

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
CARTY S. CHANG  
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, February 26, 2015  
9:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

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

Senate Bill 1374 Senate Draft 1 proposes to use the Land Conservation Fund to investigate the possibility of exchanging state land for land owned by Dole Food Company, Inc., and for the costs of executing an exchange. The measure also proposes to use the Land Conservation Fund to investigate the possibility of exchanging certain state lands between the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Agriculture. This measure does not contemplate the acquisition or exchange going through the open and competitive process of the Legacy Land Conservation Program. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

PART I of the bill proposes, in part, to require the Department to investigate the possibility of acquiring lands owned by the Dole Food Company, Inc., in the central Oahu area that are within the conservation district and suitable for watershed management, and also consider an exchange of state land, including appraisal of any state lands to be exchanged. The measure proposes to appropriate \$200,000 from the Land Conservation Fund in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-2016 to investigate this possibility, including the purchase of appraisals.

The Department has reservations regarding the use of the Land Conservation Fund for purposes other than the statutorily-created open process<sup>1</sup> for reviewing and selecting for funding proposed

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<sup>1</sup> The Legacy Land Conservation Program awards grants from the Land Conservation Fund through an open and competitive process, pursuant to Chapter 173A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and Title 13, Chapter 140, Hawaii Administrative Rules. This process requires applications for funding to be reviewed by the Legacy Land Conservation Commission and approved by the Board of Land and Natural Resources at public meetings. Monies from the Fund have not previously been used for such purposes as the feasibility studies and land exchange costs contemplated by this measure.

**CARTY S. CHANG**  
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**DANIEL S. QUINN**  
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

**W. ROY HARDY**  
ACTING 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

acquisitions by state, county and non-profit entities for lands of resource value. As such, the Department has reservations with the use of these funds for feasibility studies or other due diligence cost items for acquisitions outside of the Legacy Land Conservation Program.

The Department notes that this measure does not identify any state parcels for exchange and does not specify the type of state land to be exchanged. This lack of guidance would make it difficult for the Department to conduct the appropriate due diligence for any exchange of lands. Also, the Department does not have feasibility experts on staff, therefore, imposing this task upon the Department would require the Department to expend staff time and limited resources to contract out such feasibility study. Finally, the Department notes 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.

PART I also proposes an additional \$400,000 from general revenues in FY 2015-2016 to be expended by the Agribusiness Development Corporation to investigate the purchase or acquisition by exchange of areas that are suitable for long-term diversified agricultural production. The Department has no comments on this portion of the bill.

PART II of the bill proposes to appropriate an unspecified amount of funds from general revenues in FY 2015-2016 to investigate: 1) the possibility of a transfer of certain state lands between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Public Safety to relocate the Oahu Community Correctional Center (“OCCC”) to Halawa as well as expanding the Halawa medium security facility, and 2) how such exchange could be further utilized to acquire certain parcels of land by Dole Food Company, Inc., and Castle and Cooke, Inc., for agricultural production purposes. The Department notes that the measure does not appropriate funds for the actual construction of the new correctional facilities that would replace the existing OCCC.

Lastly, PART III requires the Department, along with the Department of Public Safety, Department of Agriculture, and Agribusiness Development Corporation to submit a consolidated report to the legislature prior to the convening of the regular session of 2016 on: (1) the feasibility of a land exchange of parcels of high interest to the State; and (2) any appropriations, proposed legislation, or administrative action necessary to accomplish the goals of this Act. The Department supports a coordinated report and has no other comments on this portion of the bill.



**SB1374 SD1**  
**RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE**  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 26, 2015

9:00 a.m.

Room 211

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **COMMENTS** on SB1374 SD1, which appropriates funds to investigate the possibility of: (1) exchanging state land for land owned by Dole Food Company, Inc. located in central O‘ahu; and (2) exchanging certain state lands between the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Agriculture and investigating how such an exchange could be utilized to acquire the land owned by Dole Food Company, Inc.

