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## COMMITTEE REQUEST COPIES FOR PUBLIC HEARING

<b>Committee:</b> HED	<b>Date:</b> 02/10/11
<b>Representative:</b> Mark M Nakashima	<b>Phone:</b> 586-6680
<b>Contact:</b> Lori	<b>Fax:</b> 586-6684

### HEARING INFORMATION

<b>Day &amp; Date:</b> Thursday, February 10, 2011	<b>Time:</b> 2:00pm	<b>Agenda # (if applicable):</b>
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### REQUESTING PRINTING of TESTIMONY

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# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
February 10, 2011 at 2:00pm

By

Donald Straney, Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo  
and

Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa  
and

Sylvia Yuen

Interim Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 1496 RELATING TO AGRIBUSINESS

The purpose of HB 1496 is to require the University of Hawai'i to convene a task force to conduct a study on whether an agribusiness cooperative program should be established to:

1. assist local farmers in increasing the distribution of products to large retail establishments; and
2. develop feed mills located in this state to lower farm expenses and minimize the carbon impact of transporting feed imports to local farmers.

The bill also requires a proposal on the means by which the agribusiness cooperative program may be permanently funded through private and public funds and a recommendation on the appropriate state agency or department under which the program should be established.

A thorough study on the above will entail the gathering and analysis of data, which will require resources. However, no resources are provided for the mandates in the bill.

We support HB 1496 provided that funds are available to support the task force and its work, and provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

# LATE TESTIMONY

February 10, 2011

**Committee on Higher Education**

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

To Chairman Scott Y. Nishimoto,

I writing to support the bill, HB 1496, Agribusiness Cooperative Program: UH; Taskforce which requires the University of Hawaii to convene a task force to conduct a study whether an agribusiness cooperative program should be established in Hawaii.

As a local consumer, I always buy and support locally made products from small farmers and their businesses. I am a consistent consumer that wants the products and produce of these small farmers in larger retail establishments. This would benefit the community on several levels:

- It would bring great convenience to consumers that invest and desire local products and produce from small local farmers.
- It would benefit the community by creating local jobs in farming, retail and farmers markets, which are becoming increasingly popular throughout the islands and tourism.
- It would benefit the restaurants that desire and/ or support fresh local produce from small farmers. These restaurants turn to these farms before outsourcing.
- It would benefit the small farming community and the University by bringing new perspective opportunities to the University and the community.
- The small farmers of Hawaii will benefit by the agribusiness cooperative program expanding their business to larger retail outlets.
- The feed mills will benefit the small farmers and inevitably the community of consumers, by keeping the farm expenses low and will minimize the carbon impact
- Through these studies, there will be sharing of more information which will create access, best farming practices, and education between the program, agricultural economics and the small local farmers

The passing of this bill will help establish the small farmers in the vast growing agricultural industries throughout Hawaii. This study will create a multi-faceted effect on the community by providing jobs, education, health and well being, standards and accountability for small farmers and better market for consumers of local products and produce.

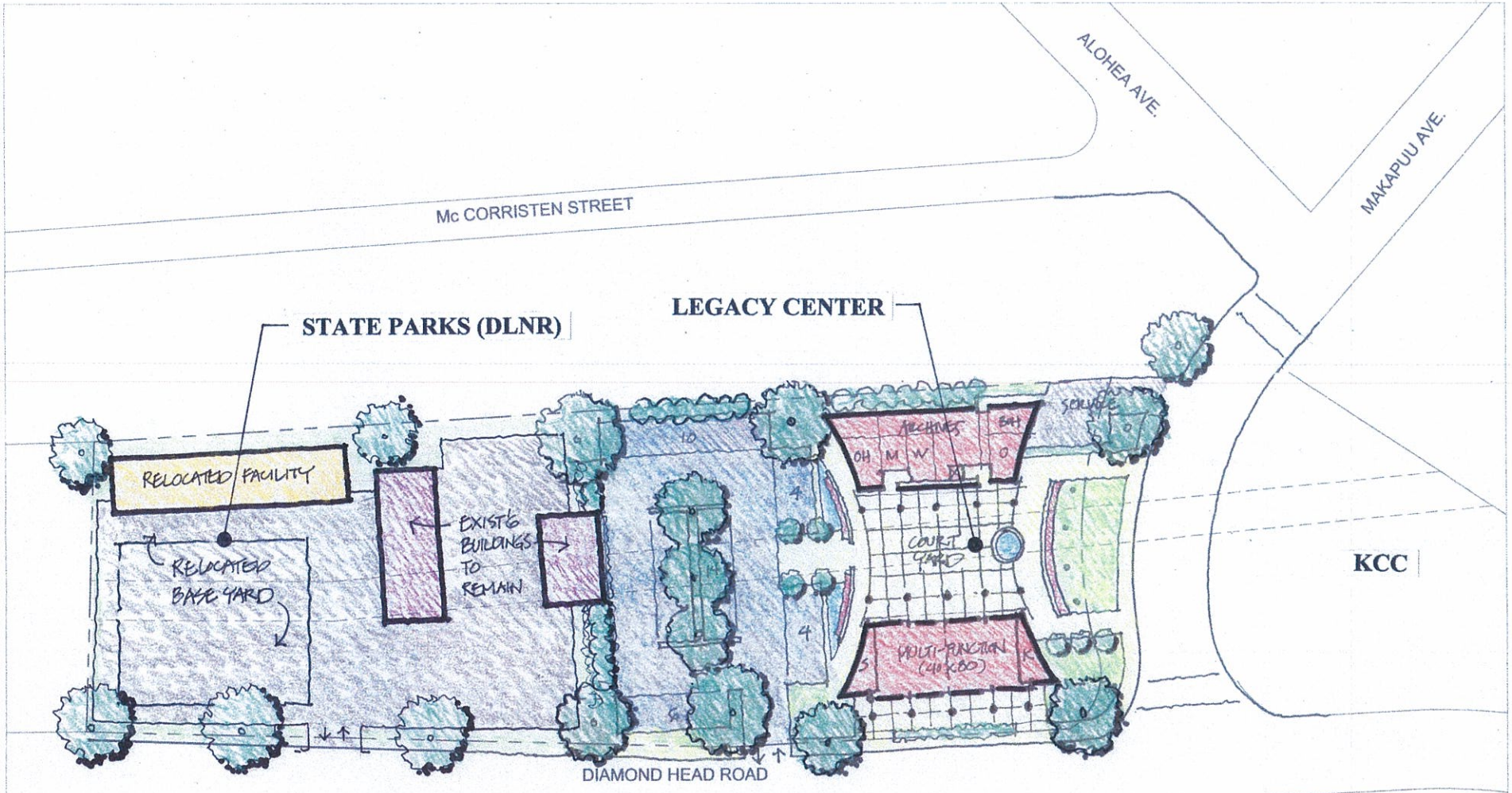
Sincerely,

Jessi DeVera and Shannon Crivello



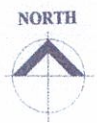
HB 1255  
testimony in support  
provided by  
Wes Deguchi

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