



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, April 3, 2019
10:25 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
HB 593, HD1, SD1
RELATED TO LAND USE.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) has **comments** on HB 593, HD1, SD1, which authorizes the development of utility scale solar development projects in the State Agricultural District with classified A soils subject to certain conditions set forth in this measure.

Achieving 100% renewable energy by 2045 may require the development of numerous 'utility-scale' solar energy projects that prefer large areas of flat sunny land. Currently, six large solar projects are being constructed or planned on Oahu on parcels partially or fully within the State Agricultural District. Balanced land use policies in Hawaii can help ensure sufficient land is available for energy, agriculture, and other needs.

Should the Legislature consider allowing the development of large solar farms in the State Agricultural District with classified A soils, the conditions proffered in this bill may offer some mechanisms to reduce transmission infrastructure needs and allow for such projects to proceed while potentially minimizing negative impacts to Hawaii's agricultural industry.

DBEDT, however, would have concerns about displacing active agricultural operations without a plan to relocate or replace the displaced agricultural production. DBEDT defers to the appropriate agencies for comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments on HB 593, HD1, SD1.

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
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**APRIL 3, 2019
10:25 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 593 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO LAND USE**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 593 HD1 SD1 that authorizes the development of utility-scale solar energy projects on "A" rated agricultural land in the Agricultural District. SD1 attempts to reduce the impact of solar energy facilities that displace farmers who are actively cultivating "A" rated agricultural lands. However, given the high crop production capacity and extreme scarcity of "A" rated agricultural lands, and our uncertainty as to what the full impact of these facilities will have on these irreplaceable agricultural lands, we remain in strong opposition to allowing solar energy facilities on "A" rated agricultural lands.

DOA has always sought a balance between the State's initiatives for energy and food self-sufficiency. We have seen fast adoption of and broad support for renewable energy production at the utility-scale to the residential. In our earlier testimony on HB 593, we noted that over the past ten years, piecemeal amendments to Chapter 205 have allowed solar energy facilities to dramatically increase their footprint on Hawaii's agricultural lands. As this occurred, we argued that solar energy facilities should first be directed to lower-rated "D" and "E" rated lands, which are found in abundance on each island, before using "B" and "C" rated agricultural land.



Now, House Bill 593 SD1 seeks to allow solar energy facilities on “A” rated agricultural land. “A” rated agricultural lands have the highest capacity for intensive, soil-based, agricultural production with the least amount of inputs and preparation. Simply put, it is Hawaii’s best agricultural land. And it is very scarce. In earlier testimony, it was noted that “A” rated ag lands comprise 3% or about 56,000 acres of the 1.83 million acres of agricultural zoned land throughout the State. Oahu has about 15,000 acres of “A” rated ag land, or about 25% of the State total. Nearly all the “A” rated agricultural lands from Wahiawa and Schofield Barracks southward to the residential communities of Royal Kunia and Village Park are in intensive agricultural production and much of it is irrigated.

In response to the request of the Senate committees on Water and Land, and Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism of March 13, 2019, we submitted statewide information on the acreage of “A” rated agricultural land in agricultural production. Approximately 69% of the “A” rated agricultural lands on Oahu were in agricultural production, not including livestock pasture/grazing. Statewide, about 35% of all “A” rated agricultural land is in agricultural production. If the HC&S sugar plantation on Maui was still in operation, the agricultural usage of “A” rated land would be about 70%. The new owner (Mahi Pono) of the former HC&S plantation has announced plans to establish a variety of agricultural activities and lease land to farmers, so we expect the statewide percentage of “A” rated agricultural lands in usage to steadily increase.

SD1 asserts it would further the agricultural use of the “A” rated agricultural land occupied by or near to a solar energy facility (page 1, lines 8-9). The bill indicates the following three benefits to agricultural use on or near a solar energy facility on “A” rated agricultural lands. We find these benefits to contain vague language with no guarantees. We offer comments for each:

1. A reduction in land lease rate to 60% from the existing 50% below the fair market lease rate (page 17, lines 11-15).

We do not see the significance of the benefit of an additional 10% reduction in land lease rent to a farmer on or near a solar energy facility on “A” rated agricultural land, particularly in the case where the agricultural operation is being largely or totally displaced by the solar energy facility. Farm displacement that

results in a reduction in or total loss of production acreage cannot be made up by a reduction in land lease rate.

2. Requiring the solar energy facility operator to “provide water infrastructure to any service area” where agricultural production has been impacted by the solar energy facilities (page 19, lines 10-14).

The provision of “water infrastructure to any service area in which agricultural production has been impacted” needs to be reworded as it lacks clarity. The phrase “agricultural production has been impacted” appears to describe the situation where a farming operation on a parcel of land is being largely, if not entirely, displaced by a solar energy facility and that the farmer is forced to relocate the farming operation to another portion of the same parcel, or to another parcel. Providing “water infrastructure to any service area” for a farm that is forced to operate on a much smaller land area on the same parcel, or, worse, forced to leave the parcel will not return the farm to its prior crop production capacity anytime soon. As worded, this is a weak benefit.

