NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII





STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of WILLIAM J. AILA, JR. Chairperson

Before the House Committee on FINANCE

Friday, February 25, 2011 4:00 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of HOUSE BILL 331, HOUSE DRAFT 1 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

House Bill 331, House Draft 1 proposes authorizing the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to extend the term of certain public land leases to a maximum aggregate term of sixty-five (65) years. The Department supports the intent of this bill, but recommends a technical amendment to the bill as described below.

Leases of public lands are governed by Chapter 171, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"). In particular, Section 171-36(a)(2), HRS, imposes a maximum term of sixty-five (65) years for leases of public lands.

Section 171-36(b)(3), HRS, allows the Department to extend the term of public land leases in certain situations and subject to certain requirements and restrictions. One of the restrictions is provided in Section 171-36(b)(3)(2), HRS, which provides that the aggregate of the initial term and any extension shall not exceed <u>fifty-five (55)</u> years. The Department does not know why the aggregate term of extended leases is limited to 55 years when the overall maximum term for public land leases is 65 years.

The Department believes House Bill 331, House Draft 1 seeks to amend Section 171-36(b), HRS, to make the maximum term allowed for extended leases to be 65 years, which is the same as the overall maximum term under Section 171-36(a), HRS. However, the bill seeks to accomplish this by amending Section 171-36(b)(2), HRS, rather than Section 171-36(b)(3)(2), HRS. Section 171-36(b)(2), HRS, addresses extensions to the fixed rental period of a lease, not to the overall term of a lease. Therefore, the Department believes the intent of the bill is more appropriately accomplished by amending Section 171-36(b)(3), HRS, rather than Section 171-36(b)(2), HRS.

WILLIAM J. A.H.A., JR.
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



THE HOUSE THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 25, 2011
TIME: 4:00pm
PLACE: Conference Room 308, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: Testimony In Support of HB331 HD1 Relating to Public Lands, with three suggested amendments

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Committee Members,

The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association supports the concept of HB331 HD1 which would allow the BLNR to extend or modify the fixed rental term of a lease under Section 171. However, we object to the wording that places a finite term on the aggregate sum of the initial term and any extension whereby by a longstanding good tenant and demonstrated steward of the land would be forced off their developed farm in favor of a potentially unknown and problematic tenant and steward of the land, or, potentially in favor of no tenant at all. Is this truly in the best interest of our current State goal of increased food security and what I understand to be our Constitutional mandate to become self sufficient in our food production?

I would therefore request your consideration of the following wording change on p1, lines 10-12: "Extend or modify the fixed rental term of the lease <u>provided that the</u> (aggregate sum of the) <u>initial term and any extension granted shall not exceed 65 years;"</u>

Also, I am confused by the apparent discrepancy in maximum lease terms provided between p1, lines 10-12, stating 65 years, and p.2, lines 9 and 10; stating 55 years.

I would therefore request for p.2, lines 9 and 10, delete entire statement (2).

Finally, I worry about future staff interpretation of the intent of p2., lines 11-13 which requires a reopening to be based on "fair market rental". Is this highest and best use whereby a future rental rates will be set according to what the highest agricultural activity of the future can pay vs some lower rate that may be more appropriate for what a row crop, aquaculture, or livestock producer could afford to pay and which would be necessary to encourage a diversity of future food crop production for increased self sufficiency?

As such, could this statement be clarified to state "fair market rental for originally leased purpose"?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Bleidenbach

Ronald P. Weidenbach

HAAA President



HB 331, HD 1 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

House Committee on Finance

February 25, 2011

4:00 p.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs offers the following comments on HB 331 HD1, which would allow the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to extend lease terms for intensive agricultural, aquaculture, commercial, mariculture, special livestock, pasture, or industrial leases for a total of 65 years.

The bulk of the land managed by DLNR is former government and crown land that was ceded by the Republic of Hawai'i to the United States in 1898, "without the consent of or compensation to the Native Hawaiian people of Hawaii or their sovereign government[.]" P.L. 103-150 (1993).

Long-term leases that exceed the length of a generation are short-sighted and improvident. Encumbering public land with fifty-five year leases ties the hands of the community and future generations of land and resource managers and unduly restricts their ability to make sound decisions. Moreover, long-term leases often lead to a sense of entitlement on the part of the lessee that can and has resulted in alienation of leased land in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Representative Marcus R. Oshiro Chairman of the House Finance Committee 415 S. Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Chang,

I am writing in support of the businesses in Hilo Industrial Area future House Bill HB331. This legislation allows businesses who currently lease State land the opportunity to invest in their future and continue doing business in Hilo. As you know lease lands account for the vast majority of Industrial lands in Hilo and an uncertain future with the status of these lands only increases the hardship felt by businesses in this economic recession. Currently the Hilo Industrial Area is a blighted area, with many buildings in disrepair, by extending the current leases, Lenders will be able to lend to these businesses and they will be able to get the much needed funding to make capital improvements.

The recent economic recession has hit the Big Island hard, especially East Hawaii. During these times, it is critical that small business be given opportunities to invest in themselves and to survive. This Bill will provide that opportunity.

Thank you for introducing this bill into the Hawaii State Legislature. If it passes, the affected Lessees will be able to plan accordingly. Please convey my wholehearted support to the relevant legislative committees and leaders of each chamber.

