



HB307 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PARK LEASES
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 31, 2023

9:45 AM

Room CR 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **COMMENTS** on **HB307 HD1**, which would allow the Department of Agriculture to extend the agricultural park lease of any lessee who holds a lease with a remaining term of fifteen years or less, on land that is twenty-five acres or less in size, and located in a county with a population of less than five hundred thousand. **OHA continues to offer an amendment to this measure that would mitigate its concerns regarding the potential erosion of the public land trust and permanent alienation of public lands in so far as they are connected to the State’s constitutional obligations, which include those obligations to the Native Hawaiian people.**

OHA wishes to emphasize that the Crown and Government lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom, often referred to as “Ceded Lands” of the Public Land Trust corpus, are continuously held in trust for the betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians.¹ In addition to its codification within the Hawai‘i Admissions Act, lawmakers sought to ensure the continuous uplifting of Native Hawaiian socio-economic status through the creation of OHA and the enacting of these principles into State law.² OHA serves as the principal public agency of the State responsible for the programs and activities of Native Hawaiians,³ whose well-being is often positively impacted by the programs and services funded by revenue from the public land trust.

While OHA is and will continue to be a staunch advocate for agricultural producers, many of whom are Native Hawaiian hānai ‘ai (food-producer practitioners), we are concerned that the proposed measure, as written, would allow for perpetual leases of agricultural lands, effectively putting public lands into private ownership and control, contrary to the public interest and the purposes of the Public Land Trust. Certain lands within the stewardship of the State of Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture are public land trust lands, and the continual long-term renewal of leases tied to these lands will bind them to uses that do not maximize the benefit to OHA’s beneficiaries – the Native Hawaiian people – and has, in the past, resulted in the permanent alienation of these lands from the Public Land Trust. For these reasons, OHA offers the following amendment to this measure, which would ensure that OHA’s concerns for the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians is being met:

¹ Pub. L. 86-3, 73 Stat. 4; Hawai‘i Admissions Act of 1959.

² HRS §10-3.

³ Id.



HB307 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PARK LEASES
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

(d) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, if any lessee holds a lease having a remaining term of fifteen years or less, the department may extend the term of the lease for an additional thirty yea; provided that the land covered by the lease is;

- (1) Twenty-five acres or less;
- (2) Located in a county with a population of less than five hundred thousand, and
- (3) Does not constitute crown and government lands commonly referred to as "ceded lands" that were conveyed to the State by virtue of section 5 of the Act of March 18, 1959 (Pub. L. 86-3, 73 Stat. 4, the Admission Act).

OHA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this measure and respectfully asks that the Committees accept our recommendation to improve HB307 HD1 Mahalo nui loa.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



LATE

SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
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 WAYS AND MEANS

**MARCH 31, 2023
9:45 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 307, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PARK LEASES**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 307, HD1. This bill allows the Department of Agriculture to extend the agricultural park lease of any lessee who holds a lease with a remaining term of fifteen years or less; provided that the land covered by the lease is twenty-five acres or less and located in a county with a population of less than five hundred thousand. The Department supports agricultural production on agricultural park lands and offers comments.

HDOA appreciates the plight of lessees nearing the termination dates of their lease, however, it is our understanding that there is a public policy against allowing individual private interests to exclusively occupy, use, and benefit from public lands for the durations exceeding statutory limits or indefinitely. We understand the intent of this policy is to provide other members of the public without a State lease, a fair and equal opportunity to seek and enjoy that public benefit. Maximizing the opportunity to lease public lands under favorable conditions to the greatest number of applicants supports the growth of new farmers and incentivizes established farming operations with proven agricultural capabilities and economic viability to scale up and expand their operations on to other properties as part of their business growth strategy. HDOA appreciates the intent of this bill to support and



encourage the ongoing viability of agricultural operations, often referred to as “legacy farms,” to continue without disruption to maximize the uninterrupted local production of agricultural goods and food and operations that if approved to extend their lease, based on a plan to continue successful agriculture businesses, will pay the increased lease rents, should they be assessed. Concurrently, there is a pressing need to increase the number of farmers statewide to realistically achieve the level of farming necessary to meet the State’s goals for food security and sustainability. The single most insurmountable hurdle for most new and beginning farmers seeking to start a farm is the lack of available, appropriately sized, and reasonably priced agricultural lands suitable for farming. Our lands are among the most affordable in the State for agricultural use, making it ideal for an incubator and start-up operations.

