

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

March 19, 2015
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

SENATE BILL NO. 774, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 774, SD 1 that requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources to identify and inventory lands qualifying as taro lands, amends Chapter 171 by establishing taro lands as a new class of public land in intensive agricultural use, and prohibiting the reclassification of this land. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure that seeks to support, protect, and return historic taro lands within the Conservation District to use, but defers to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE

Thursday, March 19, 2015
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 312

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 774, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO

Senate Bill 774, Senate Draft 1 proposes to create a classification of agricultural public lands entitled “taro lands”, and appropriates funds to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (“Board”) to create an inventory of lands classified as taro lands. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this version of the measure.**

The measure proposes to require the Board to classify qualifying public lands as fourth class intensive agricultural lands as “taro lands of no particular productivity determination but having cultural, social, economic, and food self-sufficiency value if preserved for wetland taro cultivation.” The measure proposes to prohibit a district boundary amendment for lands subject to this classification. In addition, the bill’s pre-amble makes numerous references to public conservation lands including a finding by the taro task force that “between five thousand and seven thousand acres of historic lo‘i lands may be found within state conservation districts based on maps developed by the office of Hawaiian affairs and department of land and natural resources during the 2014 legislative session, or less than 3 per cent of all department of land and natural resources lands.”

The Department notes that the previous draft of this measure did not contain language specifically limiting taro land classifications to public lands in the Conservation District. Senate Draft 1 resolves this issue by adopting a definition of taro lands drafted by this House Committee on Agriculture in House Draft 1 of the companion House Bill 509, stating that public lands classified as qualifying taro lands be limited to undeveloped lands in the Conservation District.

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

DANIEL S. QUINN
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
ACTING 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



SB774 SD1
RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO
House Committee on Agriculture

March 19, 2015

8:30 a.m.

Room 312

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **COMMENTS** on SB774 SD1, which seeks to classify and protect undeveloped, historic “taro lands” and infrastructure on public lands within the state land use conservation district.

The traditional mo‘olelo of Wākea and Papahānaumoku explains that the first kalo plant, Hāloanakalaukapalili, is the elder brother of Native Hawaiians. As the elder sibling, Hāloa provides sustenance to Native Hawaiians and, in return, we as the younger siblings care for Hāloa by ensuring that kalo flourishes. The bond that connects Native Hawaiians to kalo remains a sacred one, and it is our kuleana to preserve it. As the plant that has sustained the people of Hawai‘i since time immemorial, kalo is not only integral to the identity of Native Hawaiians, but also to the State of Hawai‘i as a whole.

Notably, much of Hawai‘i’s resident population still relies on kalo as a staple starch, and our tourism industry requires a high volume of kalo to create a more authentic cultural imprint upon our visitors. However, due to steep declines in local taro production, Hawai‘i must now import millions of pounds of kalo every year.

In order to explore ways in which state policies may help to restore our once-flourishing kalo economy, the Legislature created the Taro Security and Purity Task Force (Taro Task Force) in 2008. In their 2010 report to the Legislature, the Taro Task Force’s primary recommendation was for the state to take an active role in remedying the severe reduction in the amount of and access to kalo-growing lands. **The Taro Task Force found that rapid development in the last 20 years has led to a catastrophic loss of lands with the unique set of natural conditions necessary for kalo growth, and to the dismantling of ancient structures most efficient for fostering thriving kalo production.** Recognizing the importance of these lands and structures will help to ensure that they remain available to support our present and future kalo needs, and may facilitate our return to a more traditional, self-sufficient, and sustainable model of local food production.

By protecting taro lands and infrastructure, this bill may further initiatives to increase our local production of kalo, while improving our state’s food self-sufficiency.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Leimana DaMate
Executive Director – Aha Moku Advisory Committee

Before the House Committee on
Agriculture

Thursday, March 19, 2015
8:30 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

**In SUPPORT of
Senate Bill 774 S.D. 1
Relating to the Protection of Taro**

Senate Bill 774 S.D. 1 creates a classification of agricultural public lands entitled “taro lands”. It appropriates funds to the Board of Land and Natural Resources to create an inventory of lands specifically classified as taro lands.

From the very beginning, the Native Hawaiian *kanaka maoli* have depended upon taro as one of their staple foods. The *mahiai*, or farmers, from ancient times to the present have continued to grow and harvest taro, not only for Native Hawaiian consumers, but for the general public who have grown to depend upon this food as a healthy and necessary staple. However, the demand exceeds the ability to produce especially since this demand is expected to grow as local people move towards greater local food self-sufficiency.

We agree with the Taro Task Force, established under Act 211, who recommended greater protections for wetland taro lands (*lo’i*) and dry land taro *lo’i*, including the protection of their structural elements (terraces, stone walls, and irrigation ditches) within the boundaries of the State’s public conservation districts to help meet food security needs.

Aha Moku was created by the Legislature through Act 288, Session Laws 2012, to serve as an advisory committee to the Chairman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources on issues related to land and natural resources management through the *aha moku* system. One of their mandates is to “sustain the State’s marine, land, cultural, agricultural, and natural resources” (§171 4-5). The agricultural portion specifically means taro sustainability. Creating a fourth class of taro lands under §171-10 falls within the Aha Moku mandate of protection and sustainability of important agricultural resources.

We support Senate Bill 774 S.D. 1 and urge its passage.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 9:36 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB774

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS THE INTENT of SB 774, SD1, RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO, which creates a classification of agricultural public lands entitled "taro lands"; and appropriates funds to the Board of Land and Natural Resources to create an inventory of lands classified as taro lands. Effective 7/1/2050. (SB 774, SD1) LURF respectfully submits that this measure is a good "first step" toward successful Hawaiian taro cultivation. To assure the success of Hawaiian taro cultivation on State lands, LURF respectfully recommends the following future legislation and/or administrative actions: (1) RE-DESIGNATION OF ALL STATE TARO LANDS AS "IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS." Either re-designate State taro lands in the "Conservation District" to the State "Agricultural District"; and then designate the taro lands as IAL, OR AMEND the IAL law to allow IAL in the State Conservation Districts. The IAL designation for taro lands would give taro farmers on state lands the opportunity to take advantage of important benefits, including tax credits, access to loans, employee housing, expedited state permitting, etc.; and (2) FUNDING FOR IRRIGATION WATER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS. The Legislature should fund water source and transmission infrastructure improvements for state taro lands, because the availability of water and irrigation source and transmission infrastructure are crucial for the propagation of Hawaiian taro on State taro lands.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**Testimony of
TARO SECURITY AND PURITY TASK FORCE**

**MARK ALAPAKI LUKE
Chair**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE**

**Thursday, March 19, 2015, 8:30AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 774 SD1
RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF TARO**

Senate Bill 774 SD1 creates a definition of “taro lands” as wetland taro lands in production prior to statehood. The bill also adds a fourth class taro lands to the list of classes of intensive agricultural use lands the Department of Land and Natural Resources under HRS171-10. The bill eliminates the need for a district boundary amendment for lands designated as fourth-class taro lands. Finally, the bill asks for an appropriation of funds to the Board of Land and Natural Resources to create an inventory of lands classified as taro lands. **The Taro Security and Purity Task Force strongly supports this bill.**

The Taro Security and Purity Task Force was created by the legislature under Act 211 in 2008 specifically to guide policy and research related to taro and taro farming, as well as to support the vitality, economic viability and perpetuation of taro and taro farming in the state. In bringing this bill to the legislature we are fulfilling a portion of the kuleana that this body was tasked with under Act 211.

The Task Force’s 2010 report to the legislature was the result of a yearlong community consultation and included 89 recommendations across seven key issues. Legislators received an update on task force progress in relation to the recommendations of that report at the start of the 2014 legislative session. Access to affordable lands to grow taro was of significant importance to young taro growers and organizations looking to create resilient options for food security in their communities as well as mentoring programs that develop new farmers. This represents a different sector than that of large acreage commercial taro growers. *Taro plays a significant role in addressing the need for staple starch production in Hawai‘i at a time when we are dependent on 85 percent of our food imported from outside Hawai‘i.*

The task force has worked closely with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture over the past three years to refine the language of SB774 SD1 and address concerns relating to the broadness of applicability of the proposed legislation. HRS171 is specific to Public Lands. *This bill does not prevent or inhibit a private landowner from the sale or development of their private property to a*

Contact: Emily Kandagawa, Taro Task Force Coordinator (808) 754-7395 or tsptfhi@gmail.com

private buyer, nor does it impact existing developed state-owned properties.

