

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**MARCH 22, 2019
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 65
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO STUDY AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO INCREASE COMPLIANCE WITH THE VARIOUS
REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL LANDS AND TO PREVENT ABUSE OF
AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASES.**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 65, requesting the Department of Agriculture to study and make recommendations on how to increase compliance with the various requirements for agricultural lands and to prevent abuse of agricultural land leases, including: improving compliance and enforcement methods; preventing impermissible land uses; confiscating leases from non-performing individuals; stopping the illegal subleasing; and addressing other hindrances, issues, and policies. The measure also requests that the Department of Agriculture submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature. The Department agrees with the resolution with respect to the need to study and assess the compliance and enforcement challenges facing our staff and offers the following comments.

The Department is cognizant of all the concerns identified in this measure and seeks to address them on an ongoing and continuous basis. The Department, however, has been unable to maintain an optimally robust property inspection program that would consist of annual site inspections for each property, at a minimum, to



address compliance and enforcement issues. The Department currently has only three property managers overseeing the entire State, with one of them responsible for the Island of Hawaii which has nearly half of the Department's agricultural lands. Without additional staffing and resources, the proposed study and report of these issues may impose considerable additional strains on the Department's capacity to carry out its day-to-day duties effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 9:53:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Miyamoto	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 5:47:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Winslow	Hawaii Farmers Union	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 11:46:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	HFUU	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 11:53:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary	Slow Money Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Not a year goes by that we don't see a large agricultural parcel get subdivided. Tragically, this most often means the end of food production for the populace on that land and, instead, a token compliance with ag zoning and the building of high end homes and estates that benefit no one but the owner who may not even reside full time in the islands. The latest playout of this scenario is the old Dillingham Ranch.

Hawaii can not afford to let this continue. With climate change, continually growing global population, and continual loss and degradation of ag land world wide, we cannot count on endless future imports of our food and must dramatically increase the supply of locally produced food. This means we cannot afford to lose any more of our own very limited ag land. Land cannot be kept in production if it is priced for development rather than farming.

Several years ago a bill that would limit the size of a house on ag land to something around 1200 - 1500 sq feet was shot down. I thought that was a meaningful solution. Stricter enforcement (where will the manpower come from?) or higher standards for productivity of the land, perhaps in proportion to the value of the land and house upon it, might also help.

Through Go Farm and The Kohala Centers Beginning Farming and Rancher Program and thru thank a growing awareness among younger people of the importance of building a local food supply, we now have a new generation of farmers coming online. They need access to land on which they can live and operate their farm. We need to make it accessible to them at prices that realistically represent the income that a food farm can generate while supporting a family.

SOMETHING needs to be done NOW! Please take a first step by passing this bill.

Mary Spadaro

Founder, Slow Money Hawaii

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 8:12:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
winsome williams	La Kahea	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 8:57:02 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Mohr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this measure and would like to see it extended to include privately-owned agricultural land, such as the agricultural land owned and managed by KSBE. I recently purchased one of KSBE's agricultural lots in Hawaii Kai (587 Pakala St) and have been saddened by and disappointed in the lack of enforcement, along with the widespread abuse of agricultural leases on the street.

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 4:51:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith Ranney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 4:54:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maureen Datta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 5:09:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 5:24:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 5:36:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jo Kimm	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 6:07:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 8:39:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Harley Simmons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 10:35:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Hastings	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 9:28:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 11:48:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
C. Kai Lucas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 7:23:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Genevieve N Neumann	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 3:40:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
A Kathleen Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable State of Hawai'i Legislators,

As a small farmer for decades, I completely agree with the priority to shift toward sustainability in agriculture and to decrease the reliance on food imports. I can see the day, if it comes within the next few years, that our people will be starving. What a shame since we could have avoided this tragedy,

April Lee

Hawi, HI

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/22/2019 7:02:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donovan	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: