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## OPINION

Posted on: Friday, April 16, 2010

### Saving farm land

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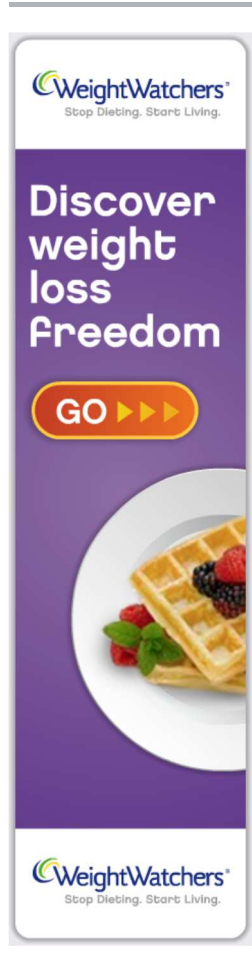
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**HB 2290 NEEDS PUBLIC SUPPORT NOW**


An important bill before the Legislature, House Bill 2290, could tip the balance in favor of saving precious farmlands on O'ahu.



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Sections 3 and 4 of the bill change the law governing the Land Use Commission to require six votes to designate currently farmed land with A and B quality soils as urban.

Developers will still bring their petitions to the LUC; most decisions of the LUC traditionally have been nearly unanimous; and projects where the need is compelling will be approved. What the bill will do is to put the concern and weight of the Legislature behind protecting O'ahu farms with high quality soils.

HB 2290 has sailed through the Senate. Most members of the House seem to support it. A Senate-House conference committee has been named.

But developers are exerting great pressure to defeat it. Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu authored the bill and is on the committee. He needs three others representatives, Ken Ito, Cliff Tsuji and Marcus Oshiro to agree to move the bill to conference.

If you want to preserve our best farmland, if you enjoy the fresh local produce we now eat, if you are concerned about food security should calamity cut us off from the rest of the world, please write these legislators a short note supporting Sections 3 and 4 of HB 2290.

*Kioni Dudley*  
*President, Friends of Makakilo*

**HURRICANE FUND****MONEY SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR SCHOOLS**

I, along with many thousands of homeowners were forced to purchase hurricane insurance mandated by the state of Hawai'i.

I object to the use of these funds except for the purpose for which they were demanded. Either keep them for a hurricane, which is inevitably coming, or refund them to the homeowners who paid under now false intentions.

I hope there is an attorney that will ask for clients for a class action against the state. I will be first to join.

*Joseph Alexander*  
*Waipahu*

**BULLYING****PARENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION OF KIDS**

Suspending, expelling or counseling as punishments for kids who bully other kids are not enough and not the best way to punish or prevent bullying. Bullying is evil and should be a crime.

To be a teenager is to do stupid things but just because they have brains that are not fully developed, does not mean they are free to do stupid things and get away with them.

The children of today are far different than those of the past. It is time to accept that today's children are smarter and they know it. Time passes and everything changes. Take into account these changes and keep up with them.

Kids who bully other kids should be prosecuted, along with their parents. Parents should not bring in a child into this world, leave the parenting to television, video games, and other people, and then blame them for their child's bad behaviors.

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