



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 9:45 a.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 834 HD1 – RELATING TO A BLACK CINDER CONE QUARRY SITE SURVEY

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 834 HD1 as it relates to the need for sources of black cinder cone for agriculture.

The floriculture industry is an important component of the Hawai'i agriculture industry. It is part of the “nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod” category found in the 2017 agricultural census by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agriculture Statistic Service. The value of that category in 2017 was \$100,381,000.

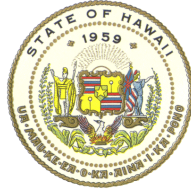
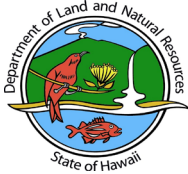
The cinder material is a critical component of the beds in which many commercial flowers can be grown. Experience has shown the advantage of using black cinder cone material over red, therefore the black is preferred.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UHM/CTAHR) works closely with the flower industry, with particular reference to our plant breeding program. Since the 1950's UHM/CTAHR has been providing new varieties of anthuriums at the rate of approximately one per year. The cinder cone material is also used in container grown plants, as does the landscape industry.

For these reasons, and in support of this very important industry whose flower materials are renowned beyond the borders of Hawai'i, we support this bill.

However, we are aware of the current financial climate of the State of Hawai'i and realize that state funding is reduced. For this reason, UH defers to DLNR on their budgetary issues and priorities.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Wednesday, April 7, 2021
9:45 AM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 211

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 834, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO A BLACK CINDER CONE QUARRY SITE SURVEY**

House Bill 834, House Draft 1 proposes to: 1) require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), in collaboration with the County of Hawaii, to conduct site surveys to identify locations for black cinder cone quarries on the Island of Hawaii, 2) require a report to the Legislature, and 3) appropriate of an unspecified amount of general funds to the Department. **The Department offers the following comments.**

The Department generally supports measures that facilitate economic recovery on Hawaii Island, but has some concerns with this bill to the extent it allows for state funds to be expended on surveys of private lands.

As noted, the general fund appropriation in the bill is currently blank. The Department recommends an appropriation of at least \$150,000 to cover staff time and the procurement of a geologist, mineralogist or other specialist as a consultant on the project.

Finally, the Department notes that applicants for licenses of quarry operations on state lands typically identify sites through their own research and expertise and then request that State to issue a lease for the site after applicant completes an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement for the proposed quarry operation at its expense.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

April 07, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 834, HD1
RELATING TO A BLACK CINDER CONE QUARRY SITE SURVEY

Conference Room 211
9:45 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-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 1,800 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 supports HB 834, HD1, requires the department of land and natural resources, in collaboration with the county of Hawaii, to conduct site surveys to identify the most suitable locations for black cinder cone quarries on the island of Hawaii.

Site surveys to identify new cinder quarry sites are needed for our agriculture industry. The previously available sources of black cinder have been heavily used and no longer have quality black cinder. The industry needs to have reliable access to black cinder media, as it is used by a significant number of agriculture businesses and is required for the exporting of potted plants. Without access to a clean and reliable cinder source, Hawaii's agriculture industry could face undue hardship by not having quality media available that is vital to produce our crops.

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



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

THE SENATE

THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2021

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 9:45AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Support for HB834 HD1: RELATING TO A BLACK CINDER CONE QUARRY SITE SURVEY.

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA). HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture. The 2019 Hawaii Census of Horticulture show horticulture operations in Hawaii sold a total of \$89.2 million in floriculture, nursery and specialty crops.

This letter is to show **support** for site surveys to be undertaken to provide new cinder quarry sites that are much needed for our agriculture industry. It is important for industry to have reliable access to black cinder media, as it is used by a significant number of agriculture businesses and is required for the exporting of potted plants.

Without new access to a clean and reliable cinder source, our industry could face undue hardship of having no quality media available to produce our crops, impacting the future prospects of our industry. The previously available sources of black cinder have been heavily used and no longer have quality black cinder.



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

There is also the issue of having nematode free cinder, which allows us to not have to steam the media (a costly process), so that our plants in turn can be nematode free.

If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext. 2627, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,

Eric S. Tanouye
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association



THE SENATE
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NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING
Wednesday, April 7, 2021 9:45AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

My name is Jon Tanouye and I am the current President of the Orchid Growers of Hawaii (OGOH).

OGOH would like to give our **support** for **HB834 HD1: RELATING TO A BLACK CINDER CONE QUARRY SITE SURVEY.**

We ask that you support this bill that will help to locate a new quarry site for cinder, as this will allow our growers to have access to clean, quality cinder that can be used to grow the orchids and floriculture for our industry.

This is a popular media for the growing of our plants and used throughout our industry. Without a reliable source, this could place our industry in jeopardy.

If you have any other questions you may contact me to discuss and I can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 and email jon@greenpointnursery.com.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Tanouye
President
Orchid Growers of Hawaii (OGOH)



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Support for HB834HD1: RELATING TO A BLACK CINDER CONE QUARRY SITE SURVEY.

Aloha,

My name is Thong Teng Neo and am the current President of the Hawaii Tropical Flower Council (HTFC). HTFC is a statewide association of commodity organizations, i.e.: anthurium, orchid, protea, tropic flowers and foliage, blooming and foliage plants. The Hawai'i Tropical Flower Council directs promotion and supports research of Hawaii's tropical flower industry. Each of the state's major flower commodity groups (anthuriums, orchids, proteas, tropic flowers and foliages, blooming and foliage plants) is represented on the council's board of directors. HTFC serves as a non-profit Hawaii Corporation to promote for its commodity groups and other producers of tropical horticulture grown in the State of Hawaii.

HTFC supports the search for a new quarry of cinder. An available source of quality media is an important resource for our industry to thrive.

A new cinder pit will allow the industry to receive cinder media that is a vital part of the production of our crops. Growers understand the need

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www.Hawaii's Flowers.com
Share the Aloha!



to constantly look to the future and this is a material that is essential for the continuance of our industry.

Thank you for taking the time to read this correspondence and if you have any questions, I can be reached at neo@greenpointnursery.com or 808 959 3535 ext 2615.

Sincerely,

Thong Teng Neo
President
Hawaii Tropical Flower Council

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www.Hawaii's Flowers.com
Share the Aloha!