OHA supports the intent of this measure in seeking to preserve prime agricultural and conservation lands, including agricultural productivity rating class A and B and watershed lands. OHA notes that exchanges of public lands, including the possible exchange to be investigated in Part I and Part II of SB1374 SD1, is subject to the established, agreed-upon process for such exchanges under Act 176, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2009.

Also, to the extent that any state lands being investigated to be exchanged with private land is classified as public land trust lands, OHA reiterates that such private land must assume the 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.

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lt. Governor



**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

February 26, 2015  
9:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

**SENATE BILL NO. 1374, SD1  
RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 1374 SD1. Part I of the bill is to: (1) appropriate \$200,000 from the Land Conservation Fund (under the Department of Land and Natural Resources) to be expended by the Department Land and Natural Resources, for the purpose of investigating the possibility of acquiring Dole Food Company lands in the Conservation District on Oahu by exchange of State land; and (2), appropriate \$400,000 from the general revenues to be expended by the Agribusiness Development Corporation, for the purpose of investigating the possibility of acquiring Dole Food Company lands in the Agricultural District on Oahu by exchange of State land.

Part II of the bill is to appropriate funds from the general revenues to investigate the possibility of a land exchange between the departments of Public Safety and Agriculture and how this exchange can be used to acquire the Dole Food Company lands for agricultural production purposes. The State lands being considered are in Halawa Valley and Kalihi.



Part III of the bill is to require the Departments of Land and Natural Resources, Public Safety, Agriculture, and Agribusiness Development Corporation to submit a consolidated report to the legislature before the 2016 session detailing the feasibility of a land exchange and any appropriations, proposed legislation, or administrative action necessary to accomplish Parts I and II.

The Department of Agriculture supports this measure that seeks to acquire certain Dole Food Company properties for the purpose of agricultural production. We would encourage consideration of those lands with a history of agricultural cultivation. In general, having the State acquire prime agricultural lands in fee is the most effective way to ensure the availability of agricultural lands for agricultural production in perpetuity with land rents based on the agricultural productivity of the land.

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

**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 SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

Thursday, February 26, 2015  
9:00 a.m.

**SENATE BILL NO. 1374 S.D. 1  
RELATIING TO LAND EXCHANGE**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”) strongly supports Senate Bill No. 1374 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.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 1374 SD RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 1374 SD1, which appropriates funds to investigate the possibility of acquiring lands owned by Dole Food Company, Inc, that: are in the conservation district and suitable for watershed management, and to identify which of the Dole lands are in the conservation district; and that are suitable for long-term diversified agricultural production, and to identify which of the Dole lands are in the agricultural district. Also appropriates funds to investigate the possibility of exchanging certain state lands between the department of public safety and department of agriculture and requires a report on the feasibility of a land exchange of parcels of high interest to the State and any further action necessary to accomplish the goals of this measure.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, 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.

Land availability and affordable prices and compatible leases must be available in order for agriculture to flourish and allow Hawaii to take the first steps to self-sustainability. The possible exchange of state land for Dole Food Company, Inc. land would increase the availability of agricultural land for the state and provide more opportunity for local farmers to expand their crops and thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**SB1374**

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie A Whalen	HARC	Support	No

Comments:

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.

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**SB1374**

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronald Weidenbach	Hawaii Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaii Aquaculture & Aquaponic Association strongly supports SB 1374 SD1 which appropriates funds to study and arrange for the exchange of State lands for former Dole and Castle & Cooke pineapple and sugar lands to save these critical agricultural lands located in and between central Oahu and the North Shore to support the retention of high value agricultural lands in our State.

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.

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February 26, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAY AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 1374, SD1  
REALTING TO LAND EXCHANGE

Room 211  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, 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, SD1**, which appropriates funds to investigate the possibility of exchanging state land for land owned by Dole Food Company, Inc., and for costs of executing the exchange and appropriates funds to investigate the possibility of exchanging certain state lands between the department of public safety and department of agriculture.