3. Requiring one or more binding contracts for farmers to undertake agricultural activities on the “A” rated land area used for solar energy facilities and requires facility operators to “provide for the electrical needs” of these contracted farmers (page 20, lines 5-13).

Under this scenario, a solar energy facility operator on “A” rated agricultural land is required to “provide for the electrical needs” of a farmer or farmers who enter into “binding contracts” with the operator. The phrases “binding contracts” and “provide for the electrical needs” need to be reworded as they lack clarity. Are there examples of other solar energy facilities in Hawaii that have established “binding contracts” with farmers to undertake agricultural activities under or alongside the solar energy facility footprint? It is not clear how this “benefit” will relate to the other two.

The bill has three limits on solar energy facilities. One is the 35-year cap on the use of the land, the second is the 2-mile capture area on both sides of a 138-kilovolt transmission line right-of-way, and the third is the area of "A" rated agricultural land in a county that may be developed for solar energy facilities is limited to 1% of the total acreage of "A" rated agricultural land in the county. We are not confident these limits will withstand future efforts to benefit solar energy facility development at the cost of agricultural production on "A" rated agricultural land. We are worried about the 'slippery slope' effect as the State has seen over the past several years where solar energy facilities were being considered for "D" and "E" lands and today we are considering "A" lands.

The 35-year cap on use of "A" rated agricultural land for a solar energy facility is not fixed and can be extended by the Land Use Commission. Given the far higher income stream possible from leasing agricultural land for solar energy facility development versus agricultural production, we are not convinced that affected "A" rated agricultural land will ever be returned and restored to its original pre-use condition for agricultural use (page 19, lines 1-7 and 15-20).

The bill establishes a geographic limitation on what "A" rated agricultural land can be taken for solar energy facility development – two miles, either side, of a 138-kilovolt transmission line right-of-way (page 18, lines 17-20). To our knowledge, only Oahu has transmission line rights-of-way that cross over "A" rated agricultural land, one of which crosses the Kunia Road in the midst of agricultural lands almost entirely under agricultural production. We are very concerned that the 138-kilovolt limitation will be subject to amendment in the future, perhaps down to 69-kilovolt, thereby increasing the area where solar energy facilities may be developed, particularly on the neighbor islands.

The bill also limits the total area of "A" rated agricultural lands directly under the footprint of solar energy facilities to 1% of the total acreage of "A" rated agricultural lands in the relevant county (page 22, lines 1-10). For Oahu, 1% of 15,000 acres of "A" rated lands is 150 acres. So, a single utility-scale solar energy facility, built within the 138-kilovolt transmission line right-of-way described in the previous paragraph, will extinguish consideration of other solar energy facility proposals on "A" rated agricultural lands for Oahu. This brings into question who will benefit from this narrowly defined

legislation. We are very concerned that this 1% cap will be increased in the future, thereby increasing the amount of “A” rated agricultural land that will be subject to solar energy facility development.

The bill specifies 5 standards and criteria for the Land Use Commission to consider in their review of a special use permit for solar energy facilities on “A” rated agricultural lands. Most of the standards/criteria contain imprecise language that may make measurement of impact difficult (page 20, line 14 to page 21, line 20).

In lieu of this measure, the Department strongly recommends that the development of solar energy facilities on “A” rated Agricultural District land be sought through established land use entitlement and county plan amendment processes under the purview of the Land Use Commission and the counties. We strongly discourage circumventing these existing processes by amendments to Chapter 205, particularly for the very scarce and valuable “A” rated agricultural land that these laws and ordinances ultimately seek to protect and conserve.

Despite our strong opposition, we are open to further discussion on solar energy facilities on “A” rated agricultural land, provided the utility-scale solar energy facility developer undertakes and completes a “proof of concept” that, to the State’s satisfaction, unequivocally demonstrates that agricultural production activity shall be the primary activity on the parcel of land for which a solar energy facility is proposed; that the amount of agricultural crop production by volume, weight, and value shall be equal to or exceeds what is possible without the solar energy facility; that all crop types shall be tested, including papaya and banana, except livestock; if agricultural-technology production is proposed by the solar energy facility developer, a full cost itemization of the full development of the infrastructure to allow agricultural-technology production in coexistence with solar energy facilities, including greenhouse buildings and vertical agriculture, the cost of operating and maintaining agricultural technology production, the cost to acquire the skills to operate an agricultural technology production system, and other considerations. A successful proof-of-concept would clearly demonstrate the solar energy facilities and intensive and economically viable agricultural production can physically co-exist on the same land area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Wednesday, April 3, 2019 — 10:25 a.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative has Comments on HB 593 HD 1 SD 1, Relating to Land Use

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better manage waste and fresh water resources. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono has comments on HB 593 HD 1 SD 1, which authorizes the development of utility-scale solar development on certain lands.

