



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Wednesday, February 16, 2022
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of
SB 2964
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS.

Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Water and Land.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) offers **comments** on SB 2964, which would amend Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §205-4.5 (d) to allow recreational athletic venues and cultural activities on existing golf courses within the State Land Use Agricultural District. Golf courses and golf driving ranges are allowed within the State Agricultural District under §205-4.5 (d) only if they were approved by a county before July 1, 2005. Otherwise, these are expressly prohibited uses within the State Agricultural District under HRS §205-2 (d) and HRS §205-4.5 (a) (6).

Recreational athletic venues and cultural activities that promote the arts are also non-permitted uses within the State Agricultural District under HRS §205-2 (d) and HRS §205-4.5 (a). OPSD is concerned that this bill would allow a grandfathered non-permitted use within the Agricultural District, which would not be allowed if proposed after 2005, to have additional non-permitted uses. Existing State and county laws already provide ways to accommodate such uses, for example, through a Special Permit, a State Land Use District Boundary Amendment, or a county zone change.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Aloha members of the Senate,

My name is Josh Hargrove and I'm the General Manager of the Prince Waikiki Hotel and the Hawaii Prince Golf Club. I will be testifying today in support of Senate Bill 2964 - Relating to Agricultural Districts.

The Hawaii Prince Golf Club is requesting your support in working towards a solution that would allow for temporary events to be offered at the golf course. Similar to other golf courses on the island, we are requesting for the ability to submit applications for special use permits that would allow the course to host events such as weddings, farmers markets, etc.

Utilizing the vast outdoor spaces that exist at our golf course, we could provide safe, outdoor venues for appropriate and approved events. This would provide additional options for events for the local community, increase work opportunity for our staff, and provide an additional revenue source for our business.

We are grateful for the opportunity to discuss these challenges and work towards a solution that will be a win-win for all involved.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Hargrove", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Josh Hargrove
General Manager
Prince Waikiki Hotel & Hawaii Prince Golf Club

SB-2964

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 4:02:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
LIBRADO COBIAN	Testifying for AAC	Support	No

Comments:

I highly support this Measure . This will open up many recreational and business opportunities for the public to enjoy these beautiful golf course parks . I also commend the Senators that introduced this for finally supporting it . Li Cobian



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February 16, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON SB 2964
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

Conference Room 229 & via Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau respectfully offers our concerns about broadening the scope of the current exemption that allows golf courses that were previously approved within the agricultural district to continue to operate.

Allowing for open-ended, undefined "Recreational athletic venues" and "Cultural activities that promote the arts" may lead to unintended consequences that may conflict with or be incompatible with the surrounding agricultural operations, for example, due to the activities of normal farm operations that may be considered to be nuisances by these new ventures on golf courses, or former golf courses.

And because the terms are not defined, would vacation or camping facilities, for example, including temporary residences be considered to be "recreational athletic venues"? We believe that misuse or abuse of the expansion of the grandfathered golf course exemption is likely.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and thank you for your continued support of Hawai'i's agricultural community.

SB-2964

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 5:10:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kenani Gramberg	Testifying for Waimanalo Neighborhood Board Member	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

It'll be amazing to see the day agriculture is being utilized for it's actual definition with no addition. I'd really like to see Agriculture Lands in Waimānalo producing more food! Have you ever been to the Waimānalo C&C People's Open Market? There's only 2 vendors and they're not from Waimānalo. Waimānalo is an agriculture rich community, with no food to offer to the community. Who is and How often are these leasee's being inspected for pono practices on Agriculture Lands? Who's inspecting how much dwellings are going up and being rented out to non farmers? How do we get the Waimānalo agricultural businesses to create a Future Business Plan?, so we can stop importing plants, and start planting from seed to fulfill the Plans created by those particular businesses. Waimānalo has the perfect climate to perform this procedure and more. There are too many non-agricultural activities happening in Waimānalo on agricultural lands. We have so many ranches, stables, housing, trucking companies, dog parks/ facilities, fighting roosters, Golf Courses, Churches, just to name a few, on Agriculture lands in Waimānalo. Horses kept for recreation, sport, and business are not classed as an agricultural activity. Please tell me, how are these activities on Agriculture Lands providing food? My conclusion to this is to please keep agriculture lands for what it's defenition states and nothing more.

Mahalo,

Kenani Gramberg

Waimānalo Neighborhood Board Member

SB-2964

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 8:44:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leslie A Among	Testifying for Mililani Neighborhood Board 25	Support	No

Comments:

To Senate Committee Agriculture and Environment ,

In opening as a MNB#25 member in my district where we have Mililani Golf course and Hawaii Country Club I can see the many small businesses , venders and produce farmer job creators struggles to regain economic stability after such a long shutdown pandemic where the pandemic affect on their business and job creation is so damaging it would be a miracle for many if they can come back to become a vital part of Hawaii's economic base again. Its takes new ideas to come back from such economic damage but I believe your committee is the first step towards doing the right thing in restoring a step by step plan with these resources already in place as one of many options that will be explored by your committee.. Below is an earlier statement I made in support of SB2964 and if you wish my help on amendments or any other questions you might have please feel free to contact me.. The Time to help small businesses and to create jobs is upon us.. I look forward to your wisdom to do what's right for our 50th State.

MAHALO ,

LESLIE A AMONG , MNB#25 Member

PH # 808-779-3017

To Mike Gabbard and Clarence Nishihara members of the Senate Committee Agriculture and Enviroment. This measure applies to a total of four golf courses and one municipal course located on Oahu. The five golf courses are Mililani , Makaha , Hawaii Prince , Hawaii Country Club and Ted Makalena. These five courses are located within the State of Hawaii's Agriculture

District and as of now prohibits these five golf courses from having non golf related events and activities on their properties. During this extreme time when small businesses and residents are affected by Covid / Omicron pandemics its important to realize that creating jobs and revenues for Hawaii residents and small businesses must become the main focus in our 50th State now on the road to a full economic recovery. Too many small businesses and residents have suffered great economic losses that could take years to recover from as the future of Hawaii's current pandemic seems unresolved and in limbo. As a MNB#25 member I believe SB2964 soul purpose now should be to create jobs and revenues for the State and City & County along with providing small businesses this opportunity to have this venue to conduct business at any one of these five golf courses looking for economic recovery. Mililani golf course located in my district use to hold elementary school fund raisers , movies on the lawn with other such events that has enhanced the business foot print at our district golf course with families supporting these small businesses as they show community support thru the money they spend. During these hard economic times our government must explore many creative ways to economic recovery in our State and I believe this is one of many that can be done thru SUP thru the City & County. We have Hawaiian farmers who want to sell fresh produce on these golf courses and should be allowed to do so. Please schedule a hearing on this long over due SB2964 in the interest of creating jobs and small business recovery as you help us save Hawaii in this GREATEST PARADISE STATE on GODS GREEN EARTH... MAHALO , Leslie A Among , MNB#25 Ph # 808 - 779 - 3017