

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND
AND ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020
1:35 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 3114
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LEASES**

Chairperson Kahele, Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 3114. This measure gives preference rights for leasing an agricultural lot to lessees who have made a significant improvement on the lot, under the Department of Agriculture's agricultural park and non-agricultural park programs.

The Department is aware of the challenges faced by agricultural park lessees requesting lease extensions without taking on additional debt when seeking to make significant improvements on their leased premises. The addition of the preference right in this measure will provide relief from the current Departmental requirement to obtain mortgage financing for such purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



SB-3114

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:38:48 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2020 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jimmy Gomes	Testifying for Ulupalakua Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3114

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:32:15 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2020 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian conservationist, I offer the following comments on SB3114. Agricultural parks have experienced a rise in the spread of the invasive coconut rhinoceros beetle. This beetle which has killed groves of coconut trees in Guam has spread on O'ahu from the Pearl City peninsula to the Kunia Agricultural Park. The larvae of this beetle inhabit the warm and moist compost piles. Therefore it is imperative that agricultural parks work with the Hawi'i Department of Agriculture to develop a compost mitigation plan to prevent the spread of coconut beetle-infested compost to spread on O'ahu. Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.