

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



WENDY GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
HUI HO'OU LU AINA MAHIAI

TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
January 27, 2025
1:00pm p.m.
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

SENATE BILL NO. 245
RELATING TO THE OWNERSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

Chairperson Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify with comments on Senate Bill 245, which seeks to address the limitations on ownership and acquisition of agricultural lands in Hawaii. While the intent of this bill—protecting agricultural lands from large-scale corporate consolidation and promoting food security—is commendable, it is important to also consider the ongoing efforts by some large corporations and businesses that have supported small and mid-size farmers in meaningful ways. I believe that Senate Bill 245, while well-intentioned, should also recognize the contributions that certain businesses and landowners have made to the success of small farmers and the agribusiness economy.

Supporting the Need for Food Security and a Vibrant Agribusiness Economy

Food security is one of Hawaii's most pressing issues, and fostering a vibrant agribusiness economy is crucial to meeting this challenge. By investing in

local agricultural production, we can reduce our reliance on imported goods, create jobs, and enhance the overall resilience of our economy. Access to land is a fundamental component of this vision

Small and mid-size farmers need access to affordable, usable land in order to build sustainable businesses and contribute to the state's food security goals. In particular, Hawaii's unique agricultural needs require a flexible approach that takes into account both the diversity of agricultural practices and the need for infrastructure support in the face of challenges such as high land costs, limited water resources, and the need for new farming technologies. While it is critical that agricultural land remains accessible to farmers of all sizes, we must also recognize that the availability of land is just one piece of the puzzle. The infrastructure and financial support necessary for small farmers to succeed are equally important.

The Role of Large Corporations in Supporting Small Farmers

It is important to acknowledge that some large landowners and corporations have been critical allies in the success of small farming operations in Hawaii. Companies like Mahi Pono, Bayer, Corteva, and Villa Rose have made significant investments in agricultural infrastructure that directly benefits small and mid-size farmers. These companies have not only provided access to land but have also contributed to improving essential infrastructure, such as land clearing, irrigation systems, and the development of water storage facilities.

For example, Mahi Pono, which owns a substantial portion of land on Maui, has been working to transform former sugar plantation land into productive

agricultural space. They have made improvements to the land by upgrading irrigation systems, clearing land, and making the infrastructure necessary for small farmers to operate. Through leasing arrangements, small farmers benefit from access to improved land and infrastructure, which would otherwise be cost-prohibitive.

Similarly, companies like Bayer and Corteva have supported sustainable agriculture initiatives, providing resources and expertise in areas such as crop rotation, pest management, and water conservation techniques. These corporations have worked with small farmers to improve farming practices, enhance yields, and reduce costs through shared resources and infrastructure. Their support helps level the playing field, allowing new farmers to enter the market and succeed without shouldering the high costs of infrastructure development.

Furthermore, Villa Rose, a large agricultural operation, has been instrumental in working with small-scale farmers by providing land, equipment, and technical support. Their efforts to clear land, improve soil health, and offer affordable leases enable new farmers to focus on crop production rather than the initial barriers of land development.

These examples demonstrate that large corporations and landowners can play a positive role in fostering a more diverse and sustainable agricultural sector in Hawaii. By working in partnership with small and mid-size farmers, these entities help create a more resilient and robust local food system, supporting both food security and economic growth. While these examples show that large landowners can and do play an essential role in supporting small farmers, there is still room for

improvement. Senate Bill 245 seeks to build upon this positive trend by offering clearer structures for collaboration and clarifying land use regulations, including those related to condominium property regime (CPR) lands.

CPR Land Designation: What, How, and Who Owns Enforcement?

The issue of CPR land designation is a critical aspect of land use and agricultural development in Hawaii. A CPR is a type of real estate development where individual units of property (usually residential or commercial) are owned separately, while common areas are jointly owned. While CPR land use regulations are common for residential and mixed-use developments, they are less understood when applied to agricultural land.

CPR land can be particularly complex when it comes to small-scale agricultural use because the rules governing landownership, usage, and maintenance can sometimes restrict farming activities or limit opportunities for agricultural expansion. The challenge is that, in some cases, small farmers leasing or operating on CPR-designated lands may face significant regulatory hurdles—particularly when those lands are subject to more stringent zoning or property use requirements than traditional agricultural land.

As it stands, enforcement of CPR land regulations is a shared responsibility between the individual property owners (in the case of shared or common property), the governing associations that manage the CPR property, and county zoning departments. However, in the context of farming, enforcement can become problematic when agricultural use is not clearly defined within the CPR rules, or

when there is no specific entity responsible for ensuring that agricultural activities are properly supported and not hindered by CPR regulations.

Senate Bill 245 seeks to address this issue by proposing clearer guidelines for CPR land designation that would distinguish agricultural activities from residential or commercial property uses. Furthermore, the bill would clarify the roles of enforcement, making it clearer who is responsible for regulating agricultural activities on CPR lands—whether that is the landowner, the property owner association, or county authorities. This clarity will help small farmers avoid potential legal and regulatory conflicts and ensure that agricultural land is being used effectively and sustainably.

Conclusion

While Senate Bill 245 raises important concerns about land ownership and the potential for large-scale corporate control of agricultural land, it is crucial to recognize that many large corporations are also playing a constructive role in supporting small and mid-size farmers. Their investments in infrastructure, land development, and technical support are essential to ensuring that small farmers can thrive and contribute to the state's agricultural and food security goals.

I urge the committee to carefully consider the contributions made by businesses like Mahi Pono, Bayer, Corteva, and Villa Rose, and the positive impact they have had on small farmers. As the bill moves forward, I hope it will strike a balance that supports land access for small farmers while acknowledging the role that larger landowners and corporations can play in building a sustainable,

vibrant agricultural economy for Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 245
RELATING TO OWNERSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL LAND.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 245 that seeks to prohibit certain entities from owning, purchasing, or acquiring ownership of agricultural lands beginning January 1, 2026. The Department of Agriculture (Department) offers the following comments.

It is the prerogative of the State legislature to consider prohibiting "certain entities from owning, purchasing, or acquiring ownership of agricultural lands" in Hawaii. The Department suggests that considering such a prohibition should follow the assemblage of pertinent local facts and the rationales given and circumstances present in the states that have already passed similar legislation. Otherwise, the Department supports all agricultural operations and looks to both the landowners and legislators at the State and county levels to seek ways to support access to agricultural lands with improvements necessary to support agricultural production of all types.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.





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January 27, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 245
RELATING TO OWNERSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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 provides comments on SB 245, which prohibits certain entities from owning, purchasing, or acquiring ownership of agricultural lands.

While we share the legislature's commitment to protecting agricultural lands for farming and food security, we have significant concerns regarding the potential unintended consequences of this measure.

HFB has long advocated for policies that protect agricultural lands from urbanization and speculative uses. However, the provisions in SB 245 may unintentionally hinder agricultural operations, infrastructure development, and partnerships necessary for the sustainability of Hawaii's agriculture sector.

Key Concerns

1. Impact on Agricultural Partnerships and Investment:

Many farming operations rely on partnerships, cooperatives, and other entities to access capital, share resources, and scale their operations. The proposed restrictions could deter legitimate agricultural investments and partnerships that are crucial for farming. This may inadvertently limit the growth and sustainability of local farm businesses, especially those that require significant upfront investment in infrastructure.

2. Potential Barriers for Agricultural Cooperatives:

Agricultural cooperatives, which often operate as corporations or partnerships, play a vital role in supporting local farmers through shared resources, marketing, and distribution. The restrictions in this bill may create unnecessary barriers for these cooperatives, undermining their ability to serve Hawaii's farming community.

3. Unclear Definitions and Exceptions:

- The bill exempts entities that owned or acquired land before January 1, 2026, but it is unclear how this applies to transfers or reorganizations within the same entity (e.g., a family farm transferring ownership to the next generation within a corporate structure).
- While bona fide family farms are exempted, the term "bona fide" may require further clarification to ensure consistency in application.

4. Leased Agricultural Lands:

Many farmers rely on lease agreements with entities such as trusts, corporations, or partnerships to access farmland. Restricting these entities from owning or leasing agricultural lands could unintentionally reduce the availability of farmland for active farming.

5. Potential for Reduced Land Availability:

The restrictions could decrease the pool of available agricultural lands, further exacerbating challenges for farmers seeking affordable and accessible land to start or expand their operations.

