



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI‘I
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

**JOINT SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Thursday, February 16, 2017 1:15PM Room 229

LATE

In SUPPORT SB698 Relating to Agricultural Land

Aloha Chairmen Rhoads, Gabbard, and Nishihara and members of the joint committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i supports SB698, which requires notice to relevant county agencies of the subdivision and lease of agricultural lands.

Since 1968, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i has been working to protect the unique natural and cultural resources of our islands. We have been deeply involved in efforts to preserve the integrity of our agricultural lands.

This bill is needed to improve enforcement of limitations on agricultural subdivision leases. Hawai‘i has a problem with agricultural lands not being put to agricultural uses, especially when subdivided for profit. This bill would better empower the counties to verify agricultural subdivisions to ensure that land is used for activities consistent with its land classification.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Mahalo,

Marti Townsend
Director