# SCR 136 Late Testimony

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### STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

Before the Senate Committee on **AGRICULTURE** 

Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:45 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 229

### In consideration of SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 136 URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO DESIGNATE THE MAGOON RESEARCH AND TEACHING FACILITY SITE FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Senate Concurrent Resolution 136 urges the University of Hawai'i (UH) to designate the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility site for the UH at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. The site is located on Woodlawn Drive in Manoa Valley and is being considered by the UH administration as a possible site for faculty housing. Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports preserving key research facilities at UH while acknowledging UH's authority to designate properties under their jurisdiction for priority uses.

The Magoon Research and Teaching Facility currently houses green house studies on plant pathogens affecting koa and 'ōhi'a, the two most important native forest tree species in Hawai'i. Such research is essential for managing natural resources, specifically native forests.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Graduate Student Organization

Presented to the UHM Graduate Student Organization General Assembly Meeting on February 23, 2012
The Graduate Student Organization adopted the Following resolution with:
53 votes in favor
4 opposed
6 abstentions

# RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RETAINING THE MAGOON RESEARCH AND TEACHING FACILITY FOR CTAHR'S RESEARCH, INSTRUCTION, AND EXTENSION FUNCTIONS

WHEREAS, the UH-Mānoa administration, in an open meeting on 11/23/2011, has identified the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility, located at 2717 Woodlawn Drive, as a one of two sites for faculty housing; and

WHEREAS, following the purchase of the land, the February 1967 University of Hawai'i Mauka Mānoa Campus Long Range Development Plan identifies Parcel B (the current Magoon Facility site) as serving as the site for various activities of the College of Tropical Agriculture (presently known as the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, or CTAHR); and

WHEREAS, some of CTAHR's core programs have been conducted at the Magoon Facility for approximately 40 years and cannot be located elsewhere because of the facility's unique geographic location and the agricultural research data and evaluations which have been collected and continue to be needed on this particular site; and

WHEREAS, CTAHR'S research conducted at the Magoon Facility on fruit, flower and biofuels breeding, floriculture; bioremediation; crop protection, aquaponics; sustainable fruit and vegetable production, animal science other areas that support Hawai'i's agricultural businesses, which contribute millions of dollars to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the close proximity of the Magoon Facility to the Mānoa campus allows it to serve as an important field site for both graduate and undergraduate students' research projects and enriches the learning experiences of students enrolled in 24 CTAHR courses; and

WHEREAS, CTAHR's educational outreach has supported the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education of Noelani Elementary School students and other K-12 students statewide through agriculture and provided orientations and training to industry organizations, senior citizens and community members; and

WHEREAS, the UH-Mānoa administration recently expended more than \$4.2 million to renovate and upgrade buildings and greenhouses on the Magoon Facility; and

WHEREAS, the UH-Mānoa administration contracted a 2007 feasibility study conducted by Helber Hastert and Fee for \$5.86,000 in which the Magoon Facility site was identified as one of four possible sites for faculty housing, but CTAHR administrators and faculty were not consulted on the matter; and

WHEREAS, the UH-Mānoa administration plans to issue another feasibility study on the Magoon Facility site for faculty housing which will cost up to \$800,000; and

WHEREAS, the UH-Mānoa administration has not contracted an Environmental Impact Statement on the feasibility of demolishing the Magoon Facility and bringing it into compliance for residential housing, which study, if conducted, would prove that this would be a difficult, costly, and time-consuming process, owing to the nature of some of the research done there; and

WHEREAS, there are other sites that can be used for faculty housing which will not violate the intended use upon which the Magoon Facility site was acquired and will not harm or impede the important research, instruction, and Extension programs that are vitally important to CTAHR's students and faculty and to Hawai'i's agricultural industries that are housed there;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the UH-Mānoa Graduate Student Council requests that UH-Mānoa administration remove the Magoon Facility site as a possible site for faculty housing and retain this site for CTAHR's research, instruction, and Extension functions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UH-Mānoa Graduate Student Council requests that the CTAHR Faculty Senate and the UH- Mānoa Faculty senate adopt a resolution calling for the UH-Mānoa administration to retain the Magoon Facility site for CTAHR's research, instruction, and Extension functions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to UH Board of Regent members, the UH President, UH-Mānoa Chancellor and Vice Chancellors, CTAHR administrators and faculty, and UHM Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Personal Testimony submitted to the Senate Committee on Agriculture,

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chairman and
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair and
The Senate Committee on Education,
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair and
Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair



Ву

### Jari Sugano

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

My name is Jari Sugano a resident of Miliani, Hawaii. I am an Extension Agent and Tenured faculty member of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. My responsibilities include providing education and research support services to Hawaii's commercial farmers and producers.

