

**EAR Committee**

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**From:** DADASF@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2016 1:01 PM  
**To:** EAR Committee  
**Subject:** Jan, 26, 2016, EAR Committee, AgTourism Bill.

Aloha,

My name is David Asher, and my wife and I own two ag properties.

One is a 2 1/3 acre property in Haiku, Manawai Farms, LLC where we have a limited farm operation in place including several plant and tree nurseries, a goat pasture, and a 20 kW FIT (Feed In Tariff) PV solar array that sells the electricity produced to MECO (not used by the house on the property).

The other property is up in Kula, Silver Tree Farm, where we now live. Its 5 acres of mixed ag use including protea, mac nut, banana and other fruit trees.

We have researched how best to improve and expand the ag production on these properties, and so often we have been told that its economically very difficult at best to make a go of doing anything more than what we have been doing.

We strongly support this bill as a way to provide legal means for ag property owners who want to set up or are already using their land for ag purposes to be able to subsidize and augment those operations. Time and again we have spoken with experienced, hard working people who have tried to eek out a living by doing farming, any and all types of farming, who after a period of time have had to give up due to the difficulty of making even a minimal return on their investment in time and materials. These have included experienced farmers, who actually want to be farming above all else, but have given up. If opportunities existed to be able to use their ag lands in new and creative ways that would help support their farming efforts, a large percentage of this type of person would choose to continue to make the effort to farm their own or other peoples ag lands.

Mahalo - David Asher