

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Friday, February 13, 2015
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 773
RELATING TO COMMUNITY FOOD FORESTS**

House Bill 773 proposes to establish a community food forest program that works collaboratively to provide a source of healthy food. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this bill, but does not feel it is necessary.**

Community food forests or agroforestry systems provide a number of benefits to the public, including increased tree canopy, watershed health, a food source, and contributes to healthy communities through physical activity. House Bill 773 proposes to create a program within the Department focused on the establishment and maintenance of community food forests.

The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife has a number of programs that provide community engagement on State, County, and private lands, such as the State Forest Stewardship Program (FSP), the Federal Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF), the Forest Reserve System (FRS), and other grant funding sources. Several successful community projects include the Kokua Kalihi Valley's food and medicinal gardens on State Park lands funded in part by the FSP & UCF programs, and the Keanae arboretum and lo'i taro garden on forest reserve land on Maui funded by the Hawaii Tourism Authority and the FRS. Through these partnerships the Department is successfully supporting communities with local food resources, discouraging vandalism, and improving health through the active management of these lands.

The Department believes that through these existing programs, the goals for House Bill 773 are being met without creating a new program. If a Food Forest Program is developed the Department notes that funding would be needed for successful implementation and distribution of program goals.

CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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cullen4-Rachele

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 10:46 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: progressive.conservation@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB773 on Feb 13, 2015 10:00AM

HB773

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for WAL on Feb 13, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Eisen	Progressive Conservation	Support	No

Comments: Community food forests are a rational progression from the well-established concept of community and urban gardens, and can provide a creative solution to the growing need for enhanced community resilience.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 4:43 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: hokuokekai50@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB773 on Feb 13, 2015 10:00AM*

HB773

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for WAL on Feb 13, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB773

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for WAL on Feb 13, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rafael Bergstrom	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Aloha Committee on Water and Land, I am happy to voice my strong support for HB 773, promoting the growth and development of urban food forests. Food security is one of our most important issues for the future of Hawaii as we so heavily rely on the outside world to feed our expanding population. Given rapid urbanization we also need to re-invent our cities to include more green space, and by designing these green spaces with food crops we also have the ability to begin the process of returning some of our food production to home. As a society we have become very disconnected from our food sources and the prospect of reconnecting our urban populous to these integral life-systems will do nothing but benefit our collective society. Please consider passing this important bill that will lead to a more sustainable, self-sufficient Hawaii. Cheers!

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LATE

TESTIMONY OF MYLES RITCHIE
Program Intern of The Outdoor Circle

IN SUPPORT TO HB 773
relating to Community Food Forests

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Friday February 13, 2015 10 AM room 325

Since 1912, The Outdoor Circle has worked tirelessly to keep Hawai'i "clean, green and beautiful" for all of our residents and visitors. We recognize the significant need for greenspaces in urban communities.

The enactment of HB 773 would help preserve Hawaii's natural beauty in the form of community food forest. The benefits from this bill would not only be seen through the enhancement of food security for the island's residents, but also from those who use the gardens in the form of mental, physical and emotional improvements. These gardens have the ability to entice the community to come together, establish healthier diets, spend more time connecting with nature and in doing so, helping to offset the negative effects associated with living in an urban area.

As such, The Outdoor Circle supports HB 773 and hopes that the establishment of community food forests begins on the established date of July 1, 2015.

LATE

Aloha, My name is Allen Fanning. I am a Kama'aina from the age of 4. I am a member of the Surfrider Foundation, Hawaii Farmers Union, and Part of the Core Hui of Permaculture Hawaii. I lend my full support to the bill HB 773, that "Establishes a Community Food Forest Program in the Department of Land and Natural Resources to work collaboratively with local government and community organizations to provide sources of healthy food statewide. Appropriates funds."

In this time of shift towards sustainability, localization, and resiliency, we must grow our creative capacity to address our community's needs. This bill would aid in our need to access and grow our own food. We have an opportunity here to reevaluate our approach to the resource that is our public landscape, and introduce a new valuation on our planting schemes. Moving away from purely aesthetic valuations of plants in a landscape to a more holistic approach that, balances aesthetics and functionality (food and other uses of plants).

The potential here is vast and powerful, if you too would lend your support, our community's would have a wonderful avenue for public resource development opened unto them. Mahalo for your time.

Aloha,
Allen