



**LATE**

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February 3, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON SB 354**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 224  
1:15 pm

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFB supports SB 354**, establishing a task force to define a "bona fide ag producer".

This issue has come before the Legislature as well as County Councils across the state. During the times of my grandparents, even without an articulated definition, what farmers and ranchers were was clearly understood. Times have changed and the definition of agriculture and a bona fide agricultural operation have come to mean different things to different people.

There are policies and programs specifically intended for agriculture. These measures are meant to support the industry to ensure affordable and reliable agricultural products for society. A clear definition will assist policy makers, and implementers of programs and policies to carry out their tasks and ensure that the intent of the various measures is met.

HFB looks forward to being part of the discussion. We respectfully request your support of this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our input on this measure.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 9:40 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** ashman.janet@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB354 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB354**

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
J Ashman	Individual	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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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 12:56 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB354 on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM



**SB354**

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 3, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) SUPPORTS SB 354, which establishes a temporary task force for the purpose of creating a single definition of "bona fide agricultural producer" to be used across state government or creating different definitions to be applied for different uses; requires a report to the Legislature; and makes an appropriation. LURF supports the proper designation, use and preservation of important agricultural lands (IAL), and partnered with the Hawaii farm Bureau and other Agricultural Stakeholders to propose and pass the IAL laws in 2005 and 2008. However, because there are a multitude of different types of agricultural operations and circumstances, we believe that it will be a difficult task to develop a single definition of "bonafide agriculture" - the definition will need to be broad enough to encompass various agricultural operations. Perhaps it may be beneficial if this effort is combined with a review of, and designation of "Rural" districts, to address issues where the lands currently designated as "Agriculture" may not be fully utilized for "agricultural" purposes. LURF respectfully urges the favorable consideration of this measure by this Committee.

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