This is personal testimony in Support for SCR 136, pertaining to the designation of the CTAHR's Magoon Research and Teaching Facility at UH Manoa as agricultural land to be protected for education and research purposes. This does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii or of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

As a faculty member of UH CTAHR, I have witnessed the impact of services delivered from the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to Hawaii's producers first hand. These services has enabled growers to increase the production quality and remain sustainable agribusinesses. The guidance received from the College is based on experimental information in Hawaii and is thus extremely valuable for growers in Hawaii.

The Magoon site in Manoa Valley is important for screening small scale units of different crops, for maintaining the genotypes of papaya, anthurium, countless orchid hybrids, landscape stock plants and other fruits such as new guava cultivars, kava and cacao. Stock plants for the testing of pathogens are kept at the Magoon location and are a vital source of new information to growers, as plant pathologist test new pathogens gathered from diseased plants. Experiments to screen environmentally friendly chemicals are also conducted at that site, reducing the number that need to be field tested. Seeds are also screen for seed borne pathogens and tested for susceptibility to soil fungi in large pot tests. These types of testing helps growers to identity the pathogens in their fields.

The College needs the Magoon location for the research it is conducting on many commodities for Hawaii's growers. Having a location near campus makes small tests efficient to conduct and also economical in terms of travel time and cost. Experiments on sustainable agricultural practices are also being conducted at the Magoon site that will position our State for the future.

For these reasons, I support SCR 136 to keep the Magoon location in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Personal Testimony Presented Before
The Senate Committee on Agriculture
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
and
Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Dr. Janice Y. Uchida



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

My name is Janice Y. Uchida and I am an associate professor at UH Manoa. However, today I am providing personal testimony.

I support Senate Bill 136 calling for the designation of CTAHR's Magoon Research and Teaching Facility at UH Manoa as agricultural land to be protected for education and research purposes, for the following reasons:

I have a research program that is focused on fungal pathogens. These parasites cause the most diseases and are especially severe in the tropics. The crops that I work on represent almost all industries in Hawaii, including papaya, taro, vegetables, orchids, landscape plants, corn, basil, koa, ohia, and nearly all plants grown in Hawaii.

My program is supported by a diverse agricultural base as we help growers to identify what is killing their crops and how to address these fungal parasites. We develop sustainable disease control programs as well as the commonly applied chemical controls to protect the plants. We also work to control invasive pathogens such as the rust that has infected ohia (*Metrosideros*) and we develop international programs to monitor the movement and introduction of these new pathogens.

I spend much time working with growers to help them identify difficult to solve disease problems. Once we identify the causal agent, we can develop strategies to control them. Thus identification of the pathogen is the key.

I also teach Environmental Sciences and it is my goal to get students engaged in their environments. We take the students out to the beach to collect invasive algae and donate the over one ton of algae to the SOFT program or to elementary schools for compost development. We take student up to the Manoa Valley stream to work on cleaning up the banks and planting native plants. We also teach students how to propagate native plants. Students love these experiences and learn scientific concepts by these activities.

The Magoon facility is crucial to my program. We need to grow all of the clean plants to enable us to inoculate with pure cultures of the suspect pathogens to confirm the causal agent of disease. Our orchid program houses thousands of slow growing plants that are needed for pathogenicity tests and for screening new environmentally friendly fungicides. Students also walk to the greenhouses to propagate native plants and other students are engaged in independent research to begin their scholastic endeavors as young scientists. Thus, students have access to laboratory equipment (microscopes) and also a site for field testing of their pathogens. This is extremely valuable.

This site is also extremely important to the graduate students who, mostly do not have automobiles and must walk to the greenhouses. The plants they work on are grown at the Magoon location and almost all tests they conduct are done there also. The proximity of the greenhouses is tremendously important to their studies as plants must be monitored daily.

I also work with growers in sustainable agricultures and we can conduct large pot tests of biocontrol agents, compost mixes of different ingredients to test small scale units to determine how effective these treatments are, at the Magoon site. Successful treatments are then moved to the grower's field. This saves an enormous amount of time and funding, by preselecting the treatments.

The Magoon site will also house a future Master Gardeners Program which will engage the community in its activities. I am currently involved with the Instruction of Master Gardener's at the Pearl City Urban Garden Center and it has developed into a highly successful community program.