HFB supports efforts to preserve Hawaii's agricultural lands for farming. However, we believe the bill may have unintended consequences that could harm the agricultural community it seeks to protect.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our input on this measure.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber
Kohala, Hawai'i

Tony Vera
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawai'i

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU strongly supports SB245 and offers amendments.**

This bill represents a vital step toward ensuring the viability and success of local agriculture in Hawaii. By prohibiting certain entities from owning, purchasing, or acquiring agricultural lands, SB245 aims to protect Hawaii's agricultural resources and preserve family farms, reinforcing the cultural and economic fabric of our communities. We strongly support the intent of SB245 and offer recommendations to strengthen its foundation and effectiveness.

Reinforcing Legislative Intent

The inclusion of a section that explicitly outlines the purpose and legislative intent of SB245 would enhance the bill's clarity and legal defensibility. A purpose section should clearly affirm that preserving family farms and agricultural resources is essential for Hawaii's economic vitality, food security, and cultural sustainability. By articulating these priorities, the bill would underscore the State's commitment to supporting community well-being and sustainable land stewardship.

Suggested language for a purpose section:

"The legislature finds that preserving family farms and protecting agricultural resources are essential to Hawaii's economic vitality, food security, and cultural sustainability. This Act is intended to mitigate land speculation, foster sustainable land stewardship, and protect Hawaii's unique cultural and environmental resources while supporting community well-being."

Learning from Other States

Hawaii has the opportunity to draw insights from the corporate farming laws in states which have successfully addressed the challenges of corporate ownership while supporting local farming. These states provide targeted exemptions for entities that genuinely contribute to agriculture, including family farm corporations and nonprofits with active participant shareholders.

For example:

- Minnesota prohibits corporations and investment funds from owning agricultural land but exempts family farm corporations where a majority of shareholders are local residents actively engaged in farming.

- Missouri limits corporate land ownership to 300 acres, with exemptions for family farm corporations and authorized farm corporations that meet strict criteria.

- Wisconsin restricts corporate ownership while exempting entities with fewer than 15 shareholders who are natural persons actively participating in farming.

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hāna, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakalā, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahālāwai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Moloka'i

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

Incorporating similar exemptions into SB245 would:

- Support local partnerships by prioritizing Hawaii residents in land ownership;
- Require active engagement in farming to prevent speculative landholding; and
- Exempt nonprofit organizations that contribute to agricultural sustainability and community development.

Tailored Exemptions

To ensure fairness and enforceability, we recommend adding the following exemption criteria to SB245:

- Ownership by a majority of Hawaii residents;
- Active participation in farming by shareholders or members;
- A cap on the number of shareholders to prevent speculative ownership (e.g., no more than 15 shareholders);
- Compliance with nonprofit missions related to agriculture or community development (e.g., 501(c)(3) organizations).

Strengthening Enforcement and Transition Provisions

SB245 should also include robust enforcement mechanisms and a transition period for compliance:

- Penalties: Entities in violation of the Act should face significant fines (e.g., no less than \$50,000 per year of non-compliance) and mandatory divestiture timelines.
- Transition Period: Prohibited entities currently holding agricultural land should have up to five years to comply with the Act, either by divesting the land or restructuring operations to meet exemption criteria.
- Reporting Requirements: Exempt entities should submit annual reports to the Department of Agriculture to demonstrate continued compliance.

SB245 is a critical measure to protect Hawaii's agricultural resources and preserve the legacy of family farms. By clearly stating its purpose, drawing from successful models in other states, and including well-defined exemptions and enforcement provisions, this bill can create a balanced, effective, and enforceable framework for sustainable agriculture in Hawaii.

Language is provided below to aid in the suggested amendments of the bill

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



Suggested Bill Language

SECTION 1. Purpose

The legislature finds that the preservation of family farms, protection of agricultural resources, and promotion of locally

rooted agricultural operations are essential to the economic vitality, food security, and cultural sustainability of Hawaii. This Act is intended to ensure that agricultural land and farming operations remain accessible to Hawaii residents and are used in a manner that supports community well-being and sustainable agriculture.

This Act does not seek to burden or discriminate against interstate commerce but is narrowly tailored to address legitimate state interests, including mitigating land speculation, fostering sustainable land stewardship, and preserving Hawaii's unique cultural and environmental resources.

