary export crops and the drive for export markets, but none of our oldest history, cultural origins, nor our need for a greater focus on local food self-sufficiency. Adding traditional Hawaiian crops and practices to Hawai'i's goals for agriculture gives guidance to the State to encourage best agricultural practices for our islands and supports the physical and social health of the community. It recognizes that traditional Hawaiian crops are a vibrant and vital part of our economy, and provides the Department of Agriculture with enriched guidance for future food security.

We encourage full support from House committee members to adopt HB205 as a measure to encourage future policies that support small-scale family farms and food

Contact: Emily Kandagawa, Taro Task Force Coordinator (808) 754-7395 or [tsptfhi@gmail.com](mailto:tsptfhi@gmail.com)



security in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nuiloa

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light beige background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Mark Alapaki Luke".

Mark Alapaki Luke, Chair  
Taro Security and Purity Task Force

ing2-Mary

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:52 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** kalawaiag@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM\*

**LATE**

**HB205**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kalawai'a Goo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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## ing2-Mary

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:02 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** kiele.aloha@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

### HB205

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keiko Gonzalez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Traditional Hawaiian agriculture sustained over a million people before there were Matson shipping containers as our "life line." And these practices had minimal impact to the environment. We can better conserve our natural resources, be better stewards of the land for today and for the future, and probably even lower the cost of living in Hawai'i if we support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops, and small farms. Those ancient practices are still very much valid and we are still learning from the ingenuity of our kūpuna. Thus, I strongly SUPPORT HB205 which updates the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives. Currently, our State Planning Act prioritizes sugar and pineapple industries and diversified agriculture. Although these objectives have merit, I believe it should be updated to reflect community-driven efforts to feed Hawaii's communities through traditional Hawaiian farming practices and small farms from mauka to makai. I feel we can support the State's efforts to further food security and self-sufficiency by prioritizing traditional Hawaiian agriculture technologies such as loko i'a (fishponds), mala (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated patches). We can get closer to the self-sufficiency Hawai'i once saw in ancient times through ancient knowledge and agricultural systems that rival contemporary practices in cost, production, and environmental impact. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 9:48 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Cc: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB205 on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM



**HB205**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for OMH on Feb 4, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
penny levin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The existing goals for agriculture under HRS 226-7 include perpetuating the viability of sugar and pineapple; growth and development of diversified agriculture; and an agriculture industry that continues to constitute a dynamic and essential component of Hawaii's strategic, economic and social well-being. These objectives have not been revisited for more than 20 years. While they recognize our primary export crops and the drive for export markets they have never acknowledged our oldest and most important cultural origins in agriculture. In the last 20 years we have shifted our awareness to the need for a greater focus on local food self-sufficiency. Eighty-five percent of our food is import dependent. This is our greatest security risk. None of the existing objectives for agriculture address this as an issue of primacy. All of the objectives point to economics as the source for social well-being, missing a more holistic approach both to agriculture and well-being. Abundance springs from a connection to place and people; not just revenues. As the conditions of our soils and water resources have declined we would do well to consider that none of the objectives address the critical need for focus on restorative agriculture practices if we are to continue to have a vibrant agricultural economy. The perpetuation, promotion and increase of traditional Hawaiian crops and practices, and the growth of small farms will move us one small, but important measure towards addressing some of these missing piecing. Both these objectives are embraced as mechanisms for encouraging agricultural practices attentive to the land and enhancing community well-being, family and cultural resilience. They provide the Department of Agriculture with enriched guidance for future food security. The proposed additions to Hawai'i's planning goals and objectives for agriculture recognize that traditional Hawaiian crops and small farms are a vibrant and vital part of our economy. I strongly support this bill. Mahalo.

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