

Personal Testimony Presented Before
The Senate Agriculture Committee
Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
And
The Senate Higher Education Committee
Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

April 20, 2012

By

Craig I. Okazaki

Support for HCR 104, Relating to the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility

Dear, Chairman Nishihara and Tokuda, and members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Higher Education. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HCR 104, which designates the Magoon Research and Teaching facility site for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). My name is Craig I. Okazaki. I have been employed for the past 27.5 years and have been the Magoon TPSS facility manager for the past 25 years. However, today I am providing my personal testimony.

I support HCR 104, calling for the designation of CTAHR's Magoon Research and Teaching facility at the University of Hawaii as agricultural land to be protected for education and research purposes. My reasons for support of this resolution are personal both as an advocate for Hawaii agriculture industry and the need for hands on training for future students. For the past 27.5 years, I have expended a large portion of time and energy as both a technician and manager to make the Magoon TPSS facility, a 1st class teaching and research facility for faculty, students both Graduates and Undergrads, and for the Hawaii agriculture industry.

Recently, the University has spent 4.2 million dollars renovating all of the glass and shade houses as well as making all buildings ADA compliant. To demolish and rebuild a comparable facility elsewhere might cost UH and the Hawaii taxpayers another 20 to 30 million dollars because instead of being categorized as renovation work, it would be for total reconstruction thus cost would be based on current prices for building and development plans as well as for supplies needed. Not to mention all the current legal guidelines need to be addressed and followed.

In 2008, UH administration commissioned an assessment of 3 sites for future faculty housing. What's upsetting about the assessment is that the newly renovated Magoon facility is on top of that list. Obviously, UH Administration have no regard for the research and teaching conducted at the facility as well as it being a major component of CTAHR's mission to serve the Agriculture industries of Hawaii. I am very disappointed with the UH Administrations plans to demolish the recently renovated 4.2 million dollar Magoon facility for future faculty housing. The 4.2 million doesn't include the funds used to recently demo and upgrade the AC unit at the Small Animal facility and to repair and renovate the roof and 2nd floor of the NREM headhouse

In summary, with this testimony, I am opposed to the UH Administrations plan to demolish the Magoon facility and replace it with faculty housing. As a lifelong State of Hawaii taxpayer, I do not understand how approximately 5 million dollars of our money can be recently used to renovate an important facility as Magoon and a few years later considering to demolish it and possibly causing major damage to future agricultural education, research, and assistance to the Hawaii Agriculture industry. In my humble opinion, this action by the UH Administration should not be allowed to happen especially during these times of the highest economic disorder in Hawaii's history where hundreds of loyal state and university employees got laid off of work due to lack of funding. Finally, I respectfully ask for your support for this resolution to keep the Magoon facility and move any plans for faculty housing to one of the other 2 sites on the assessment of 2008. Aloha & Mahalo.

19 April 2012

Honorable Members of the Senate Agriculture and Higher Education Committees:

I offer testimony in favor of the resolution HCR 104:Urging the University of Hawaii to Designate the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility for CTAHR [and not be used for faculty housing. I am a Professor at the University of Hawaii but am giving personal testimony today.

The Magoon facility represents an irreplaceable asset for student learning. No where else on campus affords our students the opportunity to engage in active, experiential learning in plant and animal sciences. Our students who learn at Magoon are engaged in hands on learn of sustainable practices that will serve our state well into the future.

I find it reprehensible that the tenants of the Manoa faculty housing and the UH Manoa administration would entertain and actively pursue the destruction of the Magoon educational complex when there are so many other options available to address real or perceived needs for faculty housing. I am ashamed of those faculty and university administrators those are so willing to sacrifice student learning opportunities for their own self-serving goals.

Please support the concurrent resolution to designate the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility for CTAHR.

Thank you.

Brent Sipes
1949 Naio St.
Honolulu, HI 96817

Written testimony in support of HCR 104 by Scott Lukas

Senate Agriculture and Higher Education committees.

DATE: Friday, April 20, 2012
TIME: 1:15 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Thank you chairmen and representatives for allowing me the opportunity to testify my support for retaining the Magoon research and instructional facility.

My name is Scott Lukas, I am Ph.D student in the Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences department at UH at Manoa. I earned my Masters of Science degree last year through the University of Hawaii. My masters research experiments were directed at expanding usage of Native Hawaiian plants for Hawaii's roadways. The research accomplished benefits the state of Hawaii, and was conducted at the Magoon research facility. I am just one of many students who's academic pursuits are enabled by the usage of the Magoon.

The Magoon Research and instructional facility represents an invaluable resource for CTAHR, the University of Hawaii, and the entire state.

Research and education activities conducted at Magoon, aligns with the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan created in 2005 by the State legislature. From the 2050 plan, there are 9 intermediate steps to be accomplished for the year 2020, the science and teaching activities conducted at Magoon directly supports 4 of the 9 benchmark priorities.

These steps directly from the sustainability plan are as follows:

Strengthen public education: We accomplish this step at Magoon through college level courses and laboratory sessions and also by providing agricultural learning opportunities and field days for local elementary schools.

Reduce reliance of fossil fuels. The facility houses Research directed at determining potential biofuel species and through breeding development of current biofuel plants.

Create a sustainability ethic. This is accomplished through sustainable agricultural practices being utilized on the facility and being taught to students. Community groups participate in programs designed in raising sustainability awareness and education ranging from vegetable gardening to Native Hawaiian plant restoration.

Increases production and consumption of local foods and products, particularly agriculture.

At Magoon, We have research focused on increasing sustainable farm practices, fruit production, floriculture, native Hawaiian plant usage, turfgrass and landscape training and aquaculture. Which all correlate to supporting and advancing Hawaii's local food, products and industries.

Additionally,

The University of Hawaii at Mānoa is the flagship institution of the UH system, founded as a land grant college under the terms of the Morrill Act of 1862 for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts in the United States. The activities conducted at Magoon help to fulfill the agricultural responsibilities of the University of Hawaii, as a land grant institution.

And Lastly,

I also represent the University of Hawaii Graduate Student Organization. This is a representative body comprised of graduate student members from every academic department at UH Manoa. Recently they voted on, and adopted a resolution supporting the continued activities of the Magoon research facility operations at its current location in Manoa under the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human resources.

To conclude, the points throughout this testimony demonstrate that the Magoon facility benefits a diverse population of individuals throughout the many facets of the State.

I hope that I was able to help convey how deeply I feel about this issue for myself, my colleagues, my community, and the State of Hawaii as a whole. We urge you to support the resolution to preserve the Magoon facility.

Thank you for your time

Personal Testimony Presented Before
the Senate Committee on Education
Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

April 20, 2012
by
Kauahi Perez

Support for SCR 136, Relating to the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility

Chair Tokuda and members of the Senate Committee on Education: Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SCR 136, which designates the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility site for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I am Kauahi Perez, a student in the Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences at CTAHR.

The Magoon site, on which the UH administration is currently considering to develop faculty housing, plays a pivotal role in student learning. This facility is used to hold laboratories through which students in Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences (TPSS) gain valuable hands-on experiences in the field, solidify an understanding of concepts discussed in lectures, and thus gain a deeper appreciation of horticultural and agricultural practices. Such practices include vegetable and flower crop production, plant breeding, plant propagation, weed management, sustainable crop production, plant identification, and other horticultural and agricultural practices. In short, this instructional facility allows students to connect theory to application by serving as an arena for hands-on learning.

In addition to hands-on experience, students also gain experience in conducting research by installing experiments, taking and analyzing data, and presenting their findings. As an undergraduate taking classes in TPSS, I was fortunate enough to have gotten exposure to conducting different kinds of experiments, including plant propagation methods, plant growth regulation, photoperiodism, variety trials, sustainable crop production, and methods of weed management. It is through research experiences such as these that students, like myself, gain a better understanding about how best to manage and produce different kinds of crops.

Magoon is also located in close proximity to the UH Manoa campus, which affords students the ease of access to the facility while alleviating the need for transportation and costs thereof. More importantly, this is the only site that students have available for them to learn.

There is presently a shortage of workers in agriculture. Taking the Magoon Facility away from CTAHR would make it harder for students like me to get the education we need to enter the agricultural field. Unlike faculty housing, which can be located anywhere on O'ahu, the Magoon site is the only possible and the best site for my education. I believe the University should make students' education its highest priority.

In closing, I urge you to adopt SCR 136 to prevent any further planning on developing faculty housing on Magoon, for it is a key component that plays a critical role in preparing our students for their futures in horticulture and agriculture.

Sincerely,

Kauahi Perez

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the Senate Committee on Agriculture
Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
and
the Senate Committee on Education
Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

April 20, 2012
by
Frederika Bain

Support for HCR 104, Relating to the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility

Chairman Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture: Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HCR 104, which designates the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility site for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). My name is Frederika Bain. I am a graduate student at UH-Mānoa and a staff worker at CTAHR. However, today I am providing personal testimony.

I support HCR 104, calling for the designation of CTAHR's Magoon Research and Teaching Facility at UH-Mānoa as agricultural land to be protected for education and research purposes, for the following reasons:

- The Magoon Facility is indispensable for CTAHR's curriculum for training students in practical, hands-on applications of agricultural production and research.
- Its location immediately adjacent to the Mānoa campus and Noelani Elementary School is the only site that allows convenient access to greenhouses, field plots, and small animal facility for instruction and research without disrupting students' daily academic schedules.
- Magoon has unique facilities, unavailable elsewhere at UH-Mānoa, that support research and instruction in plant genetic engineering and small animal surgery.
- Magoon is a site of community outreach and supports elementary students' STEM curriculum.