Without a clear maximum term established by statute, the lease extension provided by the bill could potentially allow lessees to effectively remain on the land indefinitely, through consecutive extensions and preclude others from the same opportunity to lease public lands. There is nothing preventing a current lessee from applying for a new lease for either the same or other available parcel upon expiration of the current one. The HDOA maintains a list of interested farmers seeking to lease Department managed state lands and this list is culled every two years. There are currently 243 people on this list, which indicates the high level of interest in our lands. Potential lessees in this program know upfront that their use of the land cannot exceed fifty-five years. By requiring a business plan for new leases, we encourage lessees to rely on sound business practices to plan for the anticipated and known eventual termination and seek alternate lands if continuation or expansion of their farming operations is contemplated, or desired.

As long as this request does not impact other items and initiatives included in the administration’s budget, the Department is requesting \$18 million to fund the Kunia Agricultural Parks project. With the number of prospective farmers currently on the waitlist, the Department is compelled to mention that the need for additional park lands would be addressed through the request to fund the Kunia Agricultural Parks project which is a priority for the Department and would result in 24 farm lots and housing for 24 farming families/operators.

If this body desires a change to the public lease policy, we respectfully request that the change and intent be included in this bill's preamble.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
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 WAYS AND MEANS

MARCH 31, 2023
9:45 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

HOUSE BILL NO. 307, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PARK LEASES

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 307, HD1. This bill allows the Department of Agriculture to extend the agricultural park lease of any lessee who holds a lease with a remaining term of fifteen years or less; provided that the land covered by the lease is twenty-five acres or less and located in a county with a population of less than five hundred thousand. The Department supports this bill to extend agricultural production on agricultural park lands and offers comments.

HDOA comments that there were valid considerations with previous versions of this bill regarding the intent of public policy to provide members of the public a fair and equal opportunity to apply. The policy to lease public lands under favorable conditions supports the growth of new farmers and considers the merits of established farming operations with proven agricultural capabilities to continue the uninterrupted local production of agricultural goods. These considerations will be taken into account by the Board of Agriculture in their decisions regarding agricultural park land leases.

As long as this request does not impact other items and initiatives included in the administration's budget, the Department is requesting \$18 million to fund the Kunia



Agricultural Parks project which is a priority for the Department and would result in 24 farm lots and housing for 24 farming families/operators.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



March 29, 2023

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony in Support of HB 307, H.D. 1, Relating to Agricultural Park Leases (Authorizes the Department of Agriculture [DOA] to extend the lease of any lessee who holds a lease with a remaining term of 15 years or less; provided that the land covered by the lease is 25 acres or less and located in a county with a population of less than 500,000. Effective 7/1/3000.)

Friday, March 31, 2023, 9:45 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & 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 **support of HB 307, H.D. 1** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture in Hawaii.

HB 307, H.D. 1. The purpose of this bill is to allow the DOA to extend the agricultural park lease of any lessee who holds a lease with a remaining term of 15 years or less; provided that the land covered by the lease is 25 acres or less and located in a county with a population of less than 500,000.

LURF's Position. LURF members include property owners, farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider efforts to protect and support agriculture significant to the continued conduct of their operations and to help sustain and preserve farming and ranching businesses into the future. Agricultural production in Hawaii is reliant upon and furthered by the leasing of public lands, which makes it feasible for agricultural stakeholders to successfully fulfill the food production needs of the State.

LURF supports HB 307, H.D. 1 because the measure makes a significant effort to advance and facilitate the leasing of agricultural lands. By recognizing the significance of agricultural lessees, identifying the need to assist the local agriculture industry, and implementing measures which help to support the viability and maintenance of agriculture in the State, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture, increased food production, and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

For the reasons stated above, LURF **supports HB 307, H.D. 1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this measure.

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



THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

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

Friday, March 31, 2023 9:45 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

HB 307 HD1: RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PARK LEASES

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 350 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

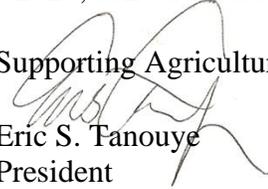
The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) Strongly **SUPPORTS HB 307 HD1**

It is important for Nurserymen and women to have the peace of mind that is associated with an extension of their lease, so that they may continue to farm. We believe the Department of Agriculture has the relevant knowledge to understand which leases for small farms should be extended. This will extend our Family Farms being able to successfully achieve generational succession in the near future.

We ask that you support our industry and agriculture, so that we may continue to bring the beauty of Hawaii to others through flowers and ornamentals.

If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 2627, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,


Eric S. Tanouye
President
Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association



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

March 31, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 307, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PARK LEASES

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
9:45 AM

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

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.

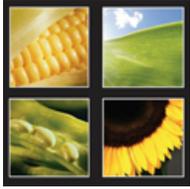
The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 307, HD1, which allows the department of agriculture to extend the lease of any lessee who holds a lease with a remaining term of fifteen years or less; provided that the land covered by the lease is twenty-five acres or less and located in a county with a population of less than five hundred thousand.

The success of farmers is critical to the State's goal to double local food production. Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) leases are structured to advance agriculture and make it practical for producers to succeed and provide our communities with what they need. HDOA's long-term leases make it possible for farmers and ranchers to prudently invest in operational and infrastructure improvements on the leased land.

Faced with the uncertainty of continued tenancy, lessees have little incentive to make major investments in improvements to their infrastructures and ensure the long-term maintenance of their facilities. As a result, the infrastructure on these small farms could deteriorate

This measure will help to enable small family farm operations on HDOA leased lands to be extended their leases as they near expiration. This would enable many of our small farmers and a new generation of farmers to obtain financing to invest in their operations, by making improvements to their lands and developing plans to improve their agricultural productivity.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of HB307 HD1
Relating to Agricultural Park Leases

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Friday, March 31, 2023
Time: 9:45 AM
Place: Conference Room 211

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

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB307, HD1** which allows the Department of Agriculture to extend the agricultural park lease of any lessee who holds a lease with a remaining term of 15 years or less, provided that the land covered by the lease is 25 acres or less and located in a county with a population of less than 500,000.

Many agricultural park lessees have the desire to invest capital into infrastructure and operational improvements, but the uncertainty of whether their lease term will be extended as it nears its expiration is a disincentive for them to finance these enhancements. Additionally, much of the uncertainty impacts our most experienced, successful local farmers and those are potential losses our industry cannot afford to incur.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support and we urge you to pass this measure.

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.



MAUI COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 31, 2023

9:45 AM

Conference Room 211

HB 307 HD1

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PARK LEASES

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

Maui County Farm Bureau (MCFB) appreciates this opportunity to testify on this important issue. MCFB is a general agriculture advocacy organization representing farm and ranch families and organizations on the island of Maui.

MCFB strongly supports HB 307 HD1, providing HDOA the ability to extend long term leases under certain conditions,

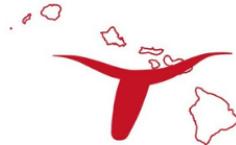
Hawaii is at a critical time in agriculture. Many multigenerational commercial farming and ranch operations face closure due to lack of successors. At the same time successful operations on HDOA lands face closure due to lease expirations. While there is an abundance of agriculturally zoned lands, access to them can often be difficult due to lease terms .in many cases, denial of long term leases.

It is recognized that HDOA ag parks were created with the intent that occupants would eventually find other parcels for long term use and the property would revert to a new occupant. Unfortunately, the process did not happen with no incentives for landowners to provide long term leases for our farmers and ranchers. Lack of long term leases reduces opportunities for investment.