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.



LAND USE RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

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February 24, 2015

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**Testimony in Support of SB 1374, SD1, Exchange for Lands (Appropriates funds to investigate possibility of acquiring lands owned by Dole Food Company, Inc. that are in the conservation district and suitable for watershed management, and to identify which of the Dole lands are in the conservation district; and that are suitable for long-term diversified agricultural production, and to identify which of the Dole lands are in the agricultural district. Appropriates funds to investigate possibility of exchanging certain State lands between the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Agriculture. Requires a report on the feasibility of a land exchange of parcels of high interest to the State and any further action necessary to accomplish goals of this measure.)**

**Thursday, February 26, 2015, 9:00 a.m., in Conference Room 211**

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, SD1**, and to offer comments.

**SB 1374, SD1.** 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 appropriates funds to investigate the possibility of exchanging state land for land owned by Dole Food Company, Inc., and for costs of executing the exchange. The proposal also appropriates funds to investigate the possibility of exchanging certain state lands between the department of public safety and the department of agriculture.

**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, SD1, 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, SD1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

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

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

**SB 1374sd1, Relating to Land Exchange  
Senate WAM Committee  
Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015  
9:30 am  
Conference Room 211**

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

Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Senate WAM 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.

SB1374sd1 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.

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

# THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

## LAND FOR PEOPLE

### THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S COMMENTS REGARDING SB 1374, SD 1 RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 9:00 a.m., Room 211

The Trust for Public Land has comments regarding SB 1374, SD 1 relating to land exchange. This bill proposes studies of a land exchange of state owned lands at the O'ahu Correctional Facility for private agricultural and watershed lands in Central O'ahu/North Shore owned by Dole Foods LLC. The bill appropriates \$200,000 from the Legacy Land Conservation Program (LLCP) and \$400,000 in general funds to study the Dole lands, and an additional unspecified amount from general funds to study the O'ahu Correctional Facility land. The Trust for Public Land supports the preservation of the Dole agricultural and watershed lands and respects the innovative thinking and intent of the bill, but has the following concerns/comments regarding (1) whether Dole is a willing seller and has agreed to wait to sell the land until the study period is completed, (2) the appropriations out of the Legacy Land Conservation Program to fund the studies, and (3) whether the bill is supported by affected agencies, communities, and legislators.

#### **Willing Seller/Binding Commitment Not To Sell During Study Period**

The Trust for Public Land is a voluntary land conservation organization that advocates for land conservation only where there are willing sellers/landowners. The Trust for Public Land does not know whether the landowner, Dole Foods LLC, is open to the proposed land exchange, or the extended timeframes apparently needed to study and accomplish the exchange. Expending a total of \$600,000 and an additional unspecified amount on studies of the proposed land exchange would only make sense if Dole was willing to wait to sell its lands, and provided binding legal assurances to the State that it would not sell the land during the study period.

#### **Legacy Land Conservation Program Appropriations**

The Trust for Public Land also has concerns regarding the appropriation of \$200,000 from the Legacy Land Conservation Program (LLCP) to study the land exchange. Established in 2005, the LLCP receives 10% of the real estate conveyance tax, paid when a landowner sells land (other portions of the tax are allocated to the affordable housing rental trust fund, the natural area reserve fund, and the general fund). The Legislature created a non-partisan commission of experts to vet applications for funding, consult with the Legislature regarding their recommendations and rankings (through the Senate President and House Speaker), and make recommendations for funding to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

The LLCP has model of successful public and private partnerships, conserving over 6,600 acres of iconic and important land in every county – Black Pot Beach Park at Hanalei Bay on Kaua'i, the sacred waters of Kawaikapu on Moloka'i, the 1-mile of shoreline and coastal wetlands of Nu'u on Maui, the ancient Hawaiian village and marine protected areas of Lapakahi State Historical Park on Hawai'i Island, and agricultural land in Wai'anae, O'ahu that through the non-profit MA'O Organic Farm, employs and finances the college education of over 50 youth from Leeward O'ahu.

