



HCR279
REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO TO SEEK GRANT
MONEYS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR STUDYING THE FEASIBILITY OF
INCORPORATING NATIVE HAWAIIAN PLANT SPECIES IN CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

April 4, 2011 10:30 a.m. Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HCR279 because the resolution would promote the use of Native Hawaiian plants in state landscaping.

Requiring the use of Native Hawaiian plants in all state landscaping plans will increase recognition and knowledge among residents about native plants, increase Hawai'i's Native Hawaiian sense of place, promote local businesses and employment, and in some situations decrease the amount of water needed for maintenance. Moreover, as the Native Hawaiian culture is intimately tied to the land and its resources, the perpetuation of native resources protects Native Hawaiian traditions and customs.

A study conducted by the University of Hawai'i at Hilo on the environmental and nutritional needs of different native plants will assure the safety of the plants, and increase efficiency when landscaping. Because of the fragile nature of native plants it is important to determine which species will thrive in certain environments.

HCR279 would put the state at the forefront of promoting the use of Native Hawaiian plants. Hawai'i is well known as the endangered species capitol of the world. Increased access and availability of Native Hawaiian plants may also encourage Native Hawaiian plant restoration and increased management of invasive species, which have had devastating impact on Hawai'i's native ecosystems.

OHA urges the committee to PASS HCR279. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
April 4, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

by

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HCR 279/HR 246 **REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO TO SEEK
GRANT MONEYS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR STUDYING
THE FEASIBILITY OF INCORPORATING NATIVE HAWAIIAN PLANT
SPECIES IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo is fortunate to have a campus whose landscaping has been planned and well-tended. With a degree program in Agriculture, we maintain a broad range of plantings on campus to support student learning in this field. Likewise, our programs in Hawaiian Culture have established plantings representing the plants brought to the islands and used by the original Hawaiian settlers. `Imiloa, our learning center, is dedicated to exploring the interface between science and culture, also has an extensive garden of labeled plants used traditionally in Hawaiian culture.

We are, therefore, pleased to see a resolution that would have us increase the native natural plants on our campus. This is consistent with our current campus initiatives. It will enhance the utility of our campus to students and community alike, while also maintaining the beauty of the campus setting.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.