

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 AGRICULTURE**

March 23, 2016  
9:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

**SENATE BILL NO. 1374 SD2 HD1  
RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 1374 SD2 HD1.  
This measure requires the Department of Agriculture to:

1. Negotiate and facilitate land exchanges with Dole Food Company, in coordination with the Agribusiness Development Corporation, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and other State agencies having State land appropriate for exchange;
2. Place any lands acquired pursuant to this Act under the control of the Agribusiness Development Corporation; and
3. Submit a report to the 2017 legislature on the feasibility of land exchanges and any appropriations, proposed legislation, or administrative action necessary to accomplish the goals of this Act.

The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure and offers a comment.



This measure proposes acquisition of Dole Food Company properties by the State through land exchange for the purpose of supporting long-term diversified agricultural production. Having the State acquire prime agricultural lands in fee and with land rents based on the agricultural productivity of the land is the most direct means to ensure the availability of agricultural lands for agricultural production in perpetuity. The Department of Agriculture believes the process to evaluate, prioritize, select, and complete land exchanges as contemplated in this measure will require the cooperation and expertise of other agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony on this important bill.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
AGRICULTURE**

**Wednesday, March 23, 2016  
9:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 1374, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE**

Senate Bill 1374, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 proposes to require the Department of Agriculture to negotiate and, as appropriate, facilitate land exchanges with Dole Food Company, Inc. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) provides the following comments on this measure.**

The Department, through its Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), has been working for several years to acquire a portion of these Dole lands in the Helemano/Poamoho area totaling over 3,000 acres of conservation and agricultural district lands to be added to the state forest reserve system managed by the DOFAW forest resources management program. Activities under that program broaden the State's economic base by producing, improving, and assisting in the production of high quality forest products to support a sustainable forest industry that maintains and creates jobs, generating revenue for the State of Hawaii. Reforestation of degraded agricultural-use lands improves watershed values, provides timber, windbreaks, soil erosion control and contributes to the forest product development and utilization program.

Future public use for these Helemano/Poamoho Dole lands contemplates multiple uses including public recreation in the form of motorized recreation activities, non-motorized recreation activities such as hiking, biking, camping and public hunting, as well as forestry management, rare species habitat enhancement, and watershed protection. The Department has secured or is in the process of securing approximately \$8.8 million for the acquisition of four of Dole's parcels in this area from the United States Forest Service Forest Legacy Program, City and County of Honolulu, and State Legacy Land Conservation Program. The Department wishes to ensure that these plans are not disrupted for this portion of the Dole lands that are the subject of this bill.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**KEKOA KALUHIWA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.**  
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

Further, the Department is unable to comment on the state land impact of this measure as it does not identify any state parcels for exchange and does not specify the type of state land to be exchanged. In this regard, the Department requests the following considerations:

- To ensure against loss of important lands currently under its stewardship and management for public purpose use, including the protection of natural, cultural and historical resources and providing for public recreation; or for revenue enhancement purposes that provide support to our core mission.
- That the appropriate due diligence is done for any exchange of state lands, including title, property condition, use, and value.
- That any land exchange would be subject to the requirements of Section 171-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes, including the approval by both the Board of Land and Natural Resources and a majority of both houses of the Legislature.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lt. Governor



**JAMES J. NAKATANI**  
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

**TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

Wednesday, March 23, 2016  
9:00 a.m.

**SENATE BILL NO. 1374 S.D. 2, H.D. 1  
RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”) strongly supports Senate Bill No. 1374 S.D. 2, H.D. 1 which appropriates funds to investigate the possibility of exchanging state land for land owned by Dole Food Company Inc., and for cost of executing the exchange.

Today, many local farmers are struggling to stay in business, or are contemplating selling their farms due to a number of challenges. One of the major barriers which inhibits farming from flourishing in Hawaii is the inability to access land due to the rising cost for agricultural land and urban sprawl development.

Dole has a large inventory of excess land that has been fallow for years and has listed over fifteen thousand acres for sale between central Oahu and the North Shore. Keeping Dole’s agricultural lands in agriculture should be

considered as a high priority because of the potential benefits it presents for agriculture. Since land is a critical component in enhancing the State's food security, obtaining agricultural lands through a land exchange may significantly increase the available agricultural land on Oahu for food production and may offer many possibilities to boost the economic viability of the agriculture industry as a whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**SB1374 SD2 HD1**  
**RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE**  
House Committee on Agriculture

March 23, 2016

9:00 a.m.