The LLCP efficiently uses funds, leveraging an average of one dollar or more for every dollar spent. For example, The Trust for Public Land assisted the State in acquiring 3,582 acres of the Honouliuli Forest Reserve in the Wai'anae Mountain Range, raising \$3,7635,500 in federal funding. The LLCP contributed \$982,956,

towards an over \$4 million purchase. Every dollar from the LLCP was matched by more than 3 additional federal dollars to purchase the property, which includes forests that protect clean drinking water for O‘ahu residents, and habitat for over 90 rare and endangered plant and animal species, including the O‘ahu Elepaio (endangered forest bird) and the famed “singing” endangered kahuli tree snail.

This bill proposes an appropriation of \$200,000 to fund studies of the watershed land contemplated in the land exchange, including appraisal costs. The Trust for Public Land has several concerns/questions. First, the appropriation would supplant the application, ranking, and legislative consultation process the Legislature itself established in HRS 175A-5. Every year, public agencies and non-profits compete for Legacy funding, and there are usually many worthy projects that do not receive funding. One of the factors that the Legacy Land Conservation Commission considers is the readiness of a project – whether the landowner has signed a binding agreement to sell the land to the public or non-profit purchaser (or at least not to sell it during a certain option period). This bill will forego the very processes the Legislature put in place to ensure that the best projects are funded.

Second, it is not clear that appropriations for studying a land exchange (or appraisal costs) are an allowed use of the fund, which states it is to be used for: “[t]he acquisition of interests or rights in land having value as a resource to the State, whether in fee title or through the establishment of permanent conservation easements under chapter 198 or agricultural easements,” and other administrative costs. HRS §175A-5(1). Finally, there will be multiplier effect greater than just the reduction of \$200,000. The LLCP usually leverages 1-3 or more dollars in federal, county, and/or private funds for every dollar spent on conserving land. Taking away 1 dollar from the LLCP really means a total loss of 2-4 state, federal, county and private dollars for land conservation.

#### **Affected Agencies, Communities, Legislators**

The Trust for Public Land also does not know whether the affected state agencies (Department of Public Safety, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture), the communities surrounding the O‘ahu and Halawa Correctional Facilities, or the legislators from these districts support the proposed land exchange.

Although The Trust for Public Land respects the innovative thinking and intent to preserve agricultural and watershed land that is behind the bill, we have the concerns/comments/questions discussed above. I apologize that I cannot attend the hearing because of a prior commitment.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify -



Lea Hong  
Hawaiian Islands State Director



Date: 02/25/2015  
Time: 9:00 AM  
Location: Conference Room 211  
Committee: Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Bryan Pang, District Resource Teacher (Leilehua Complex)

Title of Bill: SB 1374: RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to investigate the possibility of acquiring lands owned by Dole Food Company, Inc, that: are in the conservation district and suitable for watershed management, and to identify which of the Dole lands are in the conservation district; and that are suitable for long-term diversified agricultural production, and to identify which of the Dole lands are in the agricultural district. Appropriates funds to investigate the possibility of exchanging certain state lands between the department of public safety and department of agriculture.

As Senator Donovan Delacruz has brought to our attention, our agriculture industry faces several challenges, including acquiring access to water and irrigation systems, obtaining long-term leases on agricultural land, and meeting food safety regulations. Since the State is in the best position to address these issues by acquiring more agriculture land, it would provide certainty so that farmers can invest in their infrastructure and operations growing their business. With Dole Food Company listing for sale over 15,000 acres of land, the State has an opportunity to acquire former pineapple lands and keep them in agriculture.

