

From: [Debi](#)
To: [Planning LPC Testimony](#)
Subject: Bill 147
Date: Thursday, June 25, 2026 3:50:31 PM

Dear Leeward Planning Commission,

My name is **Debi Cary** and my family has been in Hawaii since the late 1800's and has paid taxes here for over 100 years.

I have many beefs as to how our government uses them but that is not why I am writing.

Hawaii has been home for my family and has been good to us. We are very grateful.

My husband, Bob and I are now retired at **79 and 74** and have created a farm on 5 acres in Ho'omalua on Alii where we reside.

He managed the Field Operation for Kona Queen Co. in Kona for almost 35 years, raising queen bees to export all over the world.

I wish I could say farming was a moneymaker for us here, and most farmers just make ends meet, we don't at farming. We raise sheep for meat for our own consumption, to keep the grassland managed, and as a fire protection. We actually do agriculture on Ag land.

We raise chickens and use all our eggs for ourselves and our guests. I used to breed Labrador Retrievers and Labradoodles. Not a moneymaker unfortunately! I make beeswax candles and we used to sell honey.

We have 2 nice separated room suites a part of our house we use for Airbnb. Bob loves to be hospitable and meet people from all over the world here.

Airbnb has been our income for our retirement and we have put a lot into it to make it special for us and others.

HOUSING SHORTAGES created by airbnb? No, as was shown in the recent TAR impact study. We have several rentals in town and have wonderful longterm renters but that was not always so.

We have had terrible renters that did not pay and welfare would not disclose where they moved to when I finally got them out! I was out 3 months rent and had lots of damage to repair. I will not rent out my home for that to happen to anyone long term now!!!!

The laws have changed to make it almost stupid to rent since the renters have you over the barrel to collect rent or kick them out, and then the damage that costs thousands to repair!

It is not vacation rentals that have made rents so high it is real estate cost and the building dept. process's red tape! Our kids growing up here cannot afford to buy their own home!

Land taxes keep going up as well as insurances and utilities making living on a fixed income harder and harder.

People who live here are being priced out of their inheritances and legislatures just vote themselves raises.

We are a mom and pop bussiness and need to have the income from sharing our home with visitors.

VACATION RENTALS pay state and county a lot of tax revenue now!!! Then they get penalized with higher land tax too! Why would you want to destroy the cash cow? Hotel bussiness in on it? We have paid taxes on our airbnb for about ten years now faithfully. I am not real happy how you are spending those tax dollars! Why don't we have a say on it? We employ gardeners, plumbers, electricians, pool cleaners, house cleaners in our little bussiness and our guests eat at restaurants, buy groceries, rent cars, do the tourist things.

Do you really think it is a good idea to stop it by over regulationing? Now there is another registration cost! Please give us a break from killing us slowly with taxations!

Yes, stop the vacation party houses in rural family areas where people need quiet by 10:00. Yes, give farmers a break to have a farm experience for visitors to stay in. Yes, give kamaaina a break. No, to managed vacation rental in residential areas by non resident owners. No, to hiring more gov. workers to monitor all this instead of building low income housing with all that tax money. Yes, to simple registration to weed out the bad eggs.

Don't penalize the residents who just trying to get ahead. There are too few places that take care of old people here. Let us take care of ourselves.

Thank you,
Bob & Debi Cary