

SB 2967

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

February 10, 2016
3:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

**SENATE BILL NO. 2967
RELATING TO COMMUNITY FOOD FORRESTS**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2967. The purpose of this bill is to establish 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; appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for a comprehensive program. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure as it relates to expanding agricultural efforts of the State.

Agroforestry systems such as community food forests proposed in this measure provide a number of benefits, including diversifying the conservation, development, and utilization of agricultural resources in the State to further provide community engagement, education, and access to locally grown foods.

While the Department of Agriculture supports the intent of developing and utilizing agricultural resources, we believe the Department of Land and Natural Resources is currently engaging in partnerships to develop and manage community projects on State, County, and private lands as interest and funding are identified. Any further creation of larger program development and management will require additional appropriations for continuous management of these resources, critical to protect initial investment, ensure equitable access, and discourage vandalism.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
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

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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE**

**Friday, February 10, 2016
3:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2967
RELATING TO COMMUNITY FOOD FORESTS**

Senate Bill 2967 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 believes it would be more appropriately implemented under the county jurisdiction.**

Community food forests provide a number of benefits to the public including increased urban tree canopy, watershed health, a food source, as well as contributes to healthy communities through physical activity. The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife has a number of programs that provide community engagement across the State to manage forest lands, such as the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP), Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF), and Forest Reserve System (FRS). Several successful community projects include the Kokua Kalihi Valley's food and medicinal gardens on State Park lands funded in part by the FSP and UCF programs, and the Keanae Arboretum and lo'i taro garden on forest reserve land in 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 community management of these lands.

The Department believes that through these existing programs, the goals for Senate Bill 2967 are being met without creating a new program. However, if a Community Food Forest Program is developed the Department believes the counties would be better equipped to implement and oversee the program goals.



Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Hawai'i Center for Food Safety Supports SB2967: Relating to Community Food Forests

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Ashley Lukens and I am the Hawai'i Director for the Center for Food Safety (CFS). CFS is a nationwide public interest, sustainable agriculture nonprofit organization whose mission centers on furthering the public's right to know how their food is produced, through labeling and other means. We have over 750,000 farmer and consumer members across the country, including nearing 10,000 in Hawai'i. On behalf of CFS and our members, I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today regarding this important bill.

CFS has been dedicated to addressing the human health and environmental impacts of our increased reliance on pesticide use in food production, both in the State of Hawai'i and nationally. We were instrumental in providing legal and communications support in the passage of numerous ordinances relating to pesticide use and disclosure, such as Kaua'i's Bill 2491. Since 2014, as the inaugural director here in Hawai'i, I have worked closely with community members across the state, in all counties, and have played an instrumental role in the passage of Maui's moratorium on GE production until companies submit environmental and public health impact assessments.

I am writing in support of SB2967, which 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.

Formal food forests would benefit Honolulu by creating more available food for low income families, combat climate change, and create a healthier city. Food forests are a form of perennial polyculture, as opposed to monoculture. As the Center for Food Safety, we strive for a world of polycultures, a world where multiple crops cover fields or small plots of land. Benefits of polycultures are an increase in biodiversity, decrease in plant disease, decrease in pests, and a more consistent harvest.

Food forests have a positive impact on a city's economy through storm water management, urban heat island effect, and products produced. Increasing the amount of pervious surfaces is shown to increase water quality and groundwater rechargeⁱ. Urban heat island effect can be reduced through planting trees which provides shade and evapotranspiration coolingⁱⁱ. The most obvious benefit of food forests are the production of products including food, wood, and medicinal plants.

Food forests benefit the environment through improved air quality and biodiversity, both which combat climate change. An increase of trees in an urban environment results in a decrease of air pollutantsⁱⁱⁱ. An increase in biodiversity leads to a more stable and resilient ecosystem^{iv}. After being called the ‘extinction capital of the world’, Hawai’i would benefit from more native plant growth, especially to combat invasive species.

Finally, food forests would benefit the local community through education opportunities, food security, and human health^v. A food forest is meant to have multiple layers of growth and take very minimal upkeep. If executed correctly, the forests would act exactly as a forest would act and self-regulate. Meaning, this type of community growth would have minimal maintenance costs.

Increasing food-producing vegetation in the city would benefit our economy, ecosystems, and social welfare. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any follow up questions or provide additional analysis.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Lukens', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ashley Lukens
Director, Hawai’i Center for Food Safety

ⁱ Bartens, J., S.D. Day, J.R. Harris, T.M. Wynn, J.E. Dove. 2009. Transpiration and root development of urban trees in structural soil stormwater reservoirs. *Environmental management* 44:646–657.

ⁱⁱ EPA (2016). Heat Island Colling Strategies. <http://www.epa.gov/heat-islands/heat-island-cooling-strategies>

ⁱⁱⁱ Currie, B. A., and B. Bass. 2008. Estimates of air pollution mitigation with green plants and green roofs using the UFORE model. *Urban Ecosystems* 11:409–422.

^{iv} Colding, J. 2007. “Ecological land-use complementation” for building resilience in urban ecosystems. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 81:46–55

^v Lee, A. C. ., and R. Maheswaran. 2011. The health benefits of urban green spaces: a review of the evidence. *Journal of Public Health* 33:212–22.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: Alana.Ross@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 3:14:13 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
AlanaRoss	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this Bill. This is a worthwhile project to create more food for our island. This will also help push out invasive species such as African Tulip and make way for food to thrive on our island. Thank you for supporting this bill. Alana Ross, Hana

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: rustysfarm@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 2:10:00 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Astrid	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is a great idea. Please do it!

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 1:44:48 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this Bill as long as there are NO GE crops included in the list of trees and plants to be planted. Mahalo,

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Cc: Benjitheshammy@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 2:28:24 AM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Hambright	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Food growing everywhere? Yes please!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: brandonensworth@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 8:33:10 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
brandon ensworth	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It looks like a really good program.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: osiahj13@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 8:46:44 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carlthron Antoine	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I think this bill is a great idea which will add a great level of uniqueness to out island home.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: lavendoulalove@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Sunday, February 07, 2016 1:02:51 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darby Partner CPM LDM	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I would like to voice my support for this bill. Please support this important bill. Local, fresh, health whole foods are so very important to the health and sustainability of the people of the Hawaiian islands. As a mother, midwife and gardener, this is very important to me. I urge you to support this bill. Mahalo

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: dave@digestionperfection.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 1:13:34 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Klein, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am fully in favor of food forests.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: ihemphi@live.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 3:12:53 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Key	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: whoru@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 12:16:34 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: info@beyondorganicresearch.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 10:09:19 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Jana Bogs	Individual	Support	No

Comments: These systems must be managed organically. (Please include wording in the bill.)

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: akamaimom@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 1:33:33 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please SUPPORT SB2967 for community Food Forests on state land that is appropriately placed and can be supported by local groups and organizations. Having been a central part of the Kauai Food Forest, we see that it both thrives and works well, as well as needs care and cultivation in its earlier stages of life. If people take care of it, it will fee the people as has been the case for millennium in Polynesia and around the world. If it goes un-cared for, the pigs are likely to consume it in its early life. My yard is a small food forest and it yields an incredible amount of food; more than I need. Utilizing permaculture methods and the right plant selection, this is possible without irrigation. (Fencing is a good idea to keep the pig competition out.) Thank you for considering this option to help supply food for the people in a healthy and resilient manner. Felicia Cowden Kilauea Kauai

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: glkauai98@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 9:03:45 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gabri	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: jamesrackstraw1@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 9:05:04 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Rackstraw	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This proposal is beneficial in multiple ways. 1) Provides free healthy food for low income people who have difficulty affording store bought food. 2) Animal agriculture is the leading cause of water depletion, species extinction, global warming, ocean "dead zones", suffering, and death worldwide. This proposal would replace meat, dairy, and eggs that might have been otherwise consumed with plant based alternatives which are infinitely more sustainable and cruelty free. If anyone doubts me on my grandiose statements on animal agriculture I suggest watching the movies Cowspiracy and Earthlings. 3) This proposal would naturally bring folks together to the gardens, and thereby give more of a sense of community and socialization.