Hawaii needs a strategy to provide long term lease for agricultural operators. In the mean time, this measure provides a solution to ensure that these successful operations can continue to invest and provide towards Hawaii's goal of increased self sufficiency.

MCFB respectfully requests your strong support of HB 307 HD1 in the interest of supporting Hawaii's agricultural production.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this matter. Please contact Warren Watanabe at 8082819718 if there are any questions.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

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

HB307 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PARK LEASES

Friday, March 31, 2023, 9:45 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB307 HD1** which requires the department of agriculture to extend the agricultural park lease of any lessee who holds a lease with a remaining term of fifteen years or less; provided that the land covered by the lease is twenty-five acres or less and located in a county with a population of less than five hundred thousand.

If a leaseholder is utilizing the land for the leased purpose of agriculture and on good terms, we support the opportunity to extend the lease when there are less than fifteen years remaining on the lease. Farmers and ranchers need to make costly investments to the lease in order to successfully operate their businesses. Allowing for lease extensions gives the leaseholder confidence that they'll be able to continue utilizing their investment. These investments in water systems, infrastructure, and land stewardship activities are beneficial to the leaseholder, the surrounding community, and the State. Without the ability to extend, a prudent farmer would resist making these investments in the waning years of their lease. It is imperative that we allow lands in current agricultural production to continue to produce and succeed. Protecting agricultural lands from being used for purposes other than agriculture is a key step in increasing food production, and this measure will support the continuation of agricultural operations.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council



March 13, 2023
HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 307, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PARK LEASES
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:15 PM

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

I support HB 307, HD1, which allows the department of agriculture to extend the lease of any lessee who holds a lease with a remaining term of fifteen years or less; provided that the land covered by the lease is twenty-five acres or less and located in a county with a population of less than five hundred thousand.

Pacific Floral Exchange has invested well over a million dollars in our anthurium farms on our Dept of Ag leases. We employ 30 workers directly and market products produced by 35 independent producers. The success of our business is dependent on the anthurium production from our farms which will affect the livelihood over sixty families. Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) leases are structured to advance agriculture and make it practical for producers to succeed and provide our communities with what they need. HDOA's long-term leases make it possible for farmers and ranchers to prudently operate and make infrastructure improvements on the leased land. Currently, a majority of the leases on Kahakai Avenue are vacant and available for new farmers to use.

We are just recovering from the effects of the pandemic which drastically affected the floral industry. Faced with the uncertainty of continued tenancy, lessees have little incentive to make major investments in improvements to their infrastructures and ensure the long-term maintenance of their facilities. As a result, the infrastructure on these small farms will deteriorate

This measure will help to enable small farm operations on HDOA leased lands to be extended their leases as they near expiration. This would enable many of our farmers to continue be operate in a viable nature and obtain financing to invest in their operations by making improvements to their lands and developing plans to improve and maintain their agricultural productivity.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Grayson Inouye
President – Pacific Floral Exchange Inc, Kahakai Farms Inc. & Pacific Farms, Inc.



March 30, 2023

From: Kurt Fujioka

Re: Written testimony regarding House Bill 307 HD1

Dear Honorable State Representatives,

Panaewa Foliage was started 24 years ago when we bid for the lease of an abandoned nursery on ten acres of the state lease land. We now hold leases on three properties in the Panaewa area and one lease in Pahoia. We started with three employees and have expanded, now employing 26 people.

We grow potted ornamental foliage plants which are exported to the mainland where wholesale companies sell them to interiorscapers and garden centers for installations in hotels, shopping centers, offices, and homes etc. Aside from the employment of 26 workers, our company stimulates the Hawaii economy by bringing in millions of dollars every year.

The current lease agreement, which has the lease projected for auction upon expiration, is not only extremely unfair to the lease holders who have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on improvement to the land, but also to the employees who would be left unemployed at the loss of their workspace. I ask you to please support House Bill 307 HD1 so we may continue to provide jobs and money to Hawaii's economy.

Sincerely,

Kurt Fujioka

President
Panaewa Foliage Inc.
859 Awa St.
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 938-6290

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 11:14:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Shiigi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of HB307.