SECTION 2. Definitions

As used in this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. **"Agricultural land"** means land classified as agricultural under chapter 205, Hawaii Revised Statutes.
2. **"Farming"** means the cultivation of crops, raising of livestock, aquaculture, or horticultural production; provided that "farming" does not include processing, refining, or packaging of agricultural products.
3. **"Prohibited entity"** means: (A) A corporation, except as provided in Section 5 of this Act; (B) A trust; (C) A non-resident entity; or (D) An investment fund.

"Prohibited entity" does not include non-profit organizations operating under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code whose primary mission is related to agriculture, education, or community development.

4. **"Exempt entity"** means an entity eligible for exemption under Section 5 of this Act. Non-profit organizations are exempt if they: (a) Are registered under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; (b) Own or lease agricultural land for purposes aligned with their non-profit mission; and (c) Demonstrate active engagement in supporting agricultural activities.
5. **"Resident"** means a natural person who resides in the State and files income taxes as a Hawaii resident.

SECTION 3. Prohibited Activities

- (a) No prohibited entity shall:

(1) Acquire or hold any interest in agricultural land within the State; or

(2) Engage in farming operations within the State.

(b) This section shall apply equally to all entities regardless of their state of origin.

(c) This section shall not apply to exempt entities as defined under Section 5 of this Act.

SECTION 4. Restrictions on Ownership and Operations

(a) A prohibited entity that acquires agricultural land or engages in farming operations in violation of this Act shall divest such land or cease such operations in accordance with Section 7.

(b) The department of agriculture shall enforce compliance and may assess fines and other penalties as provided in Section 6.

(c) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit entities or individuals from participating in agricultural production or ownership if they comply with the requirements of this Act, ensuring the same rights and obligations apply uniformly to in-state and out-of-state entities.

SECTION 5. Exemptions

An entity may qualify for exemption from this Act if the entity satisfies the following conditions:

(a) The entity's ownership is composed of a majority of Hawaii residents;

(b) A majority of shareholders, members, or beneficiaries are actively engaged in farming;

(c) The entity has no more than fifteen shareholders, members, or beneficiaries; and

(d) The entity's primary business activity is farming, and the entity is not engaged in speculative landholding or investment.

SECTION 6. Penalties and Enforcement

(a) Any prohibited entity found in violation of this Act shall be subject to:

(1) A fine of not less than \$50,000 for each year the entity remains non-compliant; and

(2) Mandatory divestiture or cessation of farming operations in accordance with Section 7.

(b) The department of agriculture shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to implement this Act, including procedures for annual reporting by exempt entities.

(c) Enforcement shall be conducted in a manner that does not unduly burden interstate commerce and aligns with legitimate state interests in preserving local agricultural sustainability.

SECTION 7. Transition Period

(a) Prohibited entities holding agricultural land or engaging in farming operations as of the effective date of this Act shall have five years to comply with this Act by divesting the agricultural land or restructuring operations to meet exemption criteria.

(b) No extensions to the five-year period shall be granted.

(c) The department of agriculture may oversee the orderly divestiture of agricultural land under this section.

SECTION 8. Legislative Findings

The legislature declares that:

(a) Hawaii has a compelling interest in ensuring the long-term sustainability and viability of its agricultural sector, which is vital to the State's economy, food security, and rural communities.

(b) This Act is narrowly tailored to address these interests without discriminating against interstate commerce or imposing undue burdens on entities engaged in lawful agricultural activities.

(c) The provisions of this Act apply equally to all entities regardless of their state of origin, ensuring fairness and compliance with constitutional requirements.



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Kit Okimoto, Okimoto Corp., *Vice Chair*
Jayson Watts, Mahi Pono, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
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Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Advisor*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*
Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: January 27, 2025

TIME: 1pm

RE: SB245 Relating to Ownership of Agricultural Land

Position: Comments

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA believes that this measure would lead to less agricultural land in the state being under active cultivation, and unnecessarily reduce production of local food.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 8:58:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannette Gurung	Testifying for Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii’s agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands.

Mahalo for your consideration!.

Dr. Jeannette Gurung, Executive Director, WOCAN

Kailua Kona

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 11:26:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Green Party of Hawai'i, we support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands.