The bill creates a fourth class of taro lands specifically and only for undeveloped, unencumbered wetland taro growing systems on state (public) lands. These sites represent important traditional agricultural resources and features, centers for cultural practice, and places of tremendous food productivity. They are typically small in size, with clay soils prone to flooding, and fall within allowable uses of Conservation and Agriculture zones on public lands under HRS13-5. While taro lands have the potential to be designated as important agricultural lands (IAL), HRS 205-49.3 explicitly excludes “lands held in the conservation district” from the process of designation and adoption of IAL maps by the Land Use Commission.

The task force finds that existing commercial and subsistence wetland taro farms are approximately 500-600 acres, less than one percent of all lands in agriculture. An estimated 30,000 acres of taro lands are needed to grow sufficient taro to feed Hawai‘i’s 1.3 million people, as just one portion of a basic set of starch crops necessary for residents’ wellbeing over the course of a single year. The state imports an estimated 2 million pounds of taro from other countries annually, to supplement the 4 million pounds grown in the islands, placing Hawaii and taro growers at high risk from invasive pests and pathogens not currently found within the state. The gap between existing and projected acreage, the narrow range of characteristics required for wetland taro production, the rapid loss of such lands to other uses in the private sector, and the rising cost of land and leases in the private sector necessitates the protection of such sites on public lands.

The Island of O‘ahu is dependent on the neighbor islands as its source of raw taro in the production of poi. An estimated 30 acres of commercial taro is currently recorded for an island with a population of almost 1 million residents. In the event of environmental disasters, such as floods or hurricanes on Kaua‘i, or earthquakes that disrupt large portions of O‘ahu, the island will suffer from extreme taro and poi shortages. Even the lowest estimates for sea level rise indicate that lowland areas like Hanalei, Kaua‘i, Ke‘anae-Wailuanui, Maui, Hālawā, Moloka‘i and Waipi‘o, Hawai‘i Island will be inundated with brackish water unsuitable for kalo production. The road to districts such as the taro-producing region of Windward, O‘ahu will be cut off from Honolulu. Having mauka wetland taro sites in each conservation district protected now for cultivation in the future will help ensure future food security in the midst of climate change. *Adoption of SB774 SD1 represents a foresighted and critical first step by the legislature in sea-level rise planning for our most vulnerable food-producing lands.*

There is a growing interest in taro farming, as well as the traditional Hawaiian taro cultivars, as indicated by the more than 200 signatures gathered by the taro task force from potential new farmers, and the distribution of almost a million huli (taro planting stock) of 40 traditional taro varieties since 2013. Many of these varieties are best suited to mid-elevation, cooler lo‘i sites that are found on Conservation zoned lands under DLNR jurisdiction. With additional growth in the demand for high-quality raw taro, particularly the hand-pounding pa‘i ‘ai market, along with value-added taro products is evidence of an untapped economic potential that this diversifying taro industry represents and is in

Contact: Emily Kandagawa, Taro Task Force Coordinator (808) 754-7395 or tsptfhi@gmail.com

need of support. *The passage of SB774 SD1 will create opportunities for small-scale and subsistence farmers to earn a living growing kalo and contribute to the health and well-being of their communities.*

In addition, the task force notes that lo'i kalo retains wetland soil characteristics, whether they are active or have long been fallowed. The physical geographic character of such sites is a primary indicator for existing flooding and future flood potential. Functioning taro lands are known to assist in the absorption and control of floodwaters as well as runoff. The high costs of flood mitigation for the state and all counties are well documented. This includes where groundwater levels rise quickly and persistently in lowland areas, as the State and County have learned in such areas as the Mapunapuna industrial district, or where topography indicates locations are collection points for upstream surface water flows such as Mānoa, Pālolo, Kuli'ou'ou, and Punalu'u – all former lo'i kalo lands. The instability of wetland clay soils translates to increased costs and higher risks for long-term structural integrity. *SB774 SD1 provides state agencies with a measure of liability protection by prohibiting the development of such lands for other purposes.*

SB774 SD1 is prudent in relieving the State and the Counties of the expense and staff time involved in the boundary amendment process under HRS-171, where fourth-class taro lands designations are applied. It prevents abuse of the application of this new class by requiring that fourth-class lands be specified for wetland taro production. The DLNR retains authority over district boundaries for Conservation zoned lands (Chpt183C).