HB 307 is critical to the State since it deals with the future of not just my agricultural business but also other lessees that will be impacted. We hold leases with the Dept. of Agriculture and we are asking for an extension.

The lessees that I represent are first generation farmers that continue to have a viable and vested interest in protecting and supporting agriculture in Hawaii. We are not opposed to the growth of new farmers. We welcome and support those on the waiting list. We were once on that list. Once we were assigned a lease, we had to obtain the capital to put in the necessary infrastructure. The longevity of our lease was one of the determining factors in securing the funding. We had to clear the land, install water systems, electricity, purchase the equipment, and establish and promote our products locally, nationally and internationally. The extension of our leases, will insure that we will be able to acquire additional funding from financial institutions for any necessary improvements. This will help not only the present lessees but our next generation of agriculturalist.

Our premise is there are more than enough fallow lands that are presently left unattended. Many of those leases that were awarded several decades ago are still not being used for agriculture. A viable solution which would benefit our industry is to assign those lands to the potential new farmers on the waiting list and extend the present lessee's leases that are actively producing. There would be no "stop gap" in production while the potential new farmers get established. This solution would satisfy the HDOA's "need to increase the number of farmers statewide and realistically achieve the level of farming necessary to meet the State's goals." This would be a winning solution for all stakeholders.

In our endeavor to pass HB 307, we were able to gain support from various organizations such as, Hawaii Farm Bureau, Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc., Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii, Maui County Farm Bureau, Local Food Coalition, Hawaii Crop Improvement

Association and HFNA. These organizations and their membership which many of the lessees are also members of are major contributors to Hawaii's agriculture production. They all submitted testimony in support of HB 307.

Sincerely,

David R. Shiigi and Sherlette H. Shiigi

Owner of Bromeliads Hawaii, LLC

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 12:55:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Henry & Loraine Terada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have been cut flower farmers since 1980 and have found the Panaewa Agricultural Park to be a premium location for our Anthurium production. We built our pipe and cable shade structures that have lasted all these years but they are in need of replacement. Economically it is not feasible to reinvest in these shade buildings with less than 15 years left on our lease.

Please support HB 307 so this farm can continue to produce beautiful Anthurium flowers which are shipped throughout the world.

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 1:58:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 307.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson

March 31, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 307, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PARK LEASES

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
9:45 AM

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

I support HB 307, HD1, which allows the department of agriculture to extend the lease of any lessee who holds a lease with a remaining term of fifteen years or less; provided that the land covered by the lease is twenty-five acres or less and located in a county with a population of less than five hundred thousand.

The success of farmers is critical to the State's goal to double local food production. Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) leases are structured to advance agriculture and make it practical for producers to succeed and provide our communities with what they need. HDOA's long-term leases make it possible for farmers and ranchers to prudently invest in operational and infrastructure improvements on the leased land.

Faced with the uncertainty of continued tenancy, lessees have little incentive to make major investments in improvements to their infrastructures and ensure the long-term maintenance of their facilities. As a result, the infrastructure on these small farms could deteriorate.

This measure will help to enable small family farm operations on HDOA leased lands to be extended their leases as they near expiration. This would enable many of our small farmers and a new generation of farmers to obtain financing to invest in their operations, by making improvements to their lands and developing plans to improve their agricultural productivity.

I currently have a lease in the Waimanalo Ag Park with only 20 years left. Within the first 6 months of acquiring the lease we have invested \$130,000 into the property. At the age of 27, the thought of losing our lease in 20 years is disheartening, knowing that I'd like to grow food for our community for the rest of my life. While this bill won't directly affect me (since I'm in the City and County of Honolulu) I hope this bill passes and leads the way for more widespread change.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Sincerely,
Haley Miyaoka
Co-owner of Ahiki Acres

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 2:03:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of bill HB307

March 31, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 307, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PARK LEASES

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

9:45 AM

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

I support HB 307, HD1, which allows the Department of Agriculture to extend the lease of any lessee who holds a lease with a remaining term of fifteen years or less; provided that the land covered by the lease is twenty-five acres or less and located in a county with a population of less than five hundred thousand.

