

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



BRUCE A. COPPA
Comptroller

RYAN OKAHARA
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
BRUCE A. COPPA, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEES
ON
ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS
AND
AGRICULTURE
ON
February 2, 2011

H.B. 378

RELATING TO LANDSCAPING OF PUBLIC FACILITIES

Chair McKelvey, Chair Tsuji, and members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 378.

The Department of Accounting and General Services opposes this bill because this procurement requirement is too restrictive and will be difficult and expensive to maintain.

It is recommended that "wherever and whenever feasible" be re-inserted into the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

From: ERBtestimony
Subject: FW: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB378 on 2/2/2011 9:30:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

-----Original Message-----

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 2:56 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: abaalto@gmail.com
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - 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: anthony aalto
Organization: Individual
Address: 3946 Lurline Dr Honolulu, HI 96816
Phone: 234-9779
E-mail: abaalto@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chairs McKelvey and Tsuji and committee members

As a concerned citizen I urge you to pass House Bill 378

As you are no doubt well aware, more native species in Hawaii face extinction than in any other place on earth

Some of the endangered native plants are stunning and beautiful. To lose them would be to lose a part of our heritage. More selfishly, these endangered species have not all been fully studied for their potential contributions to our pharmacopia.

The state spends tens of thousands of dollars every year for the acquisition and care of plants used to landscape public buildings and highways.

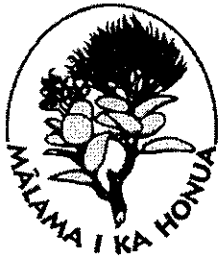
Using native plants in these settings would boost demand and help facilitate propagation and recovery of endangered species. The failure to use native plants in these situations is illogical and shameful.

Native plants can be as hardy and easy to maintain as some of the imported species currently used in public areas and therefore their use should not impose any additional financial burden on the state.

When I visit the state Capitol why am I unable to see a single example of the state flower?

Once again, I respectfully ask you to support HB378

with aloha
anthony aalto



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
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LATE TESTIMONY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 2, 2011, 9:30 A.M.
(Testimony is 3 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 378 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair Tsuji, and Members of the Committees:

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i *strongly supports* HB 378, which requires the use of native plants in state landscaping. This measure would help perpetuate Hawai'i's culture and sense of place, advance the cause of rare plants found nowhere else in the world, and potentially create new local jobs while saving on long-term maintenance costs.

Hawai'i's stunning environment inspires us, nurtures us, and sustains us. Our environment is the foundation of our economy. Too often, though, we take a healthy environment for granted. We assume that our wild places and abundant, diverse life will always be with us. It is a dangerous assumption.

Hawai'i is well-known as the endangered species capitol of the world. With hundreds of plants and animals listed as endangered or threatened, there are more endangered species per square mile on these islands than any other place on the planet.

Hawai'i is also losing the war on invasive species. Some alien species, such as miconia, threaten to destroy watersheds and native ecosystems, jeopardizing freshwater supplies and pushing species to extinction. Other alien species, such as the coqui frog and dengue and its carriers, threaten our health, tourist industry, and our quality of life. As these alien species quickly take over our pristine native forests and coastal areas, we face an ever-growing responsibility to figure out ways to protect our native ecosystems.

That's why our State should be on the forefront of perpetuating and advancing the use of native plants in its landscaping. HB 378 would be a historic, but not unprecedented, first step. Numerous counties across the country like Dade County, Key Colony Beach, Key West, Lee County, Miami, and Scottsdale have all imposed native plant vegetation requirements.

Changes implemented by the legislature approximately ten years ago have already aided efforts to return native plants to the wild. Because of a change in the law, local nurseries can now grow endangered plants and sell them commercially. This policy initiative opened up an entirely new and popular market. Folks are excited to grow native plants like the aiea and ohia in their yard. This success has also translated into a ready supply of plants for conservation and restoration projects.

Our state could take a leadership role in protecting native plants that are at the heart of our culture instead of continuing the tradition of importing alien plants from foreign countries. For example, imagine the State Capitol having our State Flower, the *ma'o hau hele*, planted nearby instead of mainland-hybrids. Or a row of ohia planted along the Pali or Likelike highways?

HB 378 would be an economic benefit for local nurseries. We would no longer rely upon plants shipped in from other countries, which are frequently the source of invasive species, and would instead use plants found only here.

We recognize there are some "first draft" problems with the current language proposed. In order to resolve some of the concerns, we suggest the following revisions:

Proposed Amendments:

(a) ~~Wherever and whenever feasible, a~~[A]ll plans, designs, and specifications for new or renovated landscaping of any building, complex of buildings, facility, complex of facilities, [highway, road] or housing developed by the State with public moneys shall incorporate indigenous [native Hawaiian] land plant[s] species as defined in section 195D-2, and plant species brought to Hawai'i by Polynesians before European contact, such as the kukui, noni, and coconut; provided that:

(1) Suitable cultivated plants can be made available for this purpose without jeopardizing wild plants in their natural habitat;

(2) Wherever and whenever possible, indigenous [native Hawaiian land] plants shall be used for landscaping on the island or islands on which the species originated;

(3) This section shall not apply to the landscaping of sod or turf; and

(4) This section shall not apply to a historic property designated under Haw. Rev. Stat. § 6E.

(b) Each plant or group of plants used pursuant to subsection (a) shall be clearly identified with signs for the edification of the general public.

[(c) For purposes of this section, "native Hawaiian land plants" means any land plant species growing or living naturally in Hawaii without having been brought to Hawaii by humans and any land plant species brought to Hawaii by Polynesians before European contact, such as the kukui, noni, and coconut.]

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

From: ERBtestimony
Subject: FW: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB378 on 2/2/2011 9:30:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

-----Original Message-----

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:35 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: konanuij001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - 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: Jerry Konanui
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Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

From: ERBtestimony
Subject: FW: Testimony for HB378 on 2/2/2011 9:30:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

-----Original Message-----

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:09 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: keokikaloman@aol.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: George Keoki Fukumitsu
Organization: Hui Kalo/Governor's Taro Task Force
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E-mail: keokikaloman@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Have been at other hearings and know that we can come together on all issues for a better Hawaii.

From: ERBtestimony
Subject: FW: Testimony for HB378 on 2/2/2011 9:30:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

-----Original Message-----

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:37 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: caztwin@aol.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: Kanoë Cazimero
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Address: 1519 Nuuanu Ave #26 Honolulu, HI 96817
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E-mail: caztwin@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

I am sorry to have missed the hearing, but as a hula dancer, teacher and being married to a taro farmer I can appreciate any opportunity to expand the use of Native Hawaiian plants within our urban landscape. As our gathering rights have been limited, it is important to include even this aspect of our culture in our contemporary mainstream. If it is visible, available it will thrive. As the things of our aina thrive, so does it's culture, so does it's people.