Ulupono actively supports both the agriculture and renewable energy industries in Hawai'i, but sometimes those industries come into conflict. This bill authorizes utility-scale solar development on prime agricultural lands. However, we have concerns over using prime agricultural lands for non-agricultural uses. Although this bill is written to favor of a particular project on a limited geographic area for a finite timeframe, its passage could encourage other solar developers to push for development on prime agricultural lands.

Ulupono would be open to supporting solar development on Class A lands if a significant portion of the power output were being sold to, discounted for, or donated to an agricultural enterprise. We would also want the agricultural enterprise to actually use the power (or services that use the power such as water pumping). We would want the solar developer to be required to actively partner with local farmers/producers in a meaningful way.

As Hawai'i's issues become increasingly complex and challenging, we appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Hawaii Interfaith Power & Light (HIPL)

An Interfaith Response to Climate Change

To: Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

From: Hawaii Interfaith Power & Light (HIPL)

Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 10:25 AM

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Re: Opposition to HB593 HD1 SD1, Relating to Land Use.

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on WAM,

My name is Steve Lohse, I'm an environmental scientist and legislative liaison for Hawaii Interfaith Power & Light (HIPL). On behalf of HIPL, thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in **Opposition to HB593 HD1 SD1**.

HIPL opposes the development of utility-scale solar projects on class A agricultural lands, i.e., prime ag lands with soil classified as overall productivity rating class A.

Hawaii needs sustainable renewable energy, and solar is critical to filling this need. Hawaii also needs sustainable local food production, a Department of Agriculture priority, in fact, and prime ag lands are critical to filling this need. Hawaii needs BOTH energy and food sustainability.

However, Hawaii does not need unnecessary land-use conflict between energy OR food when there is plenty of poor ag land available for solar projects. Please, allowing anything except food production on prime ag lands is a terrible precedent for Hawaii's sustainable futures.

Please, defer HB593 HD1 SD1. Thank you!

Aloha no,

Steve Lohse

Hawaii Interfaith Power & Light (HIPL)

lohse@hawaii.edu

<https://hipl.org/>

HIPL embraces the following goals to connect our interfaith, decision-making, and advocacy communities in Hawaii's historic transition ASAP to 100% renewable energy and a carbon-neutral economy:

- *raise awareness of the deeply spiritual nature of energy and climate challenges;*
- *advocate energy policies that promote conservation, efficiency, and renewables;*
- *provide inspiration, resources, leadership, and education for effective community action.*

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:19:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for Pele Lani Farm LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please oppose HB 593. Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawaii's most fertile and productive A rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill.

Mahalo.



To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, 4/3/19

In strong opposition to HB593 HD1 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the WAM committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. On behalf of our 6,000 members and supporters, 350Hawaii.org **strongly opposes HB593 HD1 SD1.**

This bill would allow the most productive ag land in the state to be covered with solar panels. Solar is an indispensable part of our clean energy plans, but there are thousands of other places to put it. We need that great soil to reduce our dependence on imported food, which will increase our security, keep money in the state, and avoid the greenhouse gases emitted by shipping it in. Don't sacrifice Grade A land for no good reason.

HB593 HD1SD1 is a very misguided policy. Look at the bigger picture and defer it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Brodie Lockard, Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action
Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 10:25 am

In opposition to HB593 HD1 SD1

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members—

Organizing for Action opposes HB593 HD1 SD1.

This bill would allow the most productive ag land in the state to be covered with solar panels. Solar is an indispensable part of our clean energy plans, but there are 1,000 other places to put it.

We need that great soil to reduce our dependence on imported food, which will increase our security and independence; keep money in the state; support our local farmers; and avoid the greenhouse gases emitted by shipping 90% of our food across the ocean. Don't sacrifice Grade A land for no good reason.

HB593 HD1 SD1 is very misguided policy. Please look at the bigger picture and defer it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard
Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:46:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mulinix	Testifying for Our Revolution Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:24:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pamela burrell	Testifying for apollo kauai,	Oppose	No

Comments:

We are totally for solar renewable energy but not at the cost of eliminating prime agriculture lands. Surely raising cattle/sheep/ goats and pigs could coexist with solar Panels but not ag crops that I am aware of. Not sure but worth exploring. I am totally for solar energy, but in lands that are not used in the production of food..

mahalo,

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai,Kaua'i

p

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:02:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andre Bisquera	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the use of prime agricultural land for utility scale solar. This land should be used for agriculture to increase Hawaii's food security. Thank you.

Oppose HB 593:

HB 593 is in direct conflict with exiting state policy on Important Ag lands which was adopted by the voters.

HB 593 is in direct conflict with County Zoning Laws intent on protecting and preserving prime agriculture land.

HB 593 is in direct conflict with the Land Study bureau which identified the subject property as LSB Class A- important agricultural lands.

HB 593 has only one beneficiary, who is a foreign corporation. Its passage will set a precedent for non-agricultural use of IAL, and it is in direct conflict with the best interest of Hawaii's voters.

The identification and designation of Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) was first proposed at the 1978 Constitutional Convention and subsequently approved by voters in the same year. As enacted (Act 183), the State is required to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands.

Act 183:

Lands identified by the State as important agricultural lands needed to fulfill the purposes above shall not be reclassified by the State or rezoned by its political subdivisions without meeting the standards and criteria established by the legislature and approved by a two-thirds vote of the body responsible for the reclassification or rezoning action."

State and county agricultural policies, tax policies, land use plans, ordinances, and rules shall promote the long-term viability of agricultural use of important agricultural lands and shall be consistent with and implement the following policies:

- (1) Promote the retention of important agricultural lands in blocks of contiguous, intact, and functional land units large enough to allow flexibility in agricultural production and management;*
- (2) Discourage the fragmentation of important agricultural lands and the conversion of these lands to nonagricultural uses;*
- (3) Direct nonagricultural uses and activities from important agricultural lands to other areas and ensure that uses on important agricultural lands are actually agricultural uses;*
- (4) Limit physical improvements on important agricultural lands to maintain affordability of these lands for agricultural purposes;*
- (5) Provide a basic level of infrastructure and services on important agricultural lands limited to the minimum necessary to support agricultural uses and activities;*

- (6) *Facilitate the long-term dedication of important agricultural lands for future agricultural use through the use of incentives;*
- (7) *Facilitate the access of farmers to important agricultural lands for long-term viable agricultural use; and*
- (8) *Promote the maintenance of essential agricultural infrastructure systems, including irrigation systems.*

It is difficult to explain how this bill serves the public interest or is consistent with existing public policy. Please vote no on HB 593.

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 10:02:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mr Gary Passon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Gary Passon and I'm a resident of Hawaii. I am writing today in opposition to HB 593. Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawai'i's most fertile and productive "A" rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593 and encourage your colleagues to do the same

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 11:29:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jamie Barton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

I strongly OPPOSE House Bill 593HD1 SD1 Relating to Land Use. There is no reason to take prime A agricultural land out of production for development of PV. There are B, C, D and E lands that may be used. Our A lands are limited and the proposed project would be on some of the most productive A land in the state. I am in support of renewable energy projects, in support of new tech and education to support ag, and in support of cooperation between ag and other industries, but there are ways to do these things without displacing farmers. Opening up this type of development on A land seems to favor one particular project, and may open the door for others like it in the future.

Once these lands go out of agricultural production they will not go back.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in OPPOSITION to HB593HD1SD1.

Jamie Barton

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 10:54:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Foster	Testifying for Hawaii Advocates For Consumer Rights	Oppose	No

Comments:

HAWAI'I ADVOCATES FOR CONSUMER RIGHTS

Aloha Senator,

My name is Scott Foster and I'm submitting this testimony as the Communications Director for Hawaii Advocates For Consumer Right.

We rarely use the term "strong opposition" but in this case, we indeed are in strong opposition to HB 593.

Nothing should be permitted to be built on Hawaii's most fertile and productive A rated agricultural lands. Utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E.

We believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without this bill. Please oppose HB593 and encourage all of your colleagues to do the same.

HB593 would be terrible public policy given the simple fact that Hawai'i imports so much of it's food supply.

Mahalo.

Scott Foster
Communications Director
Hawaii Advocates For Consumer Rights
<<http://advocatesforconsumerrights.org/>>
808-590-5880

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 3:54:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Choon James	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

ALOHA! Please Vote "NO" [HB593 HD1 SD1](#).

If you have "reservations", vote NO.

We need to remember that we're the most island chain on the entire earth.

It's important to be self-sustaining in our islands. But Food Sustainability is more important than allowing solar farms to take over. Besides, solar panels belong on every home in order to provide DIRECT BENEFIT to our residents.

Our agricultural lands are disappearing quickly, it's important that we do everything we can to protect our agriculture-zoned acreages, not open up more doors to undermine the agricultural purposes and zoning.

Thank you.

Choon James

Kahuku

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 4:19:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 7:49:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
alex beers	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am in strong opposition to this bill. We need to keep our class A land for ag use.

Mahalo,

Alex Beers

29 Kaikai st.

Wailuku, HI

96793

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 5:28:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Brewer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I adamantly oppose allowing solar, or wind, on prime A ag. land. There is sufficient lesser grade

ag. land to utilize for alternative energy. We need to support the University of Hawaii Agrigulture dept. by creating "future farmers of Hawaii". We need the University to study,develop, and implement programs for current and future farmers to get grants, free leases on State on ag. land (esp. those just purchased from Dole) to create a model, plan, and to implement expanded food production in Hawaii. Our State constitution does not allow A grade ag. land to be used for other purposes, and I oppose all efforts to "bypass" our Agriculture committee in the Senate to benefit large landowners wishing to influence our legislators. IF they dont want to farm their ag. land that is their problem. The State of Hawaii elected politicians to find the solution to farm. In World War II Hawaii produced enough food locally to support a similar sized population.