The success of farmers is important for the state's goal to increase local food production, and the long-term leases from HDOA help farmers invest in infrastructure improvements. Without the assurance of continued tenancy, farmers are less likely to invest in their farms, leading to deterioration of the farms' infrastructure. This bill would enable small family farm operations on HDOA leased lands to extend their leases, which would help them obtain financing to invest in their operations and improve agricultural productivity.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Mahalo,

Brian Boltz

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 6:27:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 9:24:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Phillipson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee,

I am in support of the bill. Please join and support agriculture statewide.

Mahalo,

Mark Phillipson.

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 6:49:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth M. Delimont, Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Kenneth M. Delimont Jr. On April ! 1982 I recieved my lease in the Pahoia Ag Park. I was told at that time by DLNR these leases would be extended if we wanted. Now here I am trying to achieve this through the DoAg. I built a Farm and Home here to create sustainability for my family. This is what the State of Hawaii was trying to acieve, Sustainability in Agriculture, right! How can we as Lesees have the **Ways** to Sustain if the State of Hawaii does not make the **Means** to extend Leases throuhout the Ag Park System. The State has the right not to extend leases if the leasees are not doing what is required. Do what is right and vote yes on HB 307. You have the **Ways and Means** to extend leases for exsiting leasees in the Ag Park System. Mahalo

January 30, 2023

TO: The Honorable Hawaii State Senators
The Honorable Hawaii State Representatives
The Honorable Hawaii County Council Members

Dear Senators / Representatives / Council Members,

I am reaching out to you in regard to the lease extensions for Department of Agriculture land. As it stands, I currently have 15 years left on my lease (General Lease No. S-4763, Lot 16). I inherited this land from my father, who inherited it from his father. The farm has been with my family since 1982 and given the opportunity I will pass it on to my children. My son has already started the process of taking on the business and planting new crops since moving back to Hilo after completing his Bachelor's Degree at the University of Northern Colorado.

Traditionally we have always produced tree crops (i.e. macadamia nuts, lychee, avocados, etc.) on this land, but are considering other crops. The issue currently present is that without an extension to the lease, it is not economically feasible to invest more capital into our farm. As the COVID-19 Pandemic had decimated tourism in the state, our current crops had become unprofitable. Though the vaccines have been released and tourism is returning, variants pose a continued threat to our states agriculture that cannot be ignored. In order to address these problems with long term solutions, large investments must be made.

The Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan discusses increasing Hawaii's food security, sustainability, as well as a diversified economy. Failure to extend leases would act directly against these goals, as multiple local family farms will be forced to cease operations.

If extensions to Department of Agriculture leased lands are granted it would become economically feasible to make the necessary investments. Being that tree crops can take 5-10 years to mature to the point of producing fruit and greenhouses can cost tens of thousands of dollars, the time left on many of the existing leases are not enough for family farms. This year alone we have expanded our operations to include an additional 500 trees however as mentioned above these trees will take at least 5-7years before they become harvestable. An extension of 30 years would allow our farm to continue to plant new crops, diversify into different crops, maintain/expand our agricultural infrastructure, and continue our family operation in service to the state of Hawaii and its sustainability goals.

I appreciate you taking the time to hear my concerns.

Thank you,

Hugh Willocks, Ono Nut Farms

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 9:14:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Blazak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 307 HD1. This measure will help to enable small family farm operations on lands leased from HDOA to be extended their leases as they near expiration. This would enable many of our small farmers and a new generation of farmers to obtain financing to invest in their operations. This bill is good for the future of agriculture in Hawaii.

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 9:27:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

Farmers on ag park leases (as well as farmers on any lease) need the certainty of continued tenancy in order for them to do long-term planning and acquire the funding to make major investments in infrastructure improvements and maintenance of their facilities.

Please allow DOA the discretion to extend certain leases to encourage the ongoing viability of productive farmers to continue their work without being removed when their leases expire.

Thank you.

LATE

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 1:57:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randall John Francisco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this forward-thinking legislation which will also provide long-term plans for farmers and those involved in agriculture activities.