



KILAUEA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

February 4, 2015

Dear Hawaii House of Representatives & Agriculture Subcommittee,

President:
Yoshito L'Hote

Mahalo for accepting this testimony with the best interest of Kaua`i and all individual islands in mind. Based on full agreement of our KNA Board at a public meeting on Feb. 3, 2015 we submit the following:

Vice President:
Alvin Castelo

We OPPOSE HB 849 that amends Hawaii's Right to Farm Act to ensure that counties cannot enact laws, ordinances, or resolutions to limit the rights of farmers and ranchers to engage in agricultural practices. We believe the counties need to retain, even strengthen their ability to determine the use of their lands particularly where it pertains to the extensive use of heavy pesticides by the chemical agriculture industry in which the state and federal governments have shown a clear bias to protect.

Secretary:
Thomas Pickett

Treasurer:
Gary Pacheco

Sergeant-at-arms
Scott Mijares

Please remove the amendment: (b) No law, ordinance, or resolution of any unit of local government shall be enacted that abridges the right of farmers and ranchers to employ agricultural practices not prohibited by federal or state law, rules, or regulations.

PTSA Rep.
Tricia Padilla

The Kilauea community is filled with small farms and is growing with a targeted direction of largely organic food production and markets featuring local products. Much of our population originate from the history of Kilauea Sugar Plantation which includes the recent memory of toxic waste clean-up of legacy chemicals from the Kilauea mill mixing station. The perceived impacts of having the state control the allowance of "farm technology" as defined by the Federal government will affect the major segments of our growing Kilauea economy; those being sustainable agriculture, real estate, and tourism. Healthy agriculture and the fostering of Hawaiian cultural traditions are central to the definition of our entire moku of Ko`olau as well as neighboring Halelea.

Directors:
Mike Latif
Beryl Blaich
Bill Troutman
Tim Kallai
Ken Carlson
Charlie Martin
Carrie Souza
Ron Paul
Tamra Martin

At our July 2, 2013 Kilauea Neighborhood Association meeting the KNA had a unanimous vote endorsing Kauai's Pesticide Disclosure Bill 2491 with overwhelming support from all who attended, including 35 members of the community as well as the entire 14 member board. It was a filled room without one voice of dissent.

The state has shown a clear disregard for containing the over-reach of the industrial-agriculture industry. It is not in our best interest for the state to pre-empt the county's ability to protect the life and health of the land.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Yoshi L'Hote President

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