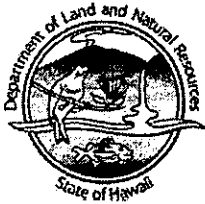


NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
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AQUATIC RESOURCES  
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of**  
**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.**  
**Chairperson**

**Before the House Committees on**  
**ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS**  
**and**  
**AGRICULTURE**

**Wednesday, February 2, 2011**  
**9:30 AM**  
**State Capitol, House Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 378**  
**RELATING TO LANDSCAPING OF PUBLIC FACILITIES**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of House Bill 378 to increase the use of native Hawaiian plants in landscaping for public facilities and offers the following comments.

It is important that the State do what it can to maintain our native plants and animals, and slow the spread and impacts of non-native and invasive plants on our environment. However, not all non-native plants are an immediate and significant threat to our environment. The landscaping and nursery industries use a variety of useful and popular non-native plants that serve a beneficial purpose in our lives, beautify our communities, and would be difficult to replace in short order. Adopting a program to move to greater use of native Hawaiian plants in public facilities is admirable and desirable, but will take time to achieve.

The Department can play a part in this initiative, helping to educate the industry to the damaging impacts of many non-native plants, participate in the community discussion on what are acceptable non-native landscaping plants, and help identify alternative native Hawaiian plants with similar shape, color and growth form that can be used instead.

An equally important part of this initiative should be a shift to the production and use of "Hawaii grown" products for the landscaping industry. This would provide both economic benefits by supporting of our local agricultural and nursery industries, and reduce the risk of importing new diseases and invasive species that come in on foreign and domestic imports.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:27 PM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Cc:** amybrinker@mac.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB378 on 2/2/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB/AGR 2/2/2011 9:30:00 AM HB378

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Amy K. Brinker  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 248 Kaiulani Ave #4 Honolulu, HI  
Phone: 808 230-0085  
E-mail: [amybrinker@mac.com](mailto:amybrinker@mac.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

**Comments:**

Hawaii the endangered species capitol of the world. This bill encourage the propagation of those plants and create job opportunities for native plant nurseries. Inevitably, there will be complaints that only using native plants is "burdensome," but the impact is only burdensome if one wears a blindfold when looking at the future. I strongly support this bill.