

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
Governor



**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**KEN H. KAKESAKO**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
BUSINESS  
FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2014  
11:00 A.M.  
Room 312**

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 155/HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 116  
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO  
CREATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES FOR THE PERPETUATION AND  
USE OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN PLANTS AND RESOURCES.**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution No. 155 and House Resolution No. 116. These two resolutions request the Department of Agriculture to work with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to promote the perpetuation and use of native Hawaiian plants and resources. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this resolution but believes it is unnecessary, as an ongoing initiative by Hawaii's landscape industry meets the purpose of these resolutions and should be recognized and supported by the Department of Agriculture, the DBEDT, and the residents and businesses in Hawaii.

The Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii (LICH) is a statewide alliance representing Hawaii's diverse landscape trade associations. Since 2008, the LICH Foundation has been promoting the responsible use of native plants in the landscape industry and reversing the decline of native plants via their Native Plant Initiative. Their



goal is 30 percent native species in urban areas within 30 years. The LICH Foundation, with the assistance of the Department of Agriculture, developed and distributed their “Buy Native Plants, It Matters” landscape poster in October 2013, featuring 36 native plants with detailed information on horticultural practices the ethical use of native plants. We believe that initiatives like this will result in a dynamic and responsive private-sector driven model to promote the perpetuation and use of native Hawaiian plants and resources.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity to provide our testimony.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
GOVERNOR

**RICHARD C. LIM**  
DIRECTOR

**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of  
**RICHARD C. LIM**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

before the  
House Committee on Economic Development and Business  
Friday, March 28, 2014  
11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of

**HCR155, HD1/HR116, HD1  
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM  
TO CREATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES FOR THE  
PERPETUATION AND USE OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN PLANTS AND RESOURCES.**

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Ward, and Members of the Committee.

HCR155, HD1/HR116, HD1 urges the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to create economic development initiatives for the perpetuation and use of native Hawaiian Plants and resources.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of this resolution, but we are concerned about the cost implications of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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

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

**JESSE K. SOUKE**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**WILLIAM M. TAM**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**LATE**

**Before the House Committee on  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS**

**Friday, March 28, 2014  
11:00 am  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 155, HOUSE DRAFT 1/  
HOUSE RESOLUTION 116, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO  
CREATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES FOR THE PERPETUATION  
AND USE OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN PLANTS AND RESOURCES.**

House Concurrent Resolution 155, House Draft 1/House Resolution 116, House Draft 1 urges the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to create economic development initiatives for the perpetuation and use of native Hawaiian plants and resources. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department is mandated to conserve, manage, and protect indigenous species, including endangered species, pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 195D. Pursuant to this chapter, an indigenous species means any aquatic life, wildlife, or land plant species growing or living naturally in Hawaii without having been brought to Hawaii by humans. Native is another term for indigenous.

The majority of the plants currently used in landscaping in Hawaii are not native and some of the introduced plants have naturalized and/or become invasive and damaging to native ecosystems. While the Department acknowledges the intent of these resolutions, there are concerns that if native species are not collected, cultivated, and planted in a responsible manner that it could be detrimental to those plants, as well as to natural plant populations occurring in close proximity. The Department advises landscapers to use sustainable and responsible management practices when reintroducing native plants in landscaping settings. Some of the most important issues to consider when planting natives in landscaped areas are:

- 1) It should be well understood what a “native” species is as this is often a topic in which there is some confusion. A species is considered to be native to Hawaii if it arrived here without the aid of humans. There is often discussion and misunderstanding about the difference between native species and Polynesian-introduced species; these are not the same. It is important not to confuse “native” species with “Polynesian introduced” species because some Polynesian-introduced species are known to out-compete native species and even become invasive in some cases. If the goal for these landscaping projects is to benefit our native flora and our understanding of it by planting native species in spaces where the public will be able to observe and learn from them then this distinction should be clear.
- 2) When creating an artificial population it is important to incorporate representative natural genetic diversity to the extent that it is possible. Genetic diversity should be prioritized over uniformity of appearance, which means that large outplanting of clones is not advisable.
- 3) Planting native species in close proximity to wild populations can introduce a risk (e.g. genetic concerns, introduction of plant pathogens/pests, etc.) to those wild populations. The Department would advise landscapers to consider the location of the project and its proximity to natural populations before making decisions about what to plant at a given site and to the best of their ability to know what the source is of the plants they are using in the landscaping project. If there are questions about these topics the Department would advise to consult with the Department for guidance.