Statement of Aisha TK Kadomatsu before the

HOUSE COMMITTEES ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE, AND WATER, LAND, & HOUSING

Friday, March 11, 2011

3:20PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 in consideration of

SB631 SD1

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Fax: (808) 586-2377

(dx. (000) 300-2311
Chair Coffman, Chair Chang, Vice Chair Har and Members of the Committees: Learn Aisha Kadomatsu Ala Koa Street, Honoldu I am writing in opposition of SB 631 SD1. SB 631 SD1states that agricultural B, C, D, and E land can be used for solar energy facilities. I feel that preserving agricultural land is very important and must not be taken for granted. It is crucial to have quality agricultural land in order to grow our food locally. Solar Branch Production Shend Go In the state of Hawaii, we have a total 418,701 acres B and G land: that's 118,089 acres of B land and 300,612 acres of C land. It is best that we use this valuable land for agricultural purposes because lands that go out of farming will never be put back into agricultural production.
Protecting agriculture land has been the number 1 concern in the 1960 Constitution. Unfortunately, we have failed to resolve this problem. We have lost 50% of our prime farm land in the last 50 years. We have to start moving in a different direction in order to save our agricultural land.

Many people aren't considering the consequences of this act, which will greatly restrict quality land for agriculture for generations to come. I request these committees do not pass this Bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on an important issue.

Aisha Kadomatsu, Waialae Nui, Honolulu, Hawaii

I have brought

Petitions

signed by 30

residents.

Petition to protect O'ahu Agricultural Land

Background: Agricultural land is being wasted and we need to preserve it for future generations. The land that we save from construction should be used for farming of local foods. We should never want to destroy such land. Hawaii needs as much support as it can get, to help save agricultural land.

For instance: Koa Ridge in central Oahu is one of the best agricultural lands left on Oahu. It was once used to grow sugar cane. Now, Castle & Cooke Homes Hawaii is planning to develop up to 5,000 new homes at Koa Ridge. If this continues, we won't have any place to grow our food. And the food that we will need in future years will have to be shipped here at unknown and surely escalating costs.

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LATE TESTIMONY

Mark Duda

Hawaii Solar Energy Association

Serving Hawaii Since 1977

March 21, 2011 9:15AM

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
SB 631 SD1

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Chang, Vice Chair Har, Chair Coffman, and Members of the Committees:

HSEA supports SB631 SD1, which increases, with certain limitations, the area within agricultural lands in which solar energy facilities may be constructed.

HSEA recognizes the balance that must be maintained between the State's energy and agriculture sectors, and feels the latest version of the bill accomplishes that while still moving the needle towards ensuring Hawaii accomplishes its clean energy goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mark Duda President, Hawaii Solar Energy Association

About Hawaii Solar Energy Association

Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) is comprised of installers, distributors, manufacturers and financers of solar energy systems, both hot water and PV, most of which are Hawaii based, owned and operated. Our primary goals are: (1) to further solar energy and related arts, sciences and technologies with concern for the ecologic, social and economic fabric of the area; (2) to encourage the widespread utilization of solar equipment as a means of lowering the cost of energy to the American public, to help stabilize our economy, to develop independence from fossil fuel and thereby reduce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change; (3) to establish, foster and advance the usefulness of the members, and their various products and services related to the economic applications of the conversion of solar energy for various useful purposes; and (4) to cooperate in, and contribute toward, the enhancement of widespread understanding of the various applications of solar energy conversion in order to increase their usefulness to society.