I strongly encourage our legislators to support SCR 136 and thereby assist CTAHR in training Hawaii's future generations of farmers, nurserymen, landscape specialists, and agricultural scientists. It also serves as a strong community base with its service to elementary schools and the future home of the Manoa Master Gardener's Program.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Personal Testimony submitted to the Senate Committee on Agriculture,

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chairman and
Senator Gilbert Kahale, Vice Chair and
The Senate Committee on Education,
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair and
Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair



By

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Norman Nagata 45 Kai Place, Paia, HI 96779

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

I am Norman M. Nagata, a resident of Paia, Maui, Hawaii. I am currently a Horticultural Extension Agent on Maui and formerly an Agricultural Researcher (on Maui and Oahu) with the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources (CTAHR) for over 25 years. I have also been employed by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture on Oahu for more than 5 years as a Plant Pathologist.

I have been successful in gaining these employment opportunities due to the education that I have received at CTAHR. Most importantly, the Magoon Research Facility has been invaluable for my work towards my Masters degree. Without its greenhouses, I would not have been able to conduct the numerous experiments that were required to satisfy this requirement. Having such a facility nearby and within walking distance from campus, makes it very convenient for students to diligently monitor their research projects as part of their educational experience.

Later as CTAHR researcher, I have relied on these greenhouses to conduct experiments on anthurium blight and other ornamental diseases to help these industries solve their problems. In my work as a student and researcher, I have used these greenhouses to grow test plants, conduct plant inoculations to observe disease development, and evaluate disease control measures. As you can see, the Magoon Research Facility has been and still is a critical resource for students and researcher alike. For these reasons, I support SCR 136 to keep the Magoon location in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Thank you for this opportunity to submit my written testify.



We, the petitioners below, would like to express our support for continued use of the Magoon Research and Instruction Facility at 2717 Woodlawn Drive in Manoa Valley by the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). The UH Administration is considering building faculty housing on the current Magoon site.

We the undersigned respectfully request that the UH Administration withdraw consideration of this facility for faculty housing and support the continued use and development of the Magoon facility by CTAHR.

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We the undersigned respectfully request that the UH Administration withdraw consideration of this facility for faculty housing and support the continued use and development of the Magoon facility by CTAHR.

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## **SAVE MAGOON**

We support Faculty Housing but the Magoon facility must be saved for CTAHR instruction, research, and community outreach. Faculty Housing can be placed in alternate sites. We **SUPPORT** the continued use of the CTAHR Magoon facility for our Family Resource Classes in parenting, family development, agricultural science education, and research. Its ideal location close to the UHM campus, makes it possible to offer the community family education activities 3-4 times a week and during the summer with faculty, students, children, families, and other community members.

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241	Krystal Pelayo	5240 Likini St. Hondulu, HI	96818	folan
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2-11-12	Lauren Christensen	Raunen Churfensen			X	
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We, the petitioners below, would like to express our support for continued use of the Magoon Research and Instruction Facility at 2717 Woodlawn Drive in Manoa Valley by the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). The UH Administration is considering building faculty housing on the current Magoon site.

We the undersigned respectfully request that the UH Administration withdraw consideration of this facility for faculty housing and support the continued use and development of the Magoon facility by CTAHR.

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From: Sent: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:37 AM

To:

AGL Testimony

Cc: Subject: Theodore@hawaii.edu

Testimony for SCR136 on 3/27/2012 2:45:00 PM



Testimony for AGL 3/27/2012 2:45:00 PM SCR136

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Ted Radovich
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Theodore@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

### Comments:

The Magoon Research facility is critical to the research, teaching and outreach mission of CTAHR, the founding college of UH. As an undergraduate ('94) and MSc. student ('00)in CTAHR, the Magoon facility gave me the only opportunity available on campus for hands on horticulture practicum. Since joining the college as faculty in 2006, Magoon has been an essential part of my research and teaching. The Magoon facility has supported hundreds of student credit hours in just the three classes I teach since 2006. When I multiply the value of the facility to my program by all the faculty and students who have and will continue to benefit from Magoon, it is clear to me that the past, present and future value of the facility is immense and immeasurable. The facility should be preserved for the college.

Personal Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

> March 27, 2012 by Jonathan K Kukea- Shultz



Support for SCR 136, 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 SCR 136, which designates the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility site for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). My name is Jonathan K. Kukea Shultz. I am an interested member of the community and a graduate of the University of Hawaii.

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.

With Climate Change and unforeseen threats on the horizon of Hawaii the only way we can be prepared is by having an educated community. Magoon is 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. These educated individuals will allow Hawaii to be better prepared and resilient to future threats to Hawaii.

I strongly encourage our legislators to support SCR 136 and designate Magoon to CTAHR.

Personal Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

> March 27, 2012 By Juliette Budge



Support for SCR 136, 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 SCR 136, which designates the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility site for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). My name is Juliette Budge, and I am an interested member of the community.

