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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB961 on Mar 15, 2017 13:15PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 4:46:58 PM



**HB961**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert Barreca	Counter Culture Farm	Support	No

Comments: Please amend this bill to provide a tax exclusion for small farmers.

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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**Cc:** [paul.arinaga@friendswithfarms.com](mailto:paul.arinaga@friendswithfarms.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB961 on Mar 15, 2017 13:15PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 11:13:55 PM



**HB961**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

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

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

Comments: According to the USDA 2012 Ag Census, there are 999 farmers on Oahu farming on 1-9 acres and the median farm size is a mere 3 acres. Many Oahu farmers are part-time because making the leap to being full-time is fraught with too much risk. This legislation may be one of the most important ways to support farmers. Making it easier for them to transition to being full-time or nearly full-time would potentially enable them to increase their production. That may be one of the best ways to increase Hawaii's food production.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB961 on Mar 15, 2017 13:15PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:01:56 PM



**HB961**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ruvi Velasco	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am a farmer who strongly supports this bill with the following suggested amendments to Section 2 to aid Hawai'i small farmers. (15) The first \$5,000 of income earned by a farmer; provided that the farmer's annual gross income does not exceed \$50,000 if filing a tax return singly and does not exceed \$100,000 if filing a tax return as married filing jointly. As used in this paragraph, "farmer" means an individual who [earns more than seventy-five per cent of the individual's annual gross income] meets the USDA definition of farm from the sale of [food] farm products or value-added [food] farm products grown or raised by the individual and sold within the State." "Farm products" means production from agricultural activities described in section 205-4.5(a)(1), (2), and (3).

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