



**Hawaii
Legislative
Council
Members**

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country
Market
Hanalei

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
10:00 AM, Room 016 or via Videoconference

RE: **SB2759 SD 1** Land Leases - **Support with Amendments**

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity; we know Hawaii can strengthen its economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment.

This is why we are in strong support of SB2759 SD1, which prohibits the State from leasing or extending the lease of any public lands to any individual, corporation, or federal agency that is in arrears in the payment of certain moneys to the State, noncompliant with a consent decree or memoranda of agreement with the State that requires environmental maintenance or remediation with regard to the subject public lands, or convicted of a crime, requires certification by the Office of the Governor before the issuance or extension of any federal lease that the individual, corporation, or federal agency is in good standing with the State.

We appreciate the amendments offered by DLNR, and accepted by the Committee on Water and Land, to expand the state lands covered by this bill. We urge this committee to add the following amendments:

- 1) Clarify that "Convicted of a crime" refers only to crimes "related to the misuse and mismanagement of land and natural resources, including laws protecting the safety of workers, residents, critical habitats and cultural preservation;" and
- 2) Ensure lessees have not, and will not, block access to cultural sites, traditional practices, and natural resources.

State actors with a fiduciary duty to care for the State's precious natural resources, should not lease lands to tenants who illegally contaminate our land and water; if a tenant has an MOU to clean past contamination but decades later, have not completed the clean up, they should not be allowed to sign new leases for other state lands. Simply put: do right by Hawaii and her people.

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family
Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Na Mea Hawaii
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life
Natural Foods
Hilo

Kim Coco Iwamoto
Enlightened Energy
Honolulu

Chamber of
Sustainable
Commerce
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI
96823