I would like to point out to the committee that the process for identifying, and deciding on Magoon as future faculty housing has been flawed. There has been no transparency or solicitation of public participation. Instead, clandestine meetings have been held and decisions have been made based on opaque criteria.

As a Land Use Planner I feel I am qualified to address to the quality of their planning process, and would note that often, when the community is not considered at the beginning of a project, big issues can come up in the development stage that are unexpected (because of lack of due diligence in the initial planning phase) and can be extremely expensive. I think this would be the case with Magoon and thus I strongly encourage our legislators to support SCR 136 and designate Magoon to CTAHR.



2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819 Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272 Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: <u>info@hfbf.org</u> www.hfbf.org



March 27, 2012

# HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SCR 136
URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO DESIGNATE THE MAGOON RESEARCH
AND TEACHING FACILITY SITE FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Room 229 2:45 PM

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Committee:

I am Dean Okimoto, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF is in strong support of SCR 136, seeking to recognize and designate the Magoon Facility as a critical facility for the University.

The competitive edge of Hawaii's farmers lies in innovation. The global marketplace makes it very difficult for the average farmer to compete with traditional products. It's the new, innovative, and original product that captures the market. The Magoon Facility has been a critical part in the development of new varieties for our floriculture industry. Where would Hawaii be without a strong floriculture industry? Hawaii's floriculture industry is much more than a nice to have crop used in bridal bouquets or table top displays. Products developed at the Magoon Facility help to stabilize the revenue base of our farmers growing flowers and foliage that can be sold as import replacements for the local market while exporting to expand not only the farmer's revenue base but contribute positively to Hawaii's economy with exports. Import replacements reduce the risk of invasive species and therefore protect our island, including the agricultural industry.

We respectfully request your strong support of this measure as an investment to Hawaii's future. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

# TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 136 Relating to the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility

Hearing on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 2:45 pm Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Personal Testimony by Kelvin Sewake Presented to: Senate Committee on Agriculture Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair



Aloha! My name is Kelvin Sewake. I strongly support Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR 136 urging the UH to designate the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility site for the UH at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I am currently a UH Manoa CTAHR faculty member, but I am providing this testimony personally.

I have been associated with the Magoon Facility for over 33 years in different capacities and can attest to its value. Its value as a teaching facility cannot be overstated. As an undergraduate of CTAHR, I studied plant science and crop production at Magoon strengthening my knowledge in horticultural practices. As a graduate teaching assistant, I taught many undergraduate students these very same knowledge and skills at Magoon that were taught to me there. The location for student learning is conveniently close enough to the main Manoa campus where it is very accessible. And the relevance of the facility's programs and courses taught there truly enhances student learning critical to future agriculture graduates who will contribute to our state's agriculture industry. These CTAHR students are our future for agriculture!

In my current capacity as a CTAHR County Extension Agent in Floriculture for the past 23 years, I can say that Magoon's value, specifically to the floral and nursery industry alone, is tremendous. Hawaii's Floriculture and Nursery Industry is comprised of 970 farms with a wholesale value of sales of \$75.6 million, making it the second largest agriculture industry in our state. One of the main reasons for the industry's success is due to plant breeding and other vital research that takes place at the Magoon Facility. CTAHR researchers have developed literally dozens of new flower varieties that have broad market appeal that have kept the floral industry competitive in the domestic and international marketplace. The dendrobium orchid industry in Hawaii has grown to become the large commercial industry it is today founded mostly on these UH dendrobium hybrids. Breeding of new flower varieties is still ranked among the highest priority needs which, without a strong breeding program, the floral industry would decline. Other research has focused on numerous problems associated with crop production, and results from research have often been well adopted by Hawaii's farmers, helping to make farming viable and sustainable.

As agriculture is one of the economic engines for Hawaii, we must ensure programs to support it. The Magoon Facility has proven to be one those assets that has contributed to successful agriculture and growth in the state's economy. I urge you to please support SCR 136. Mahalo!!

Kelvin Sewake 1287-A Puhau Street Hilo, Hawaii 96720 Ph: 808-959-6768 Personal Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair



March 27, 2012 by RuthEllen Klinger-Bowen

Support for SCR 136, 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 SCR 136, which designates the Magoon Research and Teaching Facility site for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). My name is RuthEllen Klinger-Bowen. I am an extension agent at UH-Mänoa. However, today I am providing personal testimony.

I support SCR 136, calling for the designation of CTAHR's Magoon Research and Teaching Facility at UH-Mänoa 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 Mänoa 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-Mänoa, 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.

I strongly encourage our legislators to support SCR 136 and thereby assist CTAHR in training Hawai'i's future generations of farmers, nurserymen, landscape specialists, and agricultural scientists.

