My name is Bryan Pang and I have been a Leilehua Complex resource teacher for the past five years, and I am strongly in favor of SB 1374. There are ten schools in the Leilehua Complex: Hale Kula Elementary, Helemano Elementary, Iliahi Elementary, Kaala Elementary, Leilehua High, Solomon Elementary, Wahiawa Elementary, Wahiawa Middle, Wheeler Elementary, and Wheeler Middle. As of this coming 2015-16 school year, nine of our ten schools will be Title I schools (all except Wheeler Middle), which means that over a third of our students come from economically disadvantaged homes.

My role as a resource teacher includes assisting in the coordination of our complex-wide Professional Learning Communities (PLC), which are collaborative, vertical articulation team meetings amongst our librarians, counselors, student service coordinators, Quality Assurance Leilehua Team (for Special Education), and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) coordinators. In addition, I help coordinate our complex area's 5<sup>th</sup> grade science fair, grades 5-8 Sea Perch, and elementary robotics competitions.

During these past five years, we have had two major grants which are now completed: a Department of Defense and Education Act (DODEA) science grant and a 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Community Learning Center federal grant. Through these grants, our complex focus has continuously been on improving student achievement, advancing all our students' knowledge and skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), and promoting college-career-community-readiness. Over time, our test scores have improved, but since the grant monies have run out, we needed further support to continue the work we began.

Project Whitmore has come at the exact right time and will help take us to the next level. In particular, Project Whitmore brings relevance to our students' learning and brings the possibility of real, and even higher paying jobs right into our students' back yard. As planned, Project Whitmore will be designed in such a way, where a K-12 STEM Resource Teacher will work with the ten schools in our Leilehua Complex, developing STEM curriculum, working with our teachers to deliver STEM lesson plans, and ultimately building our students' STEM knowledge and skills. For example, this coordinator will help our grades K-12 robotics coordinators increase their knowledge and skills of robotics, so that they can appropriately equip our students in a vertically articulated manner. Vertical articulation means that skills can be built on top of skills already learned in a K-12 grade level progression.

Next, a Resource Manager will be housed at Leilehua High School and will partner with community organizations and businesses (particularly in agribusiness) to provide career internships and mentorships, while also helping to align Leilehua High's curriculum to the business community's needs. Along with the K-12 STEM Resource teacher, the resource manager will help ensure that our students are truly college-career ready. This entails equipping our students with the work habits, knowledge, and skills that students are expected to have once they graduate. For example, Lion Coffee plans to move its operations to Mililani Tech Park within the next 5 years, and plans to hire 50 people from the surrounding area. The resource manager would assist in aligning Leilehua's curriculum and providing internship/mentoring opportunities with Lion Coffee.

Third, a community engagement specialist will keep the Complex Area Superintendent and complex support staff informed of the Whitmore Project's progress, manage the project for the Department of Education (DOE), and coordinate vertical articulation amongst the schools, complex area, and DOE when engaging with businesses and community. For example, at the elementary level, the community engagement specialist would develop partnerships/mentorships with the business community in conjunction with the existing Science Fair, Sea Perch, and Robotics competitions, as well as bringing in business/community speakers to the elementary schools' career fairs. For sustainability, this position will be crucial in enlisting the business community's long-term support.

Together, these three full-time DOE positions will help our students be engaged in real life, STEM-related situations in a K-12 vertically aligned manner, helping them to become college-career ready for real jobs within the community. Not only does Project Whitmore have the potential to revitalize Wahiawa's economy and provide real jobs for our students, but it also has the potential to become a template for the rest of the state and complex areas to follow.

**SB1374**

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee: I strongly support SB 1374 SD1. As the recent threat of a shipping slowdown emphasizes, Hawaii is critically vulnerable to a shortage of food and feed because of our dependence on imports. We cannot afford to lose thousands of acres of potentially productive agricultural land to development, especially on Oahu where most of Hawaii's population is concentrated. State acquisition of the Dole lands is the most likely means by which these lands can be retained for agricultural purposes, and through which the land can be leased long-term at reasonable rates to productive farmers. Please support SB 1374 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Frederick M. Mencher, Nuuanu

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**SB1374**

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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