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: wubryant71@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 8:55:12 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jin Wu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: kate31999@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 7:39:11 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katarina Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Please support this bill and strengthen our community and local resources. Hawaii imports 85% of food. That is unsustainable and we have an opportunity to change that. Let's leave a good legacy to the next generation. Mahalo, Katarina Culina Po box 2142, Pahoa, HI 96778

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: kristenmartinek@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:25:07 AM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Martinek	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: manulea3432@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 8:52:16 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
manu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: mmaitino@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 9:29:54 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Maitino	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support SB2967. Community Food Forests on state land that is appropriately placed and can be supported by local groups and organizations is a critical part of a communities sustainability. Not everyone is able to grow their own food on their own land, but they CAN participate in a community endeavor to help supply food for the people. Thank you, Maria Maitino Kilauea

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: marie.janiszewski@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:12:30 AM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marie janiszewski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: markolson68@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 9:34:42 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mark olson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please SUPPORT SB2967 for community Food Forests on state land that is appropriately placed and can be supported by local groups and organizations. Having been a key player in the development and maintenance of the Kauai Food Forest, I'm intimately familiar with how well it works and how it also needs care and management during its early stages. Thank you for considering this option to help supply food for the people in a healthy and resilient manner.

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Cc: mblazak@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:56:23 AM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Blazak	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In support of SB 2967 being heard by WLA on 2/10/16 at 3:30 PM in Conference Room 224 Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee, I am writing in strong support of SB 2967, which would establish a food forests program for the state. Food forests would contribute significantly to community sustainability by providing locally-produced healthy food to those who cannot otherwise afford it. Indeed food forests provide a solution to the problem of increasing food costs and the dwindling availability of undeveloped land. By identifying and utilizing public lands, particularly those near existing community gathering places such as parks and community centers, to create community food forests that adopt edible landscaping concepts, the State may be able to provide additional sources of low- or no-cost food to residents, while also utilizing developed land for community sustainability purposes. For these reasons, I urge you to support SB 2967

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: melissasnyder@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 5:11:48 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
melissa snyder	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Food forestry is a solution to many issues Hawaiian citizens and communities face. i support this measure.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: meleabrams@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 10:05:23 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meryl Abrams	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please SUPPORT SB2967 regarding Food Forests on state lands. It is important to provide food that is consistent with Hawaiian culture and has potential to sustain food capacity for decades on public lands. I have been gardening for several years and participate in community gardens. I feel keenly aware of the need for the general public to have access to natural grown food. Meryl Abrams Princeville, Kauai

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: naomi.picinich@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 2:09:27 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
naomi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would love this for my community and family!

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: neil.vonhof@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 10:46:51 AM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neil Vonhof	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: pogqoppogqop@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 11:49:16 AM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this measure. It will build the strength of our communities by improving social and food sustainability. It will also bring beauty and health to the people.

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: octopus@maui.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 4:29:12 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Umberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo Chair Gabbard for hearing this important bill. In strong support!
Aloha, Rene Umberger

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: forster@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Sunday, February 07, 2016 7:11:46 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Forster	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am very much in favor of this bill. Making public lands available for the production of food for local consumption will do wonders for the ecological sustainability of our islands, while improving the quality of life for all who live here. Bravo Senator Ruderman and others involved in putting forward this legislation. I hope it becomes a law, and soon!

