

**SB 1155**

**SD 1**



**LATE**

UNIVERSITY  
OF HAWAII  
HILO

Aloha

This testimony letter is to support SB 1155. The farm lease land is an important factor for production in any business. Agriculture land is used more than commercial and industrial land. In Hawaii, the land is very expensive because of urbanization. If the lease is estimated at market value, very few farmers will not be able to make a living.

Therefore land lease in Hawaii needs to be treated differently using the residual approach. ( Land should be paid after the facts of production such as labor, capital, and management). This method was used to settle and estimate the land lease for the Kona Coffee Farmers and the Hawaii Kai Farmers with Kamehameha Schools.

Modern agriculture enterprise require higher capital investment which require long term lease in order to pay for investment cost. Therefore, in order for the farmers to survive we need low cost and long term lease.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sabry Shehata

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# Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

**LATE**

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(808) 596-2980 ♦ <http://EnvironmentalCaucusoftheDemocraticPartyofHawaii.com>

March 1, 2011

## Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1155

Aloha Chairman David Ige and Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and members of the Finance Committee. My name is Mrs. Juanita C. Kawamoto Brown, Subcommittee Chair of Food and Farm Sustainability of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii and Agricultural Co-Captain of Capitol Watch - Sierra Club – Hawaii. I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 1155 – Relating to Long Term Agricultural Leases with the State of Hawaii and the Food Farms they currently affect. Our organization has been in extensive discussions with food farms through out the State of Hawaii via various agricultural organizations-Hawaii Farmer's Union – Board and Members, Hawaii Farm Bureau – county boards, former board for State charter and general members, Hawaii Cooperative of Organic Farmers – President, Board and members, Hawaii Fruit Growers Association – Former President, Board members and membership, Waimanalo Neighborhood Board, Kahaluu Neighborhood Board, Hawaii North Kona Coffee growers Association –President, Board Members and members, Kamilonui Farmer Alliance – Hawaii Kai and many more who have been contacting us daily .regarding their support of this bill.

Senate Bill 1155 will create a task force focused on the process at which State Ag leases are currently handled and come up with a solution to address amendments or structure policies that represent the need for better conditions for state agricultural leases focused on Food farms in the State of Hawaii. These food farms that is integral to the support of Food sustainability and the current community plans by many community organizations focused on food sustainability need to be able to find our food farm resources ready and willing to feed the people of Hawaii, reduce the import of out of state and out of country foods that could be easily grown here in our own state which then keeps our local economy thriving via more local jobs and other local green career oriented businesses that are developed as a result of small family farms who maintain long term leases on State Agricultural Land . SB1155 provides us with a means to protect Hawaii Ag lands and maintain a healthier environment throughout the State of Hawaii.

Please support this bill and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Juanita C. Kawamoto Brown  
Subcommittee Chair  
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii  
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1050 Ala Moana Blvd, D26  
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# SUPPORT SMALL FAMILY FARMS

Please hear our voices via this petition! We the people strongly urge the passage of the following legislative bills and resolutions, in support of Hawaii farm and food sustainability.

**SB1155 & HB920** – Relates to the creation of a new long-term agricultural lease program for State Agricultural Lands and Parks. These bills are designed to help local farmers continue to grow food by 1) decreasing barriers brought on by unfair appraisal techniques that devalue farm variables and production, and 2) by increasing incentives for long term investments into farm and food sustainability through lengthening lease terms from 35 to 65 years.

**SB1156 & HB1496** – Relates to the creation of agribusiness cooperatives and feed mills that will 1) assist local farmers in increasing distribution of farm goods to large institutions, such as the DOE, and retail establishments, and 2) produce feed for agricultural livestock, therefore reducing farmer and consumer costs, and minimizing the need for imported feed, therefore helping to protect Hawaii's environment and keep Hawaii's dollars in Hawaii.

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**Resolution SB1156 & Resolution HB1496** – Relates to the creation of agribusiness cooperatives and feed mills that will 1) assist local farmers in increasing distribution of farm goods to large institutions, such as the DOE, and retail establishments, and 2) produce feed for agricultural livestock, therefore reducing farmer and consumer costs, and minimizing the need for imported feed, therefore helping to protect Hawaii's environment and keep Hawaii's dollars in Hawaii.

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