



LAND USE RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

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# LATE TESTIMONY

March 2, 2011

Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair, and Representative Karl Rhoads,  
Vice Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

**Support for HB 1230, HD 1 (Relating to Building Permits; Agricultural and Aquacultural Structures).**

**Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at 2:05 p.m. in CR 325**

My name is Dave Arakawa, and I am the Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF), a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF's missions 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.

**HB 1230, HD 1.** This bill proposes to exempt the construction of low risk nonresidential and aquacultural structures from county building permit requirements, under certain conditions.

**LURF's Position.** LURF reinforces the underlying intent of HB 1230, HD 1, which is to support agriculture and aid agriculture-related businesses, and also believes that the bill is consistent with the purpose and intent of the Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) laws which focuses on promoting agricultural viability by providing incentives for farmers and landowners to designate lands as IAL, **and to build necessary infrastructure.**

Despite the need for agricultural structures on farms and ranches (storage sheds, equipment houses, greenhouses, etc.), farmers, ranchers and other agricultural stakeholders have encountered difficulties obtaining building permits since standards applied to such structures are the same as those applied to commercial and residential buildings. Such standards are thus inappropriate, excessive and burdensome for agricultural structures and have posed financial and practical obstacles for farmers and ranchers wanting to improve or expand operations.

By recognizing the use of farm and ranch structures as agriculture-related, HB 1230, HD 1 would remove a significant impediment to economically viable agriculture, aquaculture and ranching in Hawaii.

Based on the above, LURF **supports HB 1230, HD 1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.