

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**APRIL 1, 2019
10:20 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 126

**URGING THE GOVERNOR, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND
HUMAN RESOURCES, AND OTHER RELATED ENTITIES TO TAKE ACTION
TO HELP EXPAND THE AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY IN THE STATE**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 126 that urges the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to transfer parcels identified as Tax Map Keys 5-8-001-013, 5-8-001-055, 5-8-001-007, and 5-8-001-006 to the Agribusiness Development Corporation for the purposes of establishing aquaculture production in those lands. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure.

Aquaculture is a fast-growing food production sector. The passage of SCR 126 will provide new land parcels for expanding the Hawaii aquaculture industry to support the Governor's initiative of doubling food production.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



SCR-126

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 5:30:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III	Testifying for Hawaii County Council	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-126

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 3:15:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

Urging, advocating or encouraging, may not be a strong enough word to get these entities working together to develop some sort of State Agriculture Strategic Plan. When was the last time HDOA updated their Strategic Plan? At some point, fairly soon I hope, the Legislature will need to Require or Mandate a comprehensive agricultural plan, complete with policies and actions that can receive real financial support from the Legislature. Since HDOA only receives .037 of 1% of the State Budget, it can only be a Regulatory Agency. We want it to be a Department of Food and Agriculture and actually help develop the agricultural sector and economy. From where I stand, the DOE's 'Aina Pono Program, and School Gardens/School Farms and Farm to School, have the biggest chance of collaboration across institutional/state agency/community organization lines to increase local procurement for School Food Services that serves 100,000 lunches and 35,000 breakfasts daily and increase "incentives" for farms to sell locally. Just think if Schools, Hospitals, Prisons could all procure more locally. I think we should partner with DOD and make this happen.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Monday, April 1, 2019 at 10:20 a.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SCR 126/SR 96 – URGING THE GOVERNOR, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES, AND OTHER RELATED ENTITIES TO TAKE ACTION TO HELP EXPAND THE AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY IN THE STATE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 126/SR 96. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) supports the overall intent of the resolution but provides comments in order to explain the current situation and how it affects the intent of the resolution.

- CTAHR supports the portion of the resolution that urges CTAHR to help expand the aquaculture industry.
- Currently, CTAHR employs a faculty member engaged in aquaculture research who has been successful in bringing to the State of Hawai'i significant funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Science Foundation in support of aquaculture. He is engaged in basic research on fish physiology under aquaculture that will advance our knowledge in that area for future development.
- CTAHR has combined with the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology to jointly fund an Extension Specialist in aquaculture. The hiring of that Extension Specialist is currently in progress.
- CTAHR is developing an aquaculture research facility in Mānoa to support the work of both faculty members in order to train students and to engage in meaningful aquaculture research.
- The Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture has recently been transferred to CTAHR from Hawai'i Pacific University. This will help further aquaculture research and outreach not only in Hawai'i but in the Pacific Basin

- CTAHR has recently hired Extension Agents (funded by the FY 2018 Legislature) in Economics and Finance which will provide expertise to individuals interested in starting an aquaculture and/or aquaponics business.

For these reasons, we strongly support the first part of this resolution. We believe that aquaculture has tremendous potential to meet the protein needs of the state. To this end we are reorienting our limited resources to improve our aquaculture presence and, at the same time, work towards meeting the intent of this resolution.

The second part of this resolution requests that CTAHR transfer specific parcels of land to the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) for the purpose of establishing aquaculture production on those lands. It is our understanding that the parcels outlined in the resolution are part of the CTAHR Waiale'e Livestock Experiment Center on the North Shore of O'ahu.

- Negotiations are currently under way with ADC for the transfer of the entire Experiment Center, not just those specific parcels
- Once the land is transferred to ADC, CTAHR will no longer have any say in how the land would be used. Therefore, the use for aquaculture will be the purview of ADC at that time. CTAHR would not have the ability to address the use requested in this resolution
- ADC has been in conversations with the North Shore community which has strong preferences on how that land should be used. Including input from the community in the resolution would be beneficial to enhancing the acceptance of any aquaculture industry that may be installed in that area.

With this in mind, we make the following suggestion for the resolution:

Consider verbiage that includes the North Shore community in the decision-making process.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the resolution.



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April 1, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SCR 126/SR 96

URGING THE GOVERNOR, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES, AND OTHER RELATED ENTITIES TO TAKE ACTION TO HELP EXPAND THE AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY IN THE STATE.

Room 211
10:20 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keth-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports SCR 126/SR 96, which urges the Governor, HDOA, CTAHR and others to take action to expand Hawaii's aquaculture industry.

Hawaii had an innovative aquaculture development program (ADP) during the 1980s and 1990s, initially under DBED, then DLNR, and finally DOA. ADP assisted prospective farmers and investors in many ways, including technical assistance, help with site selection and permitting, and perhaps most importantly, providing a strong voice within government in support of aquaculture as a desirable and appropriate industry for Hawaii. ADP played a large part in creating an industry that, starting from almost zero in the 1970s, now generates more than \$76 million annually and is one of the largest sectors of Hawaii's diversified agriculture. Unfortunately, despite its success, ADP has been reduced in staff and function, ultimately being folded into the Animal Industries division of DOA and continues to be downsized. It is no coincidence that Hawaii's aquaculture revenues have leveled off in recent years. In order to restore ADP's ability to help develop aquaculture as a beneficial and sustainable industry for Hawaii, we believe that the following provisions are necessary: 1) increased information dissemination to industry, 2) assistance with site selection and permitting, 3) enhance existing aquatic disease prevention services, and 4) increase in staffing.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important measure.

SCR-126

Submitted on: 3/30/2019 1:08:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please oppose SCR126 unless you amend the bill to state an environmental impact statement first be conducted for any aquaculture facilities. Aquaculture has contaminated marine resources around the globe, and it would be just another assault against Hawaii's already-fragile and moribund marine ecosystem.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei