

From: "lynhowe1946@yahoo.com%inter2" <lynhowe1946@yahoo.com>
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Email: lynhowe1946@yahoo.com

FirstName: Geoff

LastName: Rauch

Address1: P.O. Box 327

Address2:

City: Pahoa

State: Hawaii

zipcode: 96778

Question1: New farmers entering could be subsidized for the higher land prices. I fell this would have more long term, beneficial results than using subsidy money to pay for "surplus" crops. We really should not allow our best farmlands to be speculated on, paved over or built on, which takes the land out of production for the future.

Further COMMENTS: FARM BILL FORUM

Thank you for including the Big Island of Hawai`i as part of your ?farm bill listening tour.? As eastside contact for KYFA (Know Your Farmer alliance), and unable to attend the Kona meeting, I respectfully submit the following comments.

Please consider the growing dependency, and thereby vulnerability, of American communities? too often distant supplies of nutritionally inferior, chemically farmed food. Due to governmental policies and with exceptions, the economic impossibility of buying and farming ?local? land profitably, most communities, including those in Hawai`i, cannot support basic food self sufficiency. I hope the farm bill will support and enhance all efforts to protect all farmland (especially near towns) and help in every way possible small, diversified, non-chemical farmers who are becoming the backbone of healthy and earth friendly local food production and therefore, local food security.

The constant emphasis on production rather than quality in research budgets is bankrupt and bankrupting to farmers. Study after study is finding diversified, ecologically grown food is as productive or more so than conventional, soil impoverishing methods promoted for ?surplus farming.? We who farm and garden on a human scale do not need or want genetically modified food solutions to exacerbate the already unconscionable agricultural separation from the natural world. We understand fully the negative effects of ?free trade? on small farmers the world over and can only look forward to that nonpolitical day when farming for the health of people and the health of the earth are everyone's farm bill priorities.

Mahalo,
Geoff Rauch
P.O. Box 327 Pahoa, HI 96778

Question2:

Question3:

Question4:

Question5:

Question6: