

# HB2177 HD1

## HB2177 HD1



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**Measure Title:** RELATING TO COMMUNITY FOOD FORESTS.

**Report Title:** Community Food Forest Program (§)

**Description:** Establishes a community food forest program in the Department of Land and Natural Resources that shall work collaboratively with local government and community organizations to provide sources of healthy food statewide. Appropriate funds. Effective July 1, 2014. (HB2177 HD1)

**Companion:**

**Package:** None

**Current Referral:** WTL/PSM, WAM

**Introducer(s):** KAWAKAMI, AQUINO, AWANA, BELATTI, CACHOLA, CHOY, CULLEN, EVANS, FALE, ICHIYAMA, ITO, C. LEE, MCKELVEY, MIZUNO, MORIKAWA, OSHIRO, SAIKI, TAKAI, TAKAYAMA, TAKUMI, THIELEN, TOKIOKA, WOOLEY, YAMASHITA

<u><a href="#">Sort by Date</a></u>		<b>Status Text</b>
3/4/2014	S	Received from House (Hse. Com. No. 168).
3/4/2014	S	Passed First Reading.
3/6/2014	S	Referred to WTL/PSM, WAM.
3/18/2014	S	The committee(s) on WTL/PSM has scheduled a public hearing on 03-20-14 1:15PM in conference room 225.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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 Committees on  
WATER AND LAND  
and  
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, March 20, 2014  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2177. HOUSE DRAFT1  
RELATING TO COMMUNITY FOOD FORESTS**

House Bill 2177, House Draft 1 proposes to establish a community food forest program and make an appropriation for that purpose. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) would support a pilot project to be determined by the Department and as such, recommends that this measure be amended accordingly.**

- **Forest Stewardship Program.** Through the Forest Stewardship Program, the Department encourages private landowners to invest in agroforestry projects on both privately owned food forest establishment and community managed agroforestry systems. The Kokua Kalihi Valley project on Oahu is an excellent example of a community managed forest that provides forest resources, food and opportunities for the public to engage in forest management.
- **Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program.** The Department also supports the Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program, funded in part by the United States Forest Service, which works with local government, communities and schools to increase and improve management of our urban forests and trees, including food bearing trees. Kaulunani has participated in and funded numerous tree planting projects in local schools, parks; along roadways; and in zoos.

The results from a pilot project could be used as a template in other areas of the State. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

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

**JESSE K. SOUKI**  
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  
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ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of the  
**County of Kaua'i**  
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., Mayor  
4444 Rice Street, Suite 235  
Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766  
Tel: (808) 241-4900; Fax (808) 241-6877

**Re: HB2177 HD1 Relating to Community Food Forests**  
Before a joint hearing of the Senate Committees on:  
**Water and Land**  
**Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs**

March 19, 2014

Aloha, Chair Solomon, Chair Espero and committee members. I write to you today in strong support of the intent behind HB2177 HD1, and would like to submit comments for your consideration.

This bill was inspired by the vision of a young woman from Kaua'i, Talia Abrams, who wishes to see our parks and public places filled with an abundance of fruit-bearing plants that can lead us as a state toward greater food sustainability.

We are currently working with our legislative delegation, including Senator Ron Kouchi, to establish a pilot food forest project on Kaua'i. Our goal is to work closely with Talia and assist in raising the necessary funds so that the viability of this forward-thinking concept can be demonstrated.

Thank you for having a hearing on this bill with the hopes of continued exploration of this concept. Mahalo for your kōkua.

Mahalo nui loa,



Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.  
Mayor, County of Kaua'i

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 19, 2014

**TESTIMONY OF GARY L. HOOSER  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON**

**HB 2177, HD1, RELATING TO COMMUNITY FOOD FORESTS  
Committee on Water and Land  
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Thursday, March 20, 2014  
1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 225**

Dear Chair Solomon, Chair Espero, and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 2177, HD1, which establishes a community food forest program to provide sources of healthy food statewide. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as the Economic Development (Sustainability / Agriculture / Food / Energy) & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Chair and a Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council.

I support this measure as it advances our goal to increase local food production in our communities. Producing healthy food locally that is affordable benefits many local residents who are affected by the high cost of living in our State. Furthermore, this proposal increases our desire to become more sustainable and self-sufficient.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully urge this Senate Joint Committee to unanimously approve this measure. Again, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

**GARY L. HOOSER**  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AB:lc

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2177 on Mar 20, 2014 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 18, 2014 5:28:44 PM

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**HB2177**

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 20, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brad Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 4:41:48 PM

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## **HB2177**

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 20, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Penny Levin	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The practice of food forests is well known throughout the world as a means to provide communities with collective resources for every day life, for celebrations, ceremony and the passing of life. The Chipko Andolan (Chipko Movement) of India, founded on Gandhi's practices of nonviolence and the efforts of women to protect the food forests of their communities, is one of the most famous. Across Southeast Asia, such forest gardens are immensely productive and many are hundreds of years old. Hawaii's tropical climate has the capacity to support food forests. Trees; however, take time. They are intergenerational. This bill calls for a 15yr lease period. If you are planning for trees, plan for a lifetime. I would agree with the Dept of Land and Natural Resources that there are a number of challenges to implementing food forests; including vandalism, or becoming dangerous places for residents and children to be, as well as staff and funding limitations. The opportunity for communities to grow forest gardens is also worthy of implementation. I make the following recommendations to HB2177 HD1: 1) that the program refrain from micromanaging the selection of appropriate species in such forests and allow diversity and individuality to be defined by community members, but rather require that no invasive species or gmo plants be established within any food forests under this program; 2) place more long term commitment for management on the communities that seek leases for this purpose from DLNR. Too often projects get abandoned after a few years and food forest management is a long term effort; 3) require a commitment from the community that the products gathered from food forests are solely for home and community consumption and not for individual or collective income generation; 4) make a distinction between community gardens and community food forests by requiring that trees are a significant part each project and incorporated into a minimum of ten percent of plantings throughout a leased parcel; and 5) that UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Services be the source for guidance and technical assistance in agroforestry and forest gardens rather than the DLNR. Currently UH CES Hawaii Island has a full time agroforestry specialist who is familiar with forest gardening practices, establishment and maintenance. The DLNR Forest Stewardship and Kaulunani programs are geared more towards timber production, native forest restoration and beautifying landscapes rather than orchard crops which would be significant portion of food forest tree species; 6) encourage and support UH CTAHR CES to add a food forest specialist position to each island; 7) allow for the

incorporation of bee hives within food forests to improve food crop pollination and medicinal plants to add to the capacity of communities to care for themselves; 8) that the intention of Talia Abrams to help provide a food resource for the homeless be heard and develop a means for homeless communities to qualify for the planting, maintenance of food forests for direct food benefits provided that they maintain a drug and crime-free project; and 9) that sufficient funding to support DLNR, UH CES and the counties be provided to implement this program.

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**HB2177**

Submitted on: 3/19/2014

Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 20, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strongly Support.

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