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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS**

**APRIL 4, 2017  
9:45 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 121  
URGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HAWAII GREEN FUELS INITIATIVE TO  
COINCIDE WITH INCREASE LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION.**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.C.R. No. 121. This resolution urges the significant growth, development, intensification, and expansion of agriculture to incorporate dedicated food and biofuel feedstock growth to achieve the goals of food and biofuel feedstock sustainability and security through a "Hawaii Green Fuels Initiative". The resolution describes an "integrated food and biofuel supply chain" that "would create storage, pre-processing, and conversion refinery plants, and coupling increased food production with increased biofuel feedstock production would provide additional revenue for farmers and reduce the overall costs of local food production;" (page 2, lines 25-30). The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this resolution to the extent that it supports production agriculture, and offers comments.

Chapter 205 is replete with renewable energy initiatives that are included as permitted uses on all agricultural lands. Some renewable energy facilities such as wind turbines, impact agricultural lands and activities less than others such as industrial scale solar energy facilities with a compatible but negligible agricultural activity. The



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proposed Hawaii Green Fuels Initiative must not disadvantage production agriculture and the resources fundamental to agricultural activities. Further, the proponents of this resolution should keep in mind that a farmer will only plant what he can sell profitably.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 9:45 a.m.

By

Rachel Novotny, Interim Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SCR 121 – URGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HAWAII GREEN FUELS INITIATIVE TO COINCIDE WITH INCREASED LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION.

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Senate Committee on  
Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 121, urging the  
development of a Hawai'i Green Fuels Initiative to coincide with increase local food  
production.

Hawai'i has made significant strides in transitioning from fossil-based electric power  
generation to greater reliance on renewable resources, and appears to be on a  
sound trajectory toward meeting its goal of 100% renewable electricity by 2045.  
However, unlike renewable electric power, which taps Hawai'i's excellent solar and  
wind regimes, only agriculture appears to have the potential to contribute significantly  
to the production of renewable "drop-in" transportation fuels, provide a large platform  
for the manufacturing of commercial products, and significantly reduce the amount of  
food imported into our state.

Producing home-grown food, bio-based fuels and electricity, and other manufactured  
products offers excellent opportunities to use Hawai'i's valuable land and water  
resources and reduce our state's reliance on imported food and fuel, strengthen and  
diversify Hawai'i's economy and open new markets for local agribusinesses, and  
have significant, positive environmental and social/community impacts. The timing of  
this effort is critical, since former plantation lands will become fragmented over time  
and less usable for biofuel crop production.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of SCR 121.