

LATE TESTIMONY

Kula Community Association
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The vision of the Kula Community Association is to preserve open space, support agriculture, maintain a rural residential atmosphere, and to work together as a community. The specific purpose of this association is to improve the quality of life for the residents of Kula, to promote civic welfare, and generally to benefit the community of Kula.

**Testimony before the Economic Development
& Business Concerns Committee**

DATE: Friday, April 4, 2008
TIME: 9:30am
PLACE: Conference Room 325

TO: The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chairman and the Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair

Testimony on behalf of HCR 353

Urging the counties to adopt and implement gray water recycling programs for residential purposes as provided under the uniform plumbing code standards.

The Kula Community Association thanks you for providing us the opportunity to testify on behalf of HCR 353. Our Association's water position states the need for a consistent supply of water for domestic and agricultural use. This year mandatory water cutbacks in Upcountry Maui resulted in hardships for many residents. Had a gray water system been in place the water shortage and its economic consequences would have been less severe. Upcountry residents farming their land produce food exported statewide and flowers (especially protea) exported state and worldwide. Ornamental crops do not require expensive potable water and gray water would go a long way towards meeting all of their irrigation needs. If a gray system had been in place this summer, more water would have been available for domestic use and food production. Moreover, the economic impact felt by farmers producing ornamental crops would have been non-existent.

Gray water systems also reduce the operation and capital costs of sewage treatment facilities. Our islands' sewage treatment plants are in need of expensive repairs and upgrading. Establishing gray water systems can reduce these costs by reducing the amount of sewage flowing into treatment plants. While the Honolulu sewage treatment system failure in 2006 may have been inevitable, had a gray water recycling system been in place the damage would have been less severe and may have even been avoided. With a gray water recycling program in

place, some of the sewage diverted into the Ala Wai could have been used instead for the productive purposes of watering lawns and trees. Our population continues to grow and it is our responsibility to prevent environmental disasters by putting common sense environmental measures into law.

The provisions of the resolution encourage all of the counties to act responsibly. They provide benefits to all residents and local farmers forced to use potable water. They also spell out the necessary standards for gray water systems and dispel the myth that gray water is unhealthy. To the contrary, gray water systems have a proven history of being safe and environmentally necessary. Our Association urges your committee to pass this resolution and encourage our counties to develop gray water recycling programs.

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