The task force agrees with the DLNR that existing rules may be sufficient to support the changes in statute created by these amendments. We note that suggestions in the previous legislative session to require attachment of a list of sites to the proposed statute would 1) require immense resources on the part of DLNR; 2) require DLNR to come before the legislature every year to add hundreds of sites to the statute as survey work progresses, a process that would negatively impact staff time and duties already stretched thin by budget cuts, as well as lengthening the proposed statute to the extreme; and 3) fails to recognize that these taro sites are located primarily within state Conservation lands, a zoning category for which DLNR has agency jurisdiction to define use through the HAR process.

We encourage full support from House committee members to steward this bill forward as a proactive measure in support of family farms and food security in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa



Mark Alapaki Luke, Chair
Taro Security and Purity Task Force

Contact: Emily Kandagawa, Taro Task Force Coordinator (808) 754-7395 or tsptfhi@gmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 4:07 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kellensmith@placeshawaii.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB774

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kellen Smith	Waianae Neighborhood Board Hawaiian Affairs CommitCommittee	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I support this bill. We must protect the taro lands to preserve the spirit of Hawai'i. The younger generations are rising up and demanding more kalo, and we are noticing ku'i clubs starting on the west side of O'ahu. Kalo is a subsistence food that grows very well here and has wonderful health benefits. Please protect the taro lands for future generations. Kellen Smith Chair

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 12:18 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: nwalshjones@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB774

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Jones	Hydroponics Alternatives LLC	Support	No

Comments: We submit this testimony supporting SB 774, SD1 (SSCR833) to establish a classification and inventory system for taro lands under the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources. We support the language changes to Section 171-10 of the Hawai`i Revised Statutes in support of this issue. As farmers in Wai`anae, we definitely see the value of identifying those lands currently under taro cultivation or those possessing the ideal characteristics for producing this staple food of the Hawaiian diet. Naturally, such a system would not exist without proper funding. So, we fully support this bill's intention to appropriate funds to the board of land and natural resources for this purpose of identifying and classifying taro lands. For this reason, we respectfully urge you to support SB 774, SD1 (SSCR833) and pass it out of your committee. Mahalo for this opportunity to present comments supporting this measure.

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TESTIMONY
SB774 Relating to the Protection of Taro
before the Senate Committees on
Agriculture/Water and Land/Hawaiian Affairs
Monday, 2 February 2015, Rm 224 3:15PM

Board of Directors

Ana Zir, President

Michelle Cockett, VP

Deborah Ward, Secretary

Juenlee Brown, Treasurer

Project Coordinator

Penny Levin

Aloha Honorable Chairs and Committee Members;

E kūpaku ka 'āina – the Hawai'i Land Restoration Institute (EKKA) is in strong support of SB774.

EKKA is a Maui-based, registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is *bringing severely degraded lands back to places of ecological health and abundance*. We are dedicated to fostering an economy of abundance through the critical business of land restoration and the art of traditional cultural practice. We do so by assisting agencies, organizations, landowners and communities to develop practical skills and affordable strategies for degraded lands and native ecosystems recovery and agriculture fit to the land - because if the 'āina is not well, neither are we.

Along with habitat restoration, EKKA has been engaged in taro lands revitalization projects and the recovery of the Hawaiian kalo varieties in partnership with many individuals and organizations since its formation in 2004. During the course of our work, we have given away thousands of huli to new taro farmers and families ready to grow kalo on a broader scale than their backyards. We have also observed the stone walls, terraces and 'auwai of numerous ancient lo'i kalo sites still present on state lands throughout the islands, particularly on the Island of Maui; many well-suited to rehabilitation.

In the last several years, we have provided mentorship for interns, students and individuals whose interest is in learning how to grow kalo, from the building of lo'i to caring for the soil, from planting to harvest to plate. Our challenge has been to connect these future growers to affordable lands where they can begin their own practice as new farmers. In the last two years, at least a dozen individuals and families have become successful members of the taro farming community in Maui; most under the age of 35, half the age of the average farmer in Hawai'i.

Senate bill 774 provides the next generation with the opportunity to grow taro in the communities they live by creating a fourth class of agricultural land use specifically for wetland taro lands found within the jurisdiction of the state public lands. Based on our own observations, historic record, and the modeling of Ladefoged and Gon (2009, 2010), we note the total acreage of wetland taro lands that might be found on public lands will likely remain small, between 5-7,000 acres. A significant number of these sites are found in mid-elevation uplands, dominated by invasive species and zoned as Conservation or Forest Reserve. As

the loss of ancient lo'i kalo increases on private lands, it is essential that these rare sites retain their fourth class taro lands status.

As the first, and most intensely productive, agricultural crop in Hawai'i, kalo supported a thriving population. In the late 1800's, and well after significant declines in cultivation had occurred, wetland taro lands were still estimated at 30,000 acres and described as some of the richest food producing lands in the islands. This is not much different than a predicted need for taro lands as part of statewide food security efforts, today. Yet, we currently farm just 1.7 percent of the acreage necessary to fulfill those needs.

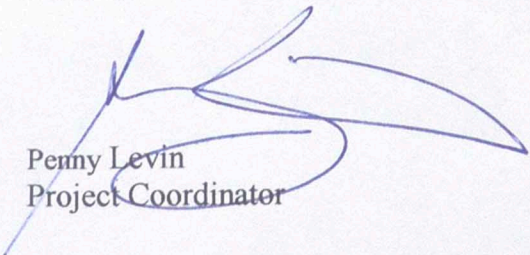
Our dependence on imported foods (85%), including 30 percent of taro consumed in the state, demands that we consider the implications of this lack of food security in the face of events that might sever our import streams, interisland and intra-island food distribution networks. It can happen in an instant. An earthquake, hurricane, tsunami or an act of war could cut our line. At this level, the issue of protecting taro lands becomes one of homeland security and disaster planning. We urge the legislature to actively support the necessary steps that will increase our food security and capacity to create local food abundance.

Global warming is a second and undeniable factor in future food security planning in Hawai'i. Even at the lowest projected levels (1-2 meters), sea-level rise will have significant impact on our most vulnerable low-land taro growing places. We are beginning to plan for climate change impacts in conservation but not in agriculture, nor for the continuity of cultural practice. This bill provides us with a collective opportunity to implement pro-active solutions to ecological changes we know are coming.

For quite some time, we have been making decisions based on old data sets and industry models, conventional practices, and what a retiring generation of farmers and legislators believed is the trend in agriculture. The landscape is shifting from large farms to small, to a growing generation of subsistence growers, and Hawaiian traditions are calling thousands of students back to the lo'i. It is no longer our choice. Our young farmers, our keiki and mo'opuna are telling us to preserve these lands for them for *their* future.

We encourage the members of the Committees on Agriculture, Water and Land, and Hawaiian Affairs to vote YES on SB774!

Mahalo,



Penny Levin
Project Coordinator



PO Box 99
Wailuku , Hawaii 96793

March 18, 2015

The Honorable Clifton Tsuji
Chairman Senate Agriculture Committee
reptsuji@capitol.hawaii.gov

Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Letter of Support for SB 774 SD1

Vincent Mina
President

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and esteemed Agriculture Committee Members,

Simon Russell
Vice-President

HFUU is **in Strong Support of SB 774 SD1** .

Kai Hinson
Secretary

In this version of the bill special protections are extended only to state owned and acquired lands, private lands are not affected.

Ray Maki
Treasurer

We agree with the Sate Commissioned Taro Security and Purity Task Force that these protections for Taro and Taro farmers need to be put in place a robust future for Taro production in the near future. We have Taro farmers in our membership and can say that many more of our people will farm Taro when land and water are more abundant. The security in the long term availability of those 2 critical factors in the Taro Farming equation will be a huge net positive for the Taro farming community.

Pamela Boyar
Oahu

We are of the opinion that Taro production in Hawaii has declined to dangerously low levels (Slightly over 500 acres of commercial production state-wide), and the availability of land and water to farm Taro has followed suit. We know what needs to be done; preservation of a resource that we hold sacred.

