



LATE TESTIMONY

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February 15, 2011

TO: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Honorable Senator Will Espero, Chair

Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 15, 2011
TIME: 2:45 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 224 State
Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Re: Testimony OPPOSE SB 287

Thank you for your consideration. I have been a landscape contractor in Hawaii since 1977 and have learned to be very cautious in selecting plants. The biggest problems I've had over the years have been when customers do not listen to professional advice from contractors, architects or those involved in the design, installation and maintenance of plants.

This is the problem the City had when installing the native plants at Diamond Head Lookout. The State had a similar problem with the Makapuu Lighthouse, and now less than 10% of the native plants installed are alive. Volunteers, although well intended, planted native plants along Waimanalo Stream; the original planting extended as far as the eye could see. The current planting flanks the sign, an area of about 4 square feet.

By legislating the type of plants to be used, there is no one responsible for the projects success. I encourage you to look at these 3 projects, and I would be happy to take you personally at your convenience.

Please don't waste our limited resources on plants that don't grow.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Mulkern, President
Kevin J. Mulkern, A Licensed Landscape Contractor, Inc.