Sincerely,

Craig S. Takamine, President

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71 Banyan Drive / Hilo. Hawaii 96720 / Phone (806) 935-9361 / Fax (808) 961-9642

February M, 2011

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chairman of the House & Finance Committee
413 S. Bestenia Street
Franchile Hawaii 96813

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Sincerely,

Craig S. Takamine, President



GINOZA REALTY &

Residential and Vacant Land Brokerage - Property Management - Development Consultant

February 23, 2011

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Sincerely,

Russell M. Arikawa

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Realtor

Bert M Wagatsuma

Certified Public Accountant (A Limited Liability Company) Member: Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountages

February 23, 2011

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Sincerely,

688 Kinoole St; Suite 211*Hilo, Hawaii 96720*Phone(808)935-9731*Fax(808)935-0059



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inderely.

Colleen Y. Aina

President

JT Property, Inc.

Dba Pinky's 5 Eight



Representative Marcus R. Oshiro Chairman of the House Finance Committee 415 S. Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Sincerely

Caleb Yam naka



Representative Marcus R. Oshiro Chairman of the House Finance Committee 415 S. Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Oshiro,

I am writing in support of the businesses in Hilo Industrial Area future House Bill HB331. Our businesses currently have 4 DLNR leases within the Kanoelehua area and this legislation would allow our businesses the opportunity to invest in our future and continue doing business in Hilo.

These lease lands account for the vast majority of Industrial lands in Hilo and an uncertain future with the status of these lands only increases the hardship felt by our businesses and our neighboring business in this economic recession. Currently the Hilo Industrial Area is a blighted area, with many buildings in disrepair, by extending the current leases, Lenders will be able to lend to these businesses and they will be able to get the much needed funding to make capital improvements.

The recent economic recession has hit the Big Island hard, especially East Hawaii. During these times, it is critical that small business be given opportunities to invest in themselves and to survive. This Bill will provide that opportunity:

Thank you for introducing this bill into the Hawaii State Legislature. Supporting the passge of this bill will greatly impact our business as well as the other affected Lessees and will allow us the opportunity to be able to plan accordingly. Please convey my wholehearted support to the relevant legislative committees and leaders of each chamber.

Sincerely,

David S. De Luz, Jr.

Vice President of Special Projects



Hawaii's Finest Macadamla Nuts ~ Chocolates ~ Confections

February 23, 2011

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro Chairman of the House Finance Committee 415 S. Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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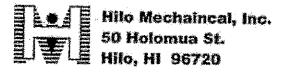
Dave Schell General Manager

Hilo Orchard Operations

A Division of Purdyco Ltd. 16-261 Shipman Road Keasu HJ 96749

Phone: (808) 966-7451 * Pax: (808) 966-8507 * c-mail: info@islandorinecsahawaii.com

Website: www.lstendfrincessfiswaii.com



Representative Marcus R. Oshiro Chairman of the House Finance Committee 415 S. Beretanía Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Sincerely,

Russell M Shindo Vice President



HILO FISH COMPANY, INC.

55 Holomua St. ~ Hilo, Hawaii 96720 Phone: (808) 961-0877 - Fax: (808) 934-8783 Email: accounting@hilofish.com ~ Internet: www.hilofish.com



February 23, 2011

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Sincerely,

Kerry Umamoto

King A. Umanios

President



C.W. Maintenance, Inc.

56 Wiwoole Street * Hilo, Hawei'l 96720 * Telephone (808) 935-8543 * Fax (808) 961-4433 * comeia@hilofo.net

February 23, 2011

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Syncorely



714 Kanoeleliua Avenue Hilo, Hawaii 96720 808-934-7321

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Sincerely.

Edwin Hara President

Instant Sign Centers of Hawaii



Representative Marcus R. Osbiro Chairman of the House Finance Committee 415 S. Beretania Street Honolulu, Havaii 96813

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HPC & Associates

714 Kanodelius Avenue • 1860, Hawaii 96720 • Telephone: (808) 951-5651 • Fac: (808) 935-0518

February 23, 2011

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Singerale

Edwin Hara President



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Sincerely.

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February 23, 2011

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro Chairman of the House Finance Comminee 415 S. Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Sincerely,

Coldwell Beaker Day-Lum Properties Inc.





Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Hawaii

February 25, 2011

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro Chairman of the House Finance Committee 415 S. Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Sincerely,

Randall M. Kurohara

President

Michael Kalifani Michael Kaleikini

VP, GAC Chairperson

714 Kanoelehua Avenue • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4565 P.O. Box 7436 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-8981 Phone: (808) 934-0177 • Fax: (808) 934-0178 • E-mail: jccih@jccih.org

FINTestimony

⊂rom:

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

ent:

Thursday, February 24, 2011 8:58 PM

To:

FINTestimony

Cc:

jwmccully54@gmail.com

Subject:

Testimony for HB331 on 2/25/2011 4:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/25/2011 4:00:00 PM HB331

Conference room: 308

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: James McCully Organization: Individual

Address: Phone:

E-mail: jwmccully54@gmail.com

Submitted on: 2/24/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chairman Oshiro,

I am in strong support of HB331HD1. This bill will provide needed clarity, both in terms of statutory language and land tenure. It is critical that lessee's of State lands, such as myself, are treated uniformly and fairly. This bill provides fair tenure to all, both lessor and lessee. Please support HB331 Mahalo, James McCully