There are many quantifiable reasons for retaining Magoon for CTAHR's use. But just as important is what may not be so readily quantifiable. It is very important that people not lose contact with the land. Actually having ground that people can plant things in, see them grow, and harvest them, is very important. We cannot underestimate the importance of our connection to the 'aina. There is also a sense of hope and energy at Magoon that is very evident—people are doing things there that are important to them and that they believe in. Please don't take it away from them and from future generations.

I strongly encourage our legislators to support HCR 104 and thereby assist CTAHR in training Hawai'i's future generations of farmers, nurserymen, landscape specialists, and agricultural scientists. Faculty housing does not have to be on that site. Magoon does.

Sincerely,

Frederika Bain

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2012 9:05 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: ehuppman@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR104 on 4/20/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/AGL 4/20/2012 1:15:00 PM HCR104

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elizabeth Huppman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ehuppman@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/20/2012

Comments:

Dear Representatives ,

I received my masters degree in Horticulture from UH Manoa and am now working on completing my PhD in the same department. I am a full time employee at UH Manoa's Lyon Arboretum where I have been a professional horticulturist for more than 20 years.

As a masters student and teaching assistant I used the Magoon facility extensively for laboratory classes and research as did, and do so many other students. My education there has been extremely useful in my professional career. Magoon is within walking distance or an easy bike ride from campus and projects there offer students vital hands on experience working with plants in preparation for working in the real world of professional horticulture, botany, plant conservation, nursery and turf grass management, and agriculture. I can't imagine the departments that use this facility being able to give their students the well rounded education they need for degrees in these areas without Magoon.

The facility also provides critical nursery space for professors who are conducting research that supports the same branches of plant science and Hawaii businesses already mentioned.

Hawaii needs to promote agricultural self sufficiency, the landscape and nursery industry and plant conservation and UH should be providing a first rate education for students interested in these fields. Key to this is an easily accessible laboratory and greenhouse facility. You can't learn everything you need to know about growing plants by reading a book.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Huppman

Personal Testimony Presented to the Senate Agriculture and Higher Education
Committees
April 20, 2012
by
Zachary Carias
Student of Mid-Pacific Institute

Support for HCR 104, Relating to the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HCR 104, which designates the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility site for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). My name is Zachary Carias. I am an interested member of the community.

Magoon Facility is the site of research that directly supports Hawai'i's horticulture, biofuels, sustainable farming, aquaponics, crop protection, and bioremediation. Hawai'i's agricultural businesses contribute millions of dollars to the state economy, and they rely on the contributions of CTAHR's researchers working at Magoon.

Magoon is also the site of important instruction for numerous classes for undergraduates and grad students, students who will be the next generation of ag workers for the state. Hawai'i needs to revitalize its agriculture systems, its food and fuel security, and this can only be done with an educated and experienced workforce. Magoon is a necessary part of providing that education and hands-on experience.

As a high school student at Mid-Pacific Institute I directly benefit from the research at the Magoon Facility. The professors and researchers that work at the facility openly share their findings with our classes. We are direct beneficiaries of Magoon.

I strongly encourage our legislators to support HCR 104 and designate Magoon to CTAHR.

Personal Testimony Presented to the Senate Agriculture and Higher Education
Committees
April 20, 2012
by
Takashi Masuda
Student of Mid-Pacific Institute

Support for HCR 104, Relating to the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HCR 104, which designates the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility site for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). My name is **Takashi Masuda**. I am an interested member of the community.

Magoon Facility is the site of research that directly supports Hawai'i's horticulture, biofuels, sustainable farming, aquaponics, crop protection, and bioremediation. Hawai'i's agricultural businesses contribute millions of dollars to the state economy, and they rely on the contributions of CTAHR's researchers working at Magoon.

Magoon is also the site of important instruction for numerous classes for undergraduates and grad students, students who will be the next generation of ag workers for the state. Hawai'i needs to revitalize its agriculture systems, its food and fuel security, and this can only be done with an educated and experienced workforce. Magoon is a necessary part of providing that education and hands-on experience.

As a high school student at Mid-Pacific Institute I directly benefit from the research at the Magoon Facility. The professors and researchers that work at the facility openly share their findings with our classes. We are direct beneficiaries of Magoon.

I strongly encourage our legislators to support HCR 104 and designate Magoon to CTAHR.

Testimony for EDU/AGL 4/20/2012 1:15:00 PM HCR104

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sharon Weiner
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Weiners001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/19/2012

Testimony for EDU/AGL 4/20/2012 1:15:00 PM HCR104

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Travis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: garciaperreirat@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/19/2012