



LATE

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Seventh Legislature, 2014
State of Hawaii

A bill for an act
SB 2435 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Oppose SB 2435

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

We **Oppose** SB2345 Relating to Agriculture. The priority on the current state of agriculture should not be that of land acquisition but instead should focus on keeping farmers on the land. There is a current need for help with labor, transportation, water, invasive species, etc and should not be limited to food but for all agriculture.

We **OPPOSE** this bill and ask you to consider other measures that can better help all of Hawaii's Agriculture. If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,

Eric S. Tanouye
President
Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

LATE

Senate Committee on Agriculture
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
February 6, 2014
SB2454 Comments
Room 225 3:30 PM



Aloha Honorable Chairs Nishihara, Gabbard and Senators,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit our comments on SB2435. We appreciate the intent of this bill, however we have identified some key elements which require clarification and at this time, prevent our support for this bill as it is written.

We request that if this measure proceeds, page 1, lines 13 and 14 that it be amended with clarification to include the words, “**food**” and “**for local consumption**” in two places each.

Provided the amended Statute would read:

Section 141-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes,

(2) The acquisition of real property for agricultural production or processing activity; provided that the acquisition of real property for agricultural **food** production **for local consumption** or food processing activity **for local consumption** shall be given preference with any moneys deposited into the special fund as the portion of the environmental response, energy, and food security tax specified under section 243-3.5:

We suggest there should be no conflict with making this simple clarification indicating ‘food’ and ‘for local consumption’ or something comparable in line with the intent of the bill. As the bill is set in the interest of decreasing our minimum 85% and more recently updated 92% importation of food and critical need to increase local food production, we believe clarification is necessary. As stated in the proposed bill, “*The legislature finds that the State's overreliance on imported foods has threatened the State's food sustainability and economy.*”

Furthermore, we would suggest that such a revision should further consider specifying organic local food production as priority, for the simple reason that this low input, regenerative, sustainable and bio-diverse critical withdrawal from large scale industrial food system which implies the use of high-input petrochemical fertilizers and agrochemicals, is critical. This is indicated in a detailed report called the 2013 United Nations Trade and Environmental Review (1) titled, **Wake Up Before It's Too Late** and advocates for urgent departure from the industrial, monocropping, high-external-input and synthetic chemical food production model and retraction from industrial monocropping, petrochemical, intensive farming method in favor of sustainable, small-scale, low-input organic farming. Much like the 2010 report but even more time sensitive, these changes are crucial and time is of the essence. Doing so through prioritizing the environmental response revolving fund for organic food for local consumption would be clearly justified since unsustainable, non-biodegradable petrochemicals and the GMO monocrop farm method intensifies and often detrimentally affects **air quality, global warming, clean water, polluted**

#babesagainstbiotech

LATE

runoff, solid and hazardous waste, drinking water, and underground storage tanks. We must both feed ourselves and reduce our agricultural external based inputs and synthetic chemical use, while increasing our low-input local food production.

As clarified in §243-3.5 cited in the bill, we refer to the uses of the revolving fund in **§128D-2 (B) (2) regarding the environmental response revolving fund; uses.,**

(2) May also be used to support environmental protection and natural resource protection programs, including energy conservation and alternative energy development, and to address concerns related to **air quality, global warming, clean water, polluted runoff, solid and hazardous waste, drinking water, and underground storage tanks,** including support for the underground storage tank program of the department and funding for the acquisition by the State of a soil remediation site and facility.

Considering the number of conditions affected by outdoor agrochemical farming of genetically engineered crops such as **air quality, global warming, clean water, polluted runoff, solid and hazardous waste, drinking water, and underground storage tanks.** It is our hope this body would consider placing a focus on increasing organic regenerative, mosaic local farming food systems as a priority. At the bare minimum, we could not support certainly clarify food production so the land may not be misused for genetic experimentation or high-input petrochemical testing when what we need is food.

We respectfully request these changes.

Best Regards,

--

Nomi Carmona

President

Babes Against Biotech

+1 808 436 7006

nomi@babesagainstbiotech.org

babesagainstbiotech.org

fb: fb.com/babesagainstbiotech

twitter: [@babesagainstgmo](https://twitter.com/babesagainstgmo)

insta: [@babesagainstbiotech](https://www.instagram.com/babesagainstbiotech)

(1) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Trade and Environment Review 2013 **“Wake up before it is too late: Make agriculture truly sustainable now for food security in a changing climate”**

<http://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationWebflyer.aspx?publicationid=666>

FYI: <http://www.ensser.org/increasing-public-information/no-scientific-consensus-on-gmo-safety/>

#babesagainstbiotech