We should not abandon our goals of producing our own food just because two farmers, one of whom turned to growing pot, gave up. We need better visionaries.

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 8:55:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Rowe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please to not squander prime Ag lands. While I strongly support the widespread use of solar energy, I believe there are rooftop spaces to exploit and other options rather than compromising the lands that can be used for food production. We can't kill Peter to save Paul. Think wholistically, think of other options.

thank you

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:10:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Graham	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to HB593 HD1 SD1.

Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawaii's most fertile and productive A-rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593 HD1 SD1.

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:10:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Silver	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:16:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glenn Metzler	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:31:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith A Mick	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha- Hawaii must protect what is left of our precious agricultural land as we work towards sustainable energy. Surely we can find better areas for solar farms than on land we need to grow our food. Soon enough we will not be able to afford importing food and we better have a place to feed our own people. Please do not support this dangerous bill. Thank you for your consideration. Judy Mick, Kailua

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:45:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Ching	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:45:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Lemon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please oppose HB 593. Prime ag. land should be reserved for growing food, which we need more of. All other grades of ag. land are already open for solar farms, and that should be plenty. Additional solar installations belong on our rooftops, not farmland.

mahalo!

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:48:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Micha'el Leventhal	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawaii's most fertile and productive A-rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593 HD1 SD1.

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 10:15:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not allow the installation of solar farms on the most productive agricultural lands in Hawai'i.

State Constitution Article XI requires the State to "...conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable land." No agricultural land is more suitable for farming than land given an "A" rating, the class of highest production.

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 10:30:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSTION to this bill. Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawaii's most fertile and productive A-rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593 HD1 SD1.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 12:25:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Boyne	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawaii's most fertile and productive A-rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593 HD1 SD1.

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 12:59:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose! This is a very stupid idea. Our best farmlands should be protected. Solar can go anywhere - EXCEPT on precious and that can grow food.

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 1:46:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Placing solar on top of prime ag land? Really?

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 5:35:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sally kaye	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 7:34:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Young	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Even though this land may not be financially producing today as agriculture land, within the projected lifetime of this solar project, I'd bet it will be. Hawaii's growing/younger farmer generation is in need of Ag land to help support the island's food system. Please do not tie up this Ag, Class A, land in a 20+ year venture that does not include the production of food for Oahu's citizens.

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 8:09:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Robinson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 8:14:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cecilia Reid	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawaii's most fertile and productive A-rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593 HD1 SD1.

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 8:20:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynne matusow	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Why do you want to give any ag lands away for solar or anything else? How will we feed ourselves? We should not be importing agricultural items that can be grown in Hawaii nei. Yet we do because we do not have enough land to grow them. As Hawaii strives for energy self sufficiency we should be going the same for agriculture. This bill serves no useful purpose except maybe to starve us in the future.

Please vote no. Please kill this bill now.

It appears it was introduced as a special interest bill and hte firm that was to benefit it now says it does not want this land and is searching for another property.

Lynne Matusow

TO: Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233

HEARING: 10:25 a.m. Wednesday, April 3, 2019

SUBJECT: HB593, HD1, SD1 Solar Projects on Ag Land – **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on HB593, HD1, SD1, which would allow solar projects to be installed on class A agricultural land. I oppose this measure.

We've already lost too much prime ag land with the rezoning approvals for Hoopili and Koa Ridge. We must make sure we use our land wisely. Please do not allow our precious ag land to be used for solar panels. I urge you to **vote "no"** on this measure.

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 9:15:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lana Brodziak	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please oppose HB 593 HD1 SD1 to help ensure food security for our Island home. We need to optimize the use of prime agricultural land for growing food and not for a use that can be accomodated on non-agricultural land.

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 9:28:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Mello	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to allowing solar farms on class A agricultural lands. It is my understanding that solar farms are already allowed on other class ag lands. I believe we need to protect our prime AG lands (class A), from solar farms and such and preserve them for actual agriculture. To allow our class A ah lands to be used for solar farming would be a waste of our prime ah resources. Please do not pass this bill.

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 9:36:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Jensen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Ways and Means Committee Members,

Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawaii's most fertile and productive A-rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593 HD1 SD1. We have limited A rated ag land, let's not mortgage our future by using such parcels for energy production when so many other alternative sites exist.

Thank you,

Dale Jensen, Professional Engineer, Kailua, Oahu.

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 10:03:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
donald erway	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawaii's most fertile and productive A-rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593 HD1 SD1.

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 10:17:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Theresa Yamanoha	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please preserve our most valuable ag land for agricultural use. It is extremely important for the future of our state that our class A ag land be used for agricultural purposes. We must find ways to grow more of our own food in Hawaii and allowing our **very best** ag land to be used for other purposes makes that possibility even less likely.