Please support SB245.

Mahalo nui for your consideration!

Susan RobertsEmery

Co Chair GPH

Paauilo



Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB245

Monday, January 27th, 2025 1 p.m. Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have enacted restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands.

Please support SB245. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned below the text 'Respectfully,'.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 4:36:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimdonghyeon	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

kimdonghyeon



January 27, 2025

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. “Tim” Richards, III, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Strong Opposition to SB 245 RELATING TO OWNERSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL LAND (Beginning 1/1/2026, prohibits certain entities from owning, purchasing, or acquiring ownership of agricultural lands.)

**Monday, January 27, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224, & Videoconference.**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF’s mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii’s significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **strong opposition to SB 245.**

SB 245. The stated purpose of this measure is to prohibit certain entities from owning, purchasing, or acquiring ownership of agricultural lands.

LURF’s Position. LURF members have been strong supporters of agriculture, have led the state in agricultural lands and production over the past decade, and have partnered with the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and its Neighbor Island chapters (Hawaii Farm Bureau) to advocate for, and pass numerous laws that support agriculture, including the Right to Farm and Important Agricultural Lands laws. The Hawaii Farm Bureau and LURF have consistently supported broad farming and ranching operations and diversified agriculture.

LURF **strongly opposes** the current version of SB 245, based upon, among other things, it may be preempted by Federal laws relating to interstate and foreign commerce; it may violate the due process and equal protection clauses of the Hawaii State Constitution; and it is contrary to Hawaii’s goals of viable agricultural operations and the diversification, conservation, and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands.

For the above reasons, LURF **opposes SB 245** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration in **deferring this measure and holding it in this Committee.**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 12:46:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

This bill is overly restrictive and detrimental to property rights, prosperity and agricultural development. The onerous restrictions contained in this bill would severely and negatively impact agricultural operations in Hawaii. I strongly urge this Committee to **REJECT** this unwise legislation.

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 4:32:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julianna Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Julianna Davis, Honolulu

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 4:39:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Nalani A. From Lahaina

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 4:45:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emelia Briscoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Emelia Briscoe, Honolulu

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 4:52:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 4:55:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 4:56:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Safia Gravel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo nui for your consideration!

Safia N. Gravel

Hilo

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 5:18:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is an increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state shall prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty-five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. I urge you to please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Teri K. Savaiinaea, Wai'anae

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 8:10:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Schacht	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 8:13:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L. Osterer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to support SB245 to improve food sustainability and support local growers. Foreign corporations have bought up significant amounts of farmland throughout the U.S. and it is a matter of national security! Food security is a major concern worldwide with unstable climate changes including droughts and changing trade agreements. Foreign nations controlling our food supply is very dangerous and may weaken our position in negotiations. Most other countries do not allow foreign investors to buy significant land acreage. The U.S. should have prevented it, but let's get smarter now. Hawaii already has a high cost of food, the majority shipped from the mainland, Mexico and other countries. Please consider these effects on food security before giving up our farmland to foreign owners, corporations, billionaires, or others.

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 5:05:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 8:47:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations, which exacerbates an uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to promote food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. Please help prioritize agricultural lands for local food producers.

Thank you

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 9:22:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep landownership local. Keep food production local. People need to be acculturated to the realities of Hawai'i if they're going to grow here in a good way and truly contribute to community.

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:52:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB693. Support for the initial pilot food hubs program has been instrumental in helping emerging food hubs establish business operations in Hawaii. Food hubs provide necessary aggregation of produce for small farmers to help bring produce to market. Support for food hubs promotes the production of culturally appropriate, nutritious foods while also growing our local food economy. Further, more food hubs can provide greater food system equity, providing access to healthy food in local “food deserts”. Please support SB693.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:09:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Jodie Thayer

Wainiha

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:50:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra M Javar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully SUPPORT SB245. Our lands should NOT be owned by foreigners. Our land space is extremely limited, we need our lands to grow our food supply. We will never be self sufficient if we sell our lands to foreigners. Please, please pass this bill, absolutely No foreigners should be buying our lands.

