

**SB 3068**

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE**

February 10, 2016  
3:30 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

**SENATE BILL NO. 3068  
RELATING TO LAND ACQUISITION**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 3068. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the department of agriculture to acquire parcels of land. The department of agriculture supports the intent of this measure provided that it does not impact the priorities submitted in the department's executive budget.

Four of the five parcels identified in this bill seem to be viable agricultural land that would fit well in the department's non-agricultural parks program. One parcel, tax map key number 6-7-13:07, seems to be a beach park and would not be suitable for our inventory. The department would be happy to acquire these lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





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February 10, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 3068  
RELATING TO LAND ACQUISITION

Room 224  
3:30 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB believes that in order for agriculture to flourish in Hawaii and reach their full potential, land availability and long-term leases at affordable and predictable lease rental rates are critical. The acquisition by the state of the Dole Lands will significantly increase the available agricultural land under the State's control and will provide farmers with long-term leases that will enhance the economic viability of Hawaii's agriculture industry.

We believe this is an opportunity to further support and expand the state's ability to provide agricultural lands for farmers, which is consistent with the State's goal of increasing self sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [legechair@gmail.com](mailto:legechair@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB3068 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:29:28 PM

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**SB3068**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**WAIALUA FARMERS COOPERATIVE**  
**P.O. Box 687**  
**Waialua, Hawaii 96791**

February 10, 2016

To:     Honorable Chair Gabbard  
          Vice Chair Nishihara  
          Members of the Water Land Agriculture Committee

Re:     Support Testimony on SB 3068  
          Relating to Dole Land Acquisition: Waialua Farmers Cooperative

My name is Federico Dicion, President of Waialua Farmers Cooperative. I was elected on December 28, 2015. Waialua Farmers Cooperative has about sixty members that lease 134 acres of agricultural land from Dole. We serve our members by billing for land rent and water usage. Currently Dole has listed our farm lands for sale.

Waialua Farmers Cooperative was formed in 1996 to service displaced Waialua Sugar Co. and Dole employees. Our original farmers are aging, but family members are becoming more involved and are actively participating in future farming activities.

There is a strong desire for future sustainability of these Ohana-style farms in the Waialua Community. As a result, the Waialua Community also supports the Cooperative's efforts to continue farming in Waialua. Majority of the family farms are from one to two acres in size. The families handle the crops with care as they want to feed their families and the public pesticide-free crops.

As demonstrated in previous years, the Waialua Farmers Cooperative had hosted an educational field day for farmers to learn about the cultivation of Asparagus as well as growing crops through the use of cover crops. These cover crops are designed to release natural toxins in the soil to reduce the reliance of pesticides. Educational sessions like these are very advantageous to our farmers and the cooperative will continue to educate our farmers with the assistance from farm agencies and the University outreach programs.

In addition, the University of Hawaii Seed Program was successful with their "Waialua Peppers" project through the cooperation of two of our farmers' willingness to assist with testing and growing of Jalapeno Pepper varieties.

In 2016, The Waialua Farmers Cooperative is in its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year and has served the Waialua Community well. Given the opportunity, we hope to continue to serve our farm members and the community another 20 more years.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Waialua Farmers Cooperative, please accept our request for your support for SB 3068.

Mahalo!

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Howardmcginnis@gmail.com](mailto:Howardmcginnis@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB3068 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 8:58:57 AM

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**SB3068**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Howard McGinnis	West Oahu County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments: West Oahu County Farm Bureau supports Sb3068.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [pamelaboyar@gmail.com](mailto:pamelaboyar@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB3068 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:43:19 PM

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**SB3068**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Boyar	Farm Lovers Farmers Markets	Support	No

Comments:

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**LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC  
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(808) 688-2892**

SB 3068, Relating to Land Acquisition  
Senate WLA Committee  
Wednesday, February 10, 2015  
3:30 pm  
Conference Room 224

Written Testimony by: Larry Jeffs  
Position: Support

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Senate WLA Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC, which is part of our family-run business of farms on Oahu and Molokai, under the administrative umbrella of Sugarland Growers, Inc. We have more than 35 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu.

Appreciation and support is expressed for this request for appropriations to purchase available parcels of Dole land available in Central Oahu.

Such a purchase adds to the existing Galbraith lands, Whitmore Project and provides a synergy for the preservation and cultivation of productive farm lands. Ultimately, the people of Hawaii, farmers and consumers alike, will benefit from this.

Your support of this measure is greatly appreciated.



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [edi\\_hi@hotmail.com](mailto:edi_hi@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB3068 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 4:56:05 PM

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**SB3068**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edith Ramiscal	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a member of Waialua Farmers' Cooperative and this bill affects my livelihood. I am also a board of director under new leadership since December 28, 2015. Please support this bill. We need low elevation land with high heat index to grow our food crops. Mahalo

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Ph: (808) 389-6255 Fax: (808) 625-6742 [bigwavetomatoes@gmail.com](mailto:bigwavetomatoes@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 3:20 pm Room 224 HEARING**

**Water, Land & Agriculture Committee**

**SUPPORT TESTIMONY ON SB 3068,**

**Relating To Dole Land Acquisition: Waialua Farmers Cooperative**

Honorable Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and  
Members of the Water Land Agriculture Committee

Via [wlatestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:wlatestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Aloha Honorable Senators of WLA Committee,

Request support for SB 3068. *The Waialua Farmers Cooperative Dole leased land attributes are highly productive and has the highly desirable low elevation field location with good potable well water, necessary to cultivate food crops, which 60 members grow and who seek to work towards meeting Governor Ige's goal, to increase Food Production, which will be achieved through collaborative efforts between Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Farmers such as Waialua Farmers Cooperative.*

I am one of the original members of the Waialua Farmers Cooperative which was organized in 1996, to serve displaced Waialua Sugar Company / Dole Food Company Employees and one of the founders of The Waialua Coop Farmers Markets.

My name is Jeanne Vana of North Shore Farms LLC and I am a full time farmer and my livelihood solely is derived from my Waialua Coop farm.

I served as President of The Waialua Farmers Cooperative 1999-2001, My role today, continues to serve the best interest of the coop and its 60 + members and have a good working relationship with its new Board of Directors, under new leadership.

My farm has served as a demonstration farm since 1997, specifically focused on reduced reliance of pesticides helping to assist in the transition of Large scale farming Plantation Mono-cropping, from Sugar and Pineapple to small scale vegetable crop production.

My success today, has resulted in my Farm to Table products being served in Japan, Hawaii's first small farmer with a License Agreement, that promotes Hawaii. Today my small farm business which was started from scratch, harvests seeds from my crops which are cultivated in Japan for an authentic connection to our Hawaii Agriculture Industry.

This occurred as a direct result of our success as being one of the most popular destination vendors at Oahu's Premier, All Locally Produced, Farmers Market. My small boutique family farm on Oahu, that I own and operate, requires me to operate on a shoe string budget with a streamlined approach to earn a modest standard of living, in order to contribute towards humble efforts for a sustainable island community which the farming community and you, hope to achieve.

Respectfully request, that you support SB 3068.

Mahalo for your support.

It is an honor, to participate along with you, in a Government of the People, By the People and for the People.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Broderick Vana