Thank you for your consideration.

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 3:53:38 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Kioni Dudley	Testifying for The Friends of Makakilo	Oppose	No

Comments:

There company that this bill was to support has now declared that it will not build on Prime A ag land. There is no reason to support this bill.

It is also a terrible bill. With the current exponential world population explosion, the UN says that 337 million people in the world will have no food. That more than the entire US population.

There will be no food to ship in. If we are not 100% food-self-reliant, we will have people starving.

Ho'opili and Koa Ridge have taken 48% of our currently active prime A ag land on Oahu. We desperately need every acre.

For the sake of yourself and your descendants, vote against this bill.

For more info, see my research paper on www.2050Hawaii.com

Dr. Kioni Dudley

LATE



Hawaii's Thousand Friends

300 Kuulei Rd. Unit A #281 * Kailua, HI 96734 * Phone/Fax (808) 262-0682 E-Mail: htff3000@gmail.com

April 3, 2019

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

HB 593 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO LAND USE

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members;

Hawaii's Thousand Friends (HTF), a non-profit statewide organization dedicated to ensuring that land use planning and decisions protect the environment, human health and natural and cultural resources, *opposes* HB 593 HD1 SD1 that authorizes the development of utility scale solar projects on prime A rated agricultural land.

Hawaii's Constitution Article XI requires the State to "...conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable land."

No agricultural land is more suitable for farming than land given an A rating, the class of highest productivity, by the University of Hawaii's Land Study Bureau Detailed Land Classification.

Under this study all lands in the State, except those in the urban district, were grouped into homogeneous units of land types; their condition and environment were described; lands were rated on over-all quality in terms of agricultural productivity; appraised for performance for selected alternative crops; and delineated the various land types and groups based on soil properties and productivity capabilities.

The narrow description of the proposed solar project leads one to question if this is special legislation. If that is the case it is even more troubling to think that our state's limited high quality agricultural land can be so easily manipulated for non-agricultural uses.

With only 3% or 55,800 acres out of the states 1,885,100 acres of land in the State Agricultural Land District it is careless and short sighted to allow uses other than farming on A rated land.

Given the limited amount of A rated agricultural lands a utility scale solar energy facility should be required to petition the Land Use Commission for a Land Use District Boundary Amendment to reclassify land from agriculture to urban for an type industrial use instead of being a permitted use.

Help keep agricultural land for farming and hold HB 593 HD1 SD1 in committee.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

April 3, 2019 10:25 AM Room 211

In **OPPOSITION** of **HB 593 HD1 SD1**: Relating to Land Use

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **opposes HB 593 HD1 SD1** which authorizes the development of utility scale solar projects on "A" rated agricultural lands, subject to certain requirements.

This bill has become more complex with its various amendments, but at its core it puts into conflict two very important environmental issues- Hawai'i's ability to wean off fossil fuels and transition to a clean energy future versus our ability to boost local food production. The Sierra Club supports renewable energy, but we have serious, overriding concerns to allow large-scale solar production on Hawai'i's most fertile and productive "A" rated agricultural lands. "A" ag lands constitute a mere 3% of the total land designated for agriculture and utility-scale solar is already authorized on ag lands rated B, C, D, and E. We believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill.

The restrictions in this bill, such as limiting solar development to lands within 2 miles of a 138kv transmission line, limiting the use to 35 years, on non-state owned lands, and considerations made to acquire the special use permit from the Land Use Commission, can all be removed in conference committee and subsequent legislative sessions. While we appreciate the addition of some of these restrictions in the bill drafts, we believe that allowing any large-scale solar on "A" ag lands is a slippery slope and sets a bad precedence.

Furthermore, HB 593 HD1 SD1 is restrictive and favors 1 particular project to be authorized in building a 52 MW utility scale solar project on 180 acres in Kunia, O'ahu. This calls into question whether the legislature would be passing special legislation in favor of this development proposal. We also note that nearly all of the A lands in this area are currently in intensive agricultural production and much of this land is already irrigated.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **opposition to HB 593 HD1 SD1**.



LATE

P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

April 3, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 593, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO LAND USE

Room 308
1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director 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.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly opposes HB 593, HD1, SD1. We are concerned about the loss of Hawaii's farmland. This bill will allow the development of utility-scale solar projects on lands classified as having the highest productivity soil in the State. This is in conflict with our state's goal of food sustainability.

Nationwide, there is an ongoing struggle between solar developers and farmers. Land that is best for solar installations are often lands needed to grow crops or raise animals. The ideal tract of land for solar development is flat, dry, unshaded, close to transmission infrastructure and customers, accessible to installers and maintenance, and in an area with plenty of sunshine. All of these characteristics are associated with farmland. Prime farmland may be particularly attractive for solar development.