Kyle Studer
East Hawaii

Hawaii Nei should not need to import nearly 50% of its taro used as we currently do. Whatever we need to do to maintain a sufficient supply of fresh Taro is the direction we need to be headed in. Paying other countries to export our State's historically staple food crop is at odds with our culture.

Greg Smith
Ka'u

Respectfully submitted,

Dash Kuhr
Kohalai

Simon Russell

Steve Sakala
Kona

HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED

Legislative Committee Chairman

The Hawaii Farmers Union and its Chapters is a nonprofit corporation formed under Hawaii law. It advocates for the sovereign right of farmers to create and sustain vibrant and prosperous agricultural communities for the benefit of all Hawaii through cooperation, education and legislation.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 8:44 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: wkenkoike@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB774

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
W. Ken Koike	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a small farmer in the Wai'anae Ag. Park who is in STRONG SUPPORT of SB774 because I want to cultivate wetland taro in Mt. Ka'ala's ancient lo'i! It is a common sense thing for most people who live on the Wai'anae Coast to understand that if we are allowed to restore the ancient constructed wetlands of taro terraces on Mt. Ka'ala, that the additional water that we will be able to hold from the annual rains will begin the healing process of rehydrating our entire mountainside much more effectively and quickly than any other single project or process to preserve/conserves water in our ahupua'a. In addition to the creation of new water for our aquifer and the rehydration of a larger area that is otherwise prone to massive brush fires every Summer/Fall, the restoration of these taro fields will create a fire break on our mountain area, preventing both forest and brush fires from crossing our mountain range as easily as it does now. Third, our ability to finally practice our tradition to Malama Haloa and provide its nutritious, healing food as medicine to our communities ailments will only come back to bless the City & State's finances by lowering medical & mental health costs as well as possibly provide employment opportunities for those without a college degree or with felony convictions that are otherwise on welfare and food stamps! This bill has the potential of lowering our tax use/burden from Wai'anae creating a healthier population and lowering our firefighting expenses on top of increasing our taxable base from our production and creating more jobs & water for our aquifer! It's a rare Win-Win situation deserving of your full attention and careful consideration... Please STRONGLY SUPPORT SB774 and its potential to affect positive, revolutionary change in our community of Wai'anae as a primary example of how important it is to provide Food Self-Sufficiency for you and your loved ones before a crisis teaches us the hard way! Noi ha'aha'a

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 7:56 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB774

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:56 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jdefeo@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB774

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jack De Feo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: "Hawaii imports 85 percent of our food and we import 50 percent of the taro consumed in our islands. That is just a crazy thing to happen knowing that these islands were food self-sufficient and famous for their kalo production 100 years ago."

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:01 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: leimomikekina@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB774

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Dierks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 2:20 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ito.bratt.y21@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*



SB774

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
y. ito	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: Nuikala Koerte <nuikala@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 2:13 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Support SB774



*Agriculture Committee
SB774
03-19-15
8:30AM*

Aloha Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee ,

My name is Nuikala Koerte and I am in support of the taro land protection bill. I would like for generations of Hawaiians and the people of Hawai'i to have access to taro in the future. Thank you for your time.

Me ka a'aha'a,
Nuikalā Koerte
Makaha, O'ahu

onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 2:55 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: lynch.elizabeth.liz@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

LATE

SB774

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Lynch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 3:56 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tasha96792@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM



SB774

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natasha Boteilho	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, I am writing in absolute support of SB774 Taro Land Bill. After multiple changes to the initial bill we are so close to support and protect agriculture lands that will benefit generations to come. Please vote YES on this bill. Mahalo, Natasha Boteilho

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 5:38 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: desireeakoka@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*



SB774

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Desiree Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: Edana Wong <ipohaku888@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 10:45 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: "Support SB774"

Aloha Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee,

I kako'o the Taro Security and Purity Task Force recommendations. Aloha for our homeland is eternal, protect our kupuna lo'i. Support SB774.