Room 312

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **COMMENTS** on SB1374 SD2 HD1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to negotiate and, as appropriate, facilitate land exchanges with Dole Food Company, Inc.

OHA supports the intent of this measure in seeking to preserve prime agricultural lands for long-term agricultural production. OHA notes that exchanges involving most public lands, including lands that may be proposed for exchange under this measure, are subject to an established, agreed-upon process for such exchanges under Act 176, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2009. Accordingly, OHA appreciates the instant bill draft’s express recognition of the requirements of chapter 171, which include the public land exchange process.

To the extent that any state lands exchanged for private lands are classified as public land trust lands, OHA reiterates that the acquired private lands must assume public land trust land status pursuant to Section 5(b) of the Hawai‘i Admission Act.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# Food Company Hawaii

1116 Whitmore Avenue Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786

March 22, 2016

House Committee on Agriculture

*Subject: S.B. 1374 Relating to Land Exchange*

Dear Committee members,

I am Dan Nellis, General Manager of Dole Food Company Hawai' i. Dole Food Company supports S.B. 1374 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, Dole Food Company also has 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, or exchanging for fully entitled State lands, Dole Food Company's 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.

Sincerely,

Dan Nellis, General Manager  
Dole Foods Company Hawai' i  
Email: [dan.nellis@dole.com](mailto:dan.nellis@dole.com)  
Tel: 808.621.3201



**LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC  
PO BOX 27  
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759  
(808) 688-2892**

**SB 1374sd2,hd1, Relating to Land Exchange  
House AGR Committee  
Wednesday, March 23, 2016  
9:00 am  
Conference Room 312**

**Written Testimony by: Larry Jeffs  
Position: Support**

Chair Tsuji, and Members of the House AGR Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC, which is part of our family-run business of farms on Oahu and Molokai, under the administrative umbrella of Sugarland Growers, Inc. We have more than 35 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu.

SB1374hd1 is supported because it facilitates the State's investigation and executing, if appropriate, the exchange of state land for large tracts of land in Central Oahu and the North Shore area owned by Dole Food Company, Inc.

The proposed land exchange is preferred over parcel by parcel sales and at varying prices per parcel. A consolidated approach by the State would provide consistent agriculture infrastructure oversight and agriculture development in the Central Oahu and North Shore regions of Oahu.

Acquisition of this agricultural land by the State ensures long-term leases for farmers and is fundamental to the State's goal of increasing food self sufficiency for Hawaii.

Your support of this measure is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture  
Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 9:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 312, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 1374 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE**

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **provides the following comments on SB 1374 SD2 HD 1**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to negotiate and, as appropriate, facilitate land exchanges with Dole Food Company, Inc., for agricultural lands in Central Oahu.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The bill cites the State constitution ". . . under article XI, section 3, to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency, and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands." What is missing from this statement is the need to insure that agriculture is "economically viable." Preserving agricultural lands for the sake of preservation is misleading.

Perhaps the bill should include language that requires an economic analysis of the cost to acquire both the agricultural lands AND irrigation water to keep these lands productive against the benefit resulting from the active use of these lands in agriculture be it self-sufficiency (this should be defined), creation of new jobs (employment), taxes on new agribusinesses, eco-tourism, etc.

There is a cost to preserving agricultural lands, it would be wise to identify and quantify these costs prior to the acquisition process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
REP. CLIFT TSUJI, CHAIR  
REP. RICHARD H.K. ONISHI, VICE CHAIR**

DATE: Wednesday, March 23, 2016  
TIME: 9:00 am  
PLACE: Conference Room 312

**SB 1374, SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE.**

Requires the Department of Agriculture to negotiate and, as appropriate, facilitate land exchanges with Dole Food Company, Inc. Requires a report to the Legislature. (SB1374 HD1)

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dale Sandlin, and I am Managing Director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 140+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports** SB 1374, SD2 HD1, as this measure provides a unique chance to prevent some of the best agricultural land on Oahu to be developed for other uses.

The mechanism within this measure has been successful in other states and for other purposes outside of agricultural lands and we believe that there is no reason for it to not work here as well. The lands in question would help to provide for the future of agriculture in Hawaii and specifically on Oahu.

As our state moves toward food self-sufficiency and rely less on imports, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to recapture these lands and help build the foundation for the future of agriculture in Hawaii.

We respectfully ask for this committee to pass this bill and we appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 9:26 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1374 on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM

**SB1374**

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for AGR on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch	Support	No

Comments: We strongly support this action to keep good agricultural land in agriculture, especially in light of the activity already going on on the former Galbraith Estate property by ADC, providing for an agricultural hub on Oahu.

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P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

March 23, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 1374, SD2, HD1**  
REALTING TO LAND EXCHANGE

Room 312  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFB strongly supports SB 1374, SD2, HD1**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to negotiate and, as appropriate, facilitate land exchanges with Dole Food Company, Inc.

HFB believes that in order for agriculture to flourish in Hawaii and reach their full potential, land availability and long-term leases at affordable and predictable lease rental rates are critical. The acquisition by the state of the Dole Lands will significantly increase the available agricultural land under the State's control and will provide farmers with long-term leases that will enhance the economic viability of Hawaii's agriculture industry.

We believe this is an opportunity to further support and expand the state's ability to provide prime agricultural lands for farmers, which is consistent with the State's goal of increasing self sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 5:12 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** tinatakashy@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1374 on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM\*

**SB1374**

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for AGR on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tina Takashy	Freely Associated States Empowerment	Support	No

Comments:

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## **House Committee on Agriculture**

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 9:00am

### **Testimony in support of SB 1374**

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anthony Aalto, I am the Chair of the O'ahu Group of the Sierra Club of Hawaii. The Club has more than 12,000 registered members and supporters in the state on whose behalf I am testifying, and I thank you for this opportunity to do so.

We strongly support this bill and respectfully urge you to pass it out of your committee.

We believe the bill offers a unique opportunity to O'ahu but also the chance to create a useful precedent for the neighbor counties.

### BALANCE

All our counties are grappling with the issue of how to balance needed growth—particularly the construction of vitally needed affordable housing for our workforce- with the need to protect agricultural, conservation and rural areas.

These areas need protection for several reasons:

- 1) First we must preserve the beauty of the land that is the foundation on which our tourist economy is built.
- 2) Second, as traditional food-growing areas in other parts of the world deal with the mounting impacts of climate change (such as the drought-driven crop losses in California's Central Valley last year) and the food demands of a global population that is expected to increase by 2 billion people in the next 25 years, Hawai'i needs to boost its food resilience. This is not necessarily to argue that we must become food self-sufficient, but given that we currently grow only about 10% of what we consume, we are extremely vulnerable to events beyond our control. Stimulating expansion of our local food production is a wise policy goal adopted by this Legislature in 2013. Since the availability of long-term leases of land is the major obstacle to boosting local food-production, securing ownership of and permanently preserving agricultural land by the state would enable a significant stimulus to food production.
- 3) Third, as Climate Change starts to make its effects felt, we need to increase protection of our Conservation areas in order to preserve our water supply. The National Drought

Mitigation Center currently categorizes more than 94% of Hawaii's land area as in a Moderate or Severe drought, impacting 538,315 Hawaii residents. Large areas covered by this bill are zoned for conservation.

- 4) Fourth, as we move to meet the state goal of zero reliance on fossil fuels for our energy needs by 2045, we will likely need to grow some biofuel crops to meet transportation demands – particularly for aviation and maritime craft. This will create further demand for agricultural land.

## PRESSURES

The currently agriculture-zoned lands targeted by this bill are already beginning to be subdivided into “gentlemen farms” or “fake farms” where no real farming occurs and new construction impacts roads, water and other resources.

Meanwhile, the housing demand analysis by the Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism shows that we need to build nearly 65,000 homes over the next 10 years. Where to put these homes without sprawling over the agricultural land we should be preserving?

On O'ahu the decision has been made to concentrate new housing along the rail route. And, while the (seemingly) inevitable cost overruns and delays in the HART project have made it unpopular for the time being, the City & County of Honolulu continues to focus its planning for new housing along the rail route.

We believe the residents of the other counties will similarly continue to press for new development to be concentrated in higher-density areas near mass transit.