When a piece of land is developed for a solar installation, it is very unlikely to be reverted back to agricultural land, even when the lease to a solar company eventually runs out. Flattening and compacting the land, as well as other changes, tend to ruin the land for future farming. Rising demand for solar energy could swallow up huge swaths of farmland as struggling farmers may be coerced into selling or leasing to these developments. This is because leasing land for solar development can be more profitable, per acre, than producing any crop. Furthermore, the consistent revenue stream from solar leases may be an attractive alternative to the typical risks that farmers take to produce food; i.e. insects, diseases, floods, drought, fickle market, transportation costs, etc.

Acknowledging this potential crisis, some states and counties have banned new solar developments on agricultural lands. Others have implemented strict policies such as tax penalties and permit hurdles to ensure no, or minimal impact to farmland. In some states, the state Department of Agriculture must certify that the project will not materially affect the status of any prime farmland. California, the national leader in both solar production and crop sales, imposes an expensive conversion penalty for converting farmland to solar. California policy is to favor solar development on “land that is not valuable habitat, open space, or farmland.”

Currently, Hawaii law allows solar development on B, C, D, or E classified land. The Hawaii Farm Bureau believes that allowing solar energy facility development on A classified lands, as proposed in HB 593, HD1, SD1 may be harmful to agriculture in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 11:11:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Matson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There are thousands of acres of bare commercial, industrial, warehouse and residential rooftops on our islands that need to be covered with solar arrays to support and advance renewable energy sustainability. Thus destroying self-sustainability by covering prime ag lands clearly borders on the absurd.

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 11:27:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin McNally	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 11:43:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Takeya	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 593. Here you have another big mainland company coming in and thinking they can do whatever they want to make a profit. Sustainable energy is important but so is having a sustainable food source that limits the fruits and vegetables coming from the Mainland. Farming will also provide many more jobs than a solar farm. I can see this becoming another "rail" project where people are able to line their pockets on the backs of the people of Hawaii.

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 12:01:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Marten	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Ways and Means Committee members,

Please oppose this bill.

While I strongly support solar energy, this bill appears to provide a loophole for one particular private for profit company at the expense of our efforts to become more food self sufficient. In order to fight climate change we will need to dramatically expand our renewable energy resources and it is important to set the precedent of appropriate locations for their installation.

With increased extreme weather events caused by climate change, and the consequent threat to our ports, growing food locally has become more important than ever.

Mahalo, Lisa Marten

Kailua, Oahu

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 1:47:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Micah Hicks	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Seriously why are you doing this? Who is even asking you to do this? It's not innovative it's stupid. You can't be green as long as you rely on belching container ships for all your food. You can't be green as long as you have to fly in your produce. In order to be environmentally friendly, you must be farmer friendly so stop it you nitwits.

Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawaii's most fertile and productive A-rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593 HD1 SD1.

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 3:11:15 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Max Towey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We need to keep the land designated for agricultural production reserved for the use of agricultural production. A - rated lands are a limited supply. If Hawaii is serious about long term sustainability we will preserve our ability to produce food and not convert our farm land into a utility.

Mahalo,

Max Towey

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 3:58:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg Puppione	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM Committee, my name is Greg Puppione and I am a resident of Honolulu. I am writing today in opposition to HB 593 HD1 SD1. Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawai'i's most fertile and productive "A" rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593. We shouldn't be promoting solar at the expense of food safety, certainly not on A rated land.

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 4:15:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Constance Keoahunui Uale Warrington	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM Committee,

my name is Constance Keoahunui Uale Warrington and I am a resident of Nuuanu, Oahu. I am writing today in opposition to HB 593 HD1 SD1. Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawai'i's most fertile and productive "A" rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593.

Respectfully,

Constance Keoahunui Uale Warrington

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 4:18:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Marilyn Mick and I am a resident of Honolulu I am writing today in opposition to HB 593 HD1 SD1. Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawai'i's most fertile and productive "A" rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593.

Mahalo, Marilyn Mick

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 4:27:37 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Seifried	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM Committee, my name is Steve Seifried and I am a resident of Kailua. I am writing today in opposition to HB 593 HD1 SD1. Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawai'i's most fertile and productive "A" rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593.

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 4:39:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harvey Arkin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM Committee,

My name is Harvey Akin and I am a resident of Manoa. I am writing today in opposition to HB 593 HD1 SD1. Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawai'i's most fertile and productive "A" rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593

Thank you

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 4:56:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Wilcox	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM Committee, my name is Ashley Wilcox and I am a resident of Lahaina. I am writing today in opposition to HB 593 HD1 SD1. Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawai'i's most fertile and productive "A" rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593."

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 5:02:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Fujita	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose **HB593 HD1 SD1**.

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 6:03:51 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dave Kisor	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

A utility sized facility on prime ag land? Can you eat silicon? This is jut another very bad idea that should tabled and forgotten! The only reason much of Hawai'i Island is zoned for ag is so it can be abused like this. We need food grown out here to relax our dependence on that infernal continent. If you want to eat solar panels, that's fine with me, but leave our prime ag land strictly for ag and organic at that!