Aloha aina,
Edana Wong
Honolulu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 10:52 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: sovietviking@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB774

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Riley Silva	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As the cultivation of Kalo is a central part of Hawaiian culture and can also play a major role in Hawai'i's food supply, it is paramount that lands for lo 'i be set aside to further cultivation where taro had once been traditionally cultivated anyway.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 6:54 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: reelitz@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB774

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
?Ena Reelitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Taro lands are important to everyone who lives in the state of Hawaii. It is the first and greatest step to becoming a self-sustaining state while maintaining the state's integrity and culture.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 4:50 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: planesi@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB774

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Planesi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am all for keeping the Aina for the Lo'i/taro patches. Why would you want to ruin the way our kapuna's took care of us. So please leave the land alone...

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 6:10 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: christianmochizuki@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB774

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christian Mochizuki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please protect the lands where we grow kalo, one of the few things we have in our current day and age from the past that we can use to teach the keiki of hawaii about our ancestors. Thank you for anything you can do to help protect the loi!!! -Christian Mochizuki

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 8:37 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kaimilaniandmommy@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB774

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monica Miranda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 6:10 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: miavsaunders@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB774

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 9:03 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kamaikui808@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB774

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
renee medeiros	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 7:44 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dcmartin5726@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB774

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Drina C Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 8:24 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kano.e.malani@hi.nacdn.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB774

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kano.e.Malani	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support SB 774, the cultivation of taro is so important for us here in Hawaii, for continuation of our culture as well as food sustainability. Classifying lands as taro lands will help to restore these lands to production, encourage more people to plant taro, improve our people's education of taro, sense of community, health, and stability knowing these lands are available for taro cultivation for future generations.

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 8:29 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: raintheya@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB774

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiani Makainai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 7:15 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: naneaclo@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB774

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 5:36 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jasmyn.lave@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB774

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jasmyn Lave	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 5:45 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Kainoa213@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB774

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isaiah Kainoa Laikupu	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, My name is Isaiah Kainoa Laikupu, born and raised in Waianae and now residing in the Salt Lake/Moanalua area. I am writing you in support of SN774 and to protect ALL native Hawaiian taro lands. We need these lands for not only Hawaiians, but all people of Hawai'i who wants to learn about the Hawaiian culture. This is especially important for our keiki, to be able to learn that of their ancestors, for our families to be able to sustain themselves and for a healthier Hawai'i. As a voter, I encourage you to pass this bill. Mahalo, Isaiah Laikupu

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 8:41 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: rkkurata@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB774

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall Kurata	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this bill to protect our taro lands as it is an important of our history and cultural. Mahalo!!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 10:50 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: keokilanikelikuli@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB774

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
keokilani keliikuli-teixeira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 7:27 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jeanpokipala@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB774

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jean Pokipala	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 9:48 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: cinanod@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB774

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Celeste Inanod	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please don't take our heritage away from us! We've already lost so much of it.

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 10:06 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: andyhhayashi@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB774

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andy hayashi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 9:56 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kiloanui@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB774

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leonard Hall	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Safe our Native culture. Protect what is left. KALO.

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From: Charae Flores <charaeflores@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 9:37 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Support SB774

Agriculture Committee

SB774

[03-19-15](#)

[8:30AM](#)

Aloha Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee,

I am here to have say that I first if all felt very touched to see that our Aloha in Hawaii is not lost. That the Love and Believe of us Hawaiians our still around to protect the traditions, the Mana that we know the Kalo holds forever. I support the Bill and I Pray you will to. As our world starts going Green we should start right here in our Home Lands Hawaii. Thank You for your time.

Mahalo

Sincerely,

Charae Flores

Hali'imaile, Maui Hawaii

onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 5:45 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tuesday@kalamaevans.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB774

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tuesday Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support to label our lands as "taro lands" so that it can be protected from any future developments. It is our God-given right to keep our lands in our hands.

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 7:30 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kanaloa.bishop@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB774

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 8:54 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: momi@koka.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB774

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Momi Akana	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As the executive director of Keiki o Ka Aina Family Learning Centers in Kalihi, I have seen hundreds of families come to our program with the need and desire to have more kalo for their families. We have been forced to bring hundreds of pounds in monthly from neighbor islands because of the demand. We need to save the land that can be used for lo'i for our children and their children. They want it, it is healthier for all people, and it protects the staple food of our people. I stand in strong support of this bill and ask you to do what is right for Hawaii's people.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 9:05 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Keala.Adolpho@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB774

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keala Adolpho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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