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: nimo1767@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:24:53 PM
Attachments: [sb2967_food_forrest.txt](#)

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Petricci	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: saralegal@live.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 2:27:46 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Steiner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Legislators: I am in absolute support of the Food Forest idea! We could have a beautiful food forest at our new Pahoia Park as well as many locations statewide! As it is now, hungry people can find some fruits growing along the side of the road. After all the state and county land has been planted, we can approach large land owners as well! Help the islands become more sustainable! Beautify existing areas with edible plants and trees - marvelous!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: scott@kalani.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 10:06:34 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Laaback	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill for many reasons. The sustainability of traditional Hawaiian culture was based in a large part on agro-forestry ("food forests"). Carrying on this cultural practice in the modern day at an institutional level will poise the island of Hawai'i to be a leader in agri/eco-tourism. Food forests are an easy way for a community to create food security especially in the environments of the island of Hawai'i. Food forests can help alleviate hunger by making available inexpensive and sustainably produced fresh food to the public. Food forests can be used as educational tools and for remediation of damaged agricultural land.

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TESTIMONY: Written only

February 9, 2016

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

From: **Stacy Suda**

Subject: **Support – SB2967** RELATING TO COMMUNITY FOOD FORESTS

Hearing: February 10, 2016 at 3:30 pm at Conference Room 224

Aloha,

My name is Stacy Suda and I am an undergraduate student studying public health at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Today, I am writing a personal testimony in support of **SB2967**, which seeks appropriate funds to establish community food forest programs to provide sources of healthy foods statewide.

Based on a study conducted by the CDC, only 18.1% of adults eat five or more servings of fruits and vegetables a day. This may be due to the lack of accessibility of healthy foods especially in cities. In my area of residence, I live near a McDonald's, Jack in the Box, Zippy's, 7-11, Panda Express, and various other fast food establishments. Along with Honolulu's high cost of living and elevated prices, there is little incentive to purchase healthy foods as the availability of fast food increases. Therefore, I believe Community Food Forests would be beneficial to everyone in the communities of Hawai'i. Agriculture maintains an intimate part of our state's history. Especially with the increased urbanization of our communities these food forests will add vegetation, keeping our environment looking lush and vibrant. I am confident that these food forests will be successful, especially since larger, more condensed cities, such as New York and California, were able to implement community and urban gardens. Additionally, the implementation of these forests in public parks and community centers provides an opportunity to educate the public about the importance of Hawai'i agriculture and basic gardening techniques. Furthermore, since these food forests are maintained through community participation, these forests can develop greater community cohesiveness and responsibility, which I find lacking in my community. With greater accessibility of healthy foods, this can decrease obesity and obesity related diseases.

I would love to see these food forests in my community, such as in Stadium Park, Makiki District Park, McCully District Park, and numerous other locations. These food forests can increase awareness of the location of these facilities; thus, increasing their usage. Therefore, I hope that you will join me in supporting **SB2967** and see the great potential it can produce for our community and state. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Suda
ssuda2@hawaii.edu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: sunnysavage@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:55:53 AM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sunny Savage-Luskin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: tmitchell17@ischool.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 9:18:11 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tai Mitchell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: tgutierrez18@ischool.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 8:19:37 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taj Gutierrez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: taliaabrams@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 9:34:08 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Talia	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Water and Land Committee, My name is Talia Abrams, I am very excited to see that a Bill that has a lot of similarities to the one that I wrote several years ago has been presented to the Senate. My Bill was 2177, It was designed for putting edible fruit trees and plants on public land just like this Bill. I am so excited to see that the idea is still being put forth. I see a lot of potentially for this Bill. Please pass the Bill through! ~ Talia Abrams

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Cc: tracy.emills@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM*
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 12:29:31 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracy E Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: Zack.waian@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 7:43:46 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 10, 2016 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ZackaryWaian	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have seen first hand and helped implement the Regenerations food forest on Kauai and I am very impressed with the amount of amazing connections it created.

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