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 5:04:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Reeser	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 6:11:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Ware	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

"Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM Committee, my name is Diane Ware and I am a resident of Volcano Hawai'i. I am writing today in opposition to HB 593 HD1 SD1. Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawai'i's most fertile and productive "A" rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593.

Thank you for considering preserving AG "A" lands to feed the people.

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 6:24:58 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Blair	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 6:44:27 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily Garland	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM Committee, my name is Emily and I am a resident of Hilo. I am writing today in opposition to HB 593 HD1 SD1. Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawai'i's most fertile and productive "A" rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593.

LATE

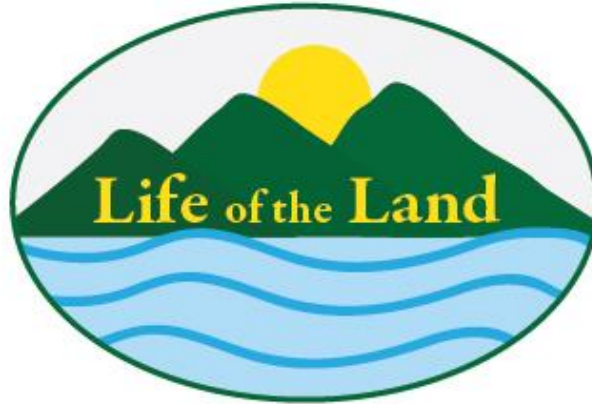
HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 6:45:21 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE



P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96837-0158
Phone: 927-0709 henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, April 3, 2019
TIME: 10:25 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 211

HB 593, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO LAND USE.

STRONG OPPOSITION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Senators

Farmers, if allowed, can leave land unused and then get a lot of money by upzoning the fallow land to solar, residential or resort.

To diversify the economy we must keep prime agricultural land in AG. We must promote real farming with water & long-term leases

Vertical farms will not replace traditional agriculture in Hawai`i. They are experimental energy hogs (high energy demand).

The world`s first commercial-scale vertical farm was founded in 2012. The growing fad accounts for less than 0.01% of global agriculture and a rising number of bankruptcies, including in the Netherlands.

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 8:09:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Reese Liggett	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM Committee, my name is William Reese Liggett and I am a resident of 4947 Maunalani Circle 96816. I am writing today in opposition to HB 593 HD1 SD1. Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawai'i's most fertile and productive "A" rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593."

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 9:44:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy Sean Payne Hills	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

"Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM Committee, my name is _Timothy Hills_____ and I am a resident of _Makawao, HI._____. I am writing today in opposition to HB 593 HD1 SD1. Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawai'i's most fertile and productive "A" rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593."

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 10:00:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 9:54:53 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara L. George	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

OPPOSED

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am a resident of Waialua. I OPPOSE HB 593 HD1 SD1. Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawai'i's most fertile and productive "A" rated agricultural lands. These lands are finite and must be preserved for locally grown produce. Utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. There is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. I strongly urge you to oppose HB 593.

Barbara George

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2019 3:54:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Barretto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

"Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM Committee, my name is Elizabeth Barretto and I am a resident of Maui. I am writing today in opposition to HB 593 HD1 SD1. Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawai'i's most fertile and productive "A" rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593."

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2019 4:01:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robin Kaye	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 10:42:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Riverstone	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM Committee,

My name is Jerry Riverstone and I am a resident of Hawai'i. While I am an advocate for solar energy and have worked in the state's solar industry for nearly a decade, I am writing today in opposition to HB 593 HD1 SD1.

As important as our transition to renewable energy is, I believe that being able to produce our own food locally is equally -- or even more -- important. Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawai'i's most fertile and productive "A" rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593.

Thank you,

Jerry Riverstone

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2019 7:37:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
L.M. Holmes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill. We should keep A-rated agricultural lands for agriculture, so important to the economy and culture of Hawaii, and put solar in places not well suited for agriculture.

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2019 7:34:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyle Roe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Ways & Means Committee:

I write in **opposition** to this legislation. I don't need to recount the testimony that has been submitted before me, suffice to say that A-rated agricultural lands in Hawaii are quite rare. And while solar is an important aspect of Hawaii's goal of 100% renewable energy, it is completely inappropriate to promote it at the expense of our own food sustainability, which all of us like to claim is a priority.

I urge members to oppose this legislation.

LATE

HB-593-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2019 6:55:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorrie Ann Santos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM Committee, my name is Lorrie Ann Santos and I am a resident of Kaneohe, Hawaii. I am writing today in strong opposition to HB 593 HD1 SD1. Large-scale solar projects should not be permitted to be built on Hawai'i's most fertile and productive "A" rated agricultural lands, as utility-scale solar is already authorized on agricultural lands rated B, C, D, and E. I believe there is ample opportunity to support solar in conjunction with local food production without passage of this bill. Please oppose HB 593."