Mahalo

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:52:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Gabbard, Vice Chair Senator Richards and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

Please support SB 245 to prohibit certain entities from owning, buying or acquiring agricultural lands.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:04:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Val Hertzog	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Val Hertzog, Kapa'a

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 11:05:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katrina Ahia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. He ali‘i ka ‘āina, he kauā ke kanaka. Life begins with the land. Out here in Hawai‘i, 2,400 miles away from the continent - it is more imperative that ever, that the local people that live and work here, that have families here going back generations, have access to the land. Our lives and our freedom depend on it.

What good is it for foreign corporations to own and control our agricultural lands, that we may be slaves to and dependent on them? Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. This action is overdue in our island home.

Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Katrina Ahia

Lahaina, HI

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:33:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiakahinalii Kaopua-Canonigo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

I am humbly asking for your support for SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please pass SB245 through to the next committee!

Mahalo nō,

Hina Ka'ōpua-Canonigo, Mānoa

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 9:05:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Stacey Alapai, Makawao, Maui HI

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 12:22:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isis Usborne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Isis Usborne

Kapahulu Ave resident (96815)

2026 JD Candidate at William S. Richardson School of Law

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:43:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Bali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Noelle Bali

Lahaina, Maui

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 3:06:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Yes to - RELATING TO OWNERSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL LAND.
Beginning 1/1/2026, prohibits certain entities from owning,
purchasing, or acquiring ownership of agricultural lands

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 3:05:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JarraeTehani Manasas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agriculture lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawai'i to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local producers. Twenty-five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration

JarraeTehani Manasas, Kailua Kona Hawai'i

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:45:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii’s agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands.

This issue is of particular importance on Maui, where the Canadian Pension Fund Canadian Public Sector Pension Investment Board (PSP) is the island's largest private landowner through Mahi Pono-- and is now seeking to control East Maui water leases.

For clarification, Mahi Pono Holdings, LLC’s sole member is Canadian pension fund PSP, both of which are registered as foreign entities in Hawaii. PSP is a Crown Corporation with \$265 billion in assets that invests the pension funds of the Canadian Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the federal public service, and the Reserve Force.

Many of those workers are represented by the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) union, which has more than 200,000 members. James Infantino, the National Pension Officer for PSAC, spoke at the September 2024 East Maui Water Authority meeting and gave a very clear message to Water Authority members and the community: “Don’t let PSP investments anywhere near this long-term lease.”

The basis for his message was PSP Investment’s well-known record of international water grabs exploitation of water resources and local communities, which PSAC – representing PSP beneficiaries -- does not support.

This is just one example of why we need to ensure that Hawaii's lands are protected from foreign interests.

For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Shay Chan Hodges, Haiku, Maui

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 4:31:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean-Joseph T.K. Choo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Sean-Joseph Choo, Honolulu

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 7:14:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Walter Ritte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Walter Ritte, and I am in strong support of this bill. On third of our island of Molokai (Kalua koi Ahupua'a) is designated Ag and is owned by Singapore. It has been a 30 year nightmare in dealing with this situation, including water battles, erosion, deforestation and communications. Their relationship with the Aina is purely one of profits.

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 12:14:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Bence	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha

I know going against big corporations is difficult but this bill would help local farmers.

Mahalo

Robert Lawrence Bence

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 2:29:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
emily gambino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Emily Gambino, Makawao

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 2:27:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawai‘i’s agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawai‘i to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Dylan Ramos

96816

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 2:12:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra Perez Urbina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Hawa'i'i for Hawai'ians! Foreign entities have no right owning Hawai'ian agricultural land.

Thank you for your consideration!

Alexandra, Portland, OR

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 2:02:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealakai Hammond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Kealakai Hammond

Honolulu, HI

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 12:45:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lela Kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB245. There is increasing concern about the ownership of large amounts of Hawaii's agricultural lands by foreign corporations. This creates an increasingly uneven playing field for local producers who are struggling to gain access to affordable lands. For Hawaii to move towards increased food security, the state should prioritize access for local producers, and Native Hawaiian practitioners with lineal ties to place. This bill is an important step in prioritizing agricultural lands for local food producers. Twenty five states already have restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural lands. Please support SB245.

Mahalo,

Lela Kalama, Kea'au, HI

SB-245

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:48:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keila Paahana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support