

**From:** "sng@kauaiunitedway.org%inter2" <sng@kauaiunitedway.org>  
**Subject:** tree farm crop insurance  
**Date Sent:** 11/15/2005 02:26:47 CST  
**Date Received:** 11/15/2005 02:28:37 CST

---

To: U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns

Aloha, Secretary Johanns-

Hawaii Congressman Ed Case suggested I contact you to seek your help in extending federal crop insurance to tropical hardwood tree farms such as my small, three-acre one. Private insurance is not available.

It is in everyone's interest that tree farms thrive. They should provide retirement income for small, part-time farmers like me. They re-forest the land and benefit the environment in many ways including purifying the air, decreasing soil erosion and creating wildlife habitats. They provide a spur to local economies and create woodworking jobs when the trees are harvested. And trees are beautiful!

My trees are only four years old, and as much as I would hate to start over, it would not be financially devastating for me to do so if I lost them at this time. However, if a hurricane were to destroy my tree farm in five or ten years, a huge investment would be lost and my future security would be seriously jeopardized. I need insurance, but it is simply not available.

It seems to me that it would be a perfect use of federal authority to extend crop insurance for this purpose. We are not asking the federal government to give us anything; we are willing to pay the cost of insurance. We simply ask the federal government to use its authority to help us spread the risk among a large pool. I hope you will use your considerable resources to help us. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,  
Scott N. Giarman  
P.O. Box 829  
Kilauea, HI 96754