This confluence of circumstances therefore gives us an opportunity for healthy trade-offs on all the islands. Land swapping is a preservation technique that is likely to receive growing attention across the state.

SB1374 proposes a tool to facilitate swaps of land owned by the state along the rail route in areas of O'ahu where development, especially of affordable housing, is appropriate and to be encouraged, with privately-owned land in areas that ought to be preserved for all the reasons listed above.

If your committee approves this proposal, we believe it could become a model for similar swaps on the neighbor islands.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask you to approve this bill.



P.O. Box 2577, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96803 | [SierraClubOahuGroup@gmail.com](mailto:SierraClubOahuGroup@gmail.com) | [www.hi.sierraclub.org/oahu](http://www.hi.sierraclub.org/oahu)

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 12:02 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** annsfreed@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1374 on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM

**SB1374**

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for AGR on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and members, I am a strong supporter of this initiative. As a resident of Central Oahu I have seen the rampant, irresponsible low density residential development of prime agricultural land. Agencies responsible for shepherding and protecting the Aina, have rubber-stamped these developments with little or no debate. This bill, if enacted, would do something to hold the line on this process that damages our food security and long-term environmental health. Please pass this bill. Ann S. Freed, resident of Central Oahu.

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**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 12:30 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** jonikamiya@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1374 on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM\*

**SB1374**

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for AGR on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joni Kamiya	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 12:46 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** deorhoden@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1374 on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM

**SB1374**

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for AGR on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deo Rhoden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill will benefit the central area and increase growing opportunities for farmers and help move Hawaii to sustainability and less dependent on imported products.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 4:07 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** clovvorn@castlecooke.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1374 on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM

**SB1374**

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for AGR on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christopher M. Lovvorn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this legislation. Thank you.

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**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 7:33 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** Mchughj001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1374 on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM\*

**SB1374**

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for AGR on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John McHugh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 5:31 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** tia.pearson@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1374 on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM

**SB1374**

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for AGR on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
tia pearson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need to decrease our food reliance on foreign supplies & increase our food sustainability.

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**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** blawaiianlvr@icloud.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1374 on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM

**SB1374**

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for AGR on Mar 23, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: We STRONGLY SUPPORT at his bill, as the potential for the State to become a major player in the propagation of Industrial Hemp, labeled as "Hawai`ian Hemp", is a potentially lucrative alternative. Hemp requires very little water, do the Dole lands, with its rich soil is perfect for such a State-sponsored revenue making crop. In any case, the State should definitely acquire the Dole lands.

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**LATE**



March 22, 2015

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair  
Representative Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture

**Testimony in Support of SB 1374, SD2, HD1 to Land Exchange. (Requires the Department of Agriculture to negotiate and, as appropriate, facilitate land exchanges with Dole Food Company, Inc. Requires a report to the Legislature.)**

**AGR Hearing: Wednesday, March 23, 2016, 9:00 a.m., in Conf. Rm. 312**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of SB 1374, SD2, HD1**, and to offer comments.

**SB 1374, SD2, HD1.** As an advocate for the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands in Hawaii, LURF supports this measure which requires the Department of Agriculture to negotiate and, as appropriate, facilitate land exchanges with Dole Food Company, Inc. and requires a report to the Legislature.

**LURF's Position.** LURF members include private property owners, farmers and ranchers who maintain and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider the potential for additional agricultural land and leases critical to the conduct of their operations and to help sustain their businesses. These land owners and agricultural stakeholders believe that SB 1374, SD2, HD1, by making available, agricultural land and long-term leases at affordable and predictable lease rents, would greatly assist agricultural stakeholders and support the growth of the local agriculture industry.

This bill is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes [HRS], Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution, “to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands.” As noted in HRS Section 205-41, the intent of Act 183 (2005) was to develop agricultural incentive programs to promote agricultural viability, sustained growth of the agricultural industry, and the long-term use and protection of important agricultural lands for agricultural use.

Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be pointless without implementation of these efforts which involve the collaboration and support of agricultural and business organizations, as well as government agencies, which this bill is intended to cultivate and promote.

By recognizing the significance of, and need to advance the interrelationships between private and public sectors to develop and improve the local agriculture industry, and establish opportunities which identify the objectives and address the needs of the industry, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

For the reasons stated above, LURF is **in support of SB 1374, SD2, HD1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this measure.