

SCR 41

LATE TESTIMONY

## IN SUPPORT OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION S.C.R. NO 41 and S.R. 19

### WHY:

Hawaii is a world class destination point because of its mild climate and lush green vegetation. The Visitor Industry markets Hawaii as Green, Clean and Beautiful, branding it a World Class Tropical Wonderland.

Our roads are the visitor's first impression of Hawaii. Our roads are the only way people of Hawaii and Visitors can get from place to place. It makes sense to not neglect the opportunity to make that first impression that the visitor industry markets memorable.

Everyone needs to take responsibility in the perpetuation of that green, clean and beautiful image, especially the Government. The State Dept. of Transportation and the City's Division of Transportation Services are at the front line of that image and brand.

### ISSUES:

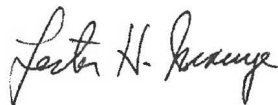
Trees are thought to be the frosting on the cake and not really necessary. There are functional as well as aesthetic reasons to keep trees and landscape.

Yes there is maintenance cost in trees and landscape. A disappointed visitor, diminished land value or higher crime rate is more costly.

### FUNCTION:

Trees are essential to a healthy and safe environment.

- Creates an Image a Sense of Place
- supply oxygen by absorbing carbon dioxide,
- provide cooling shade, reduce the City's heat load
- It's been proven to provide traffic calming
- Identify whether you are driving on a road that is a major, secondary, or tertiary roadway.
- Trees identify major decision points such as intersection, curves in the road or destination point.
- Screen unwanted views.
- Provide shelter from strong winds and can be used to direct wind to cool areas.
- Studies have shown trees and landscape increase property values
- Increase business traffic
- Provide for human biophilic needs
  - Productivity
  - Speeds up healing
  - Increases attention and learning
  - Critical thinking



Lester H. Inouye FASLA