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**SB352**

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

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>
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) SUPPORTS SB 352, which appropriates moneys to and from the Agricultural Loan Revolving Fund. According to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) this bill seeks to expand DOA's Agricultural Loan Program by providing additional funds to support the start-up capital in generating the State's next generation of farmers. DOA explains that the funding provided by this measure would help farmers and other agricultural operations on the former Galbraith lands on Oahu, who could use the loans to fully mechanize production, utilize new technologies and achieve greater economies of scale. LURF agrees with DOA that that its Agricultural Loan Program will provide access to affordable capital will be vital in helping these new operations to develop; and that investing funds into the program will help to preserve and expand agriculture production throughout the islands, enabling the replacement of food imports and increasing food sustainability for the state. LURF respectfully urges the favorable consideration of this measure by this Committee.

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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