



### SCR189 SD1

AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE PURCHASE, PRESERVATION, AND RESTORATION OF AGRICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION LANDS IN MAUNAWILI VALLEY, OAHU TO PROTECT THE IMPORTANT ANCIENT AND HISTORIC SITES, TRAILS, AND WATERS IN MAUNAWILI VALLEY.

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Wai a me ka ‘Āina  
House Committee on Water and Land

‘Apelila 6, 2021

8:30 a.m.

Lumi 430

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR189 SD1, which would support the purchase, preservation, and restoration, of agricultural and conservation lands in Maunawili Valley, O‘ahu, to protect the many important cultural sites, resources, and trails in Maunawili. Thousands of acres of land in Maunawili are currently under private ownership by HRT Reality LLC. (HRT); the resolution accordingly urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), the Department of Agriculture (DOA), and other relevant state entities to work with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the Hui Maunawili-Kawainui (HMK) in their efforts to acquire these important lands from HRT, and thereby protect the substantial number historic sites, trails, and water sources in this culturally significant region. **OHA previously provided support to TPL for this acquisition back in 2018, and continues to support efforts to ultimately preserve and protect the important cultural and natural sites and resources of Maunawili.**

OHA notes that there is a long history of public and state agency interest in protecting the lands and natural and cultural resources of Maunawili. Maunawili is home to many cultural resources including Kukapoki heiau, house sites, extensive lo‘i kalo, ‘auwai, and “The Queen’s Retreat.” The protection of these resources and valued cultural sites is aligned with OHA’s mission to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians: it is our hope that Native Hawaiians will participate in and benefit from the responsible stewardship of Ka Pae ‘Āina o Hawai‘i, and thereby maintain a connection to the past through the protection of ‘āina. Accordingly, we appreciate the work of TPL and HMK to protect and properly steward the ‘āina of Maunawili, as well as this resolution’s support of their efforts.

OHA notes that this resolution may also help to promote the preservation of agricultural lands that may otherwise be threatened by rezoning and unnecessary development. We value Hawai‘i’s agricultural lands, including lands traditionally used for Native Hawaiian agricultural activities, as a potential vehicle for our food self-sufficiency and as a potential foundation for reconnecting people with the ‘āina. Maunawili’s extensive network of freshwater resources, including numerous fresh water

springs, wetlands, and streams that feed into Kawainui Marsh, informed its extensive historical agricultural uses, and the valley's still-existing agricultural sites and infrastructure reflect the substantial agricultural potential of the region. **The acquisition by TPL and HMK will accordingly protect Maunawili's important waters, traditional agricultural sites, and resources, and ensure that the agricultural potential of this region is preserved for future generations.**

**OHA supports TPL's and HMK's efforts to acquire the HRT lands in Maunawili and thereby enable our beneficiaries and the Maunawili community to preserve, practice, and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture; mālama Maunawili's resources and sites; and contribute to the cultural integrity and future agricultural self-sufficiency of our islands.**

For the above reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR189 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify 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  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
WATER & LAND**

**Tuesday, April 6, 2021  
8:30 AM**

**State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 430**

**In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 189, SENATE DRAFT 1  
AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE PURCHASE, PRESERVATION, AND  
RESTORATION, OF AGRICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION LANDS IN  
MAUNAWILI VALLEY, OAHU TO PROTECT THE IMPORTANT ANCIENT AND  
HISTORIC SITES AND TRAILS AND WATERS IN MAUNAWILI VALLEY.**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 189, Senate Draft 1 affirms support for the purchase, preservation, and restoration of agricultural and conservation lands in Maunawili Valley, O'ahu to protect ancient and historic sites and trails and waters. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this resolution.**

The Department is actively engaged in discussions with HRT Realty, Inc. and the surrounding community for the acquisition of several land parcels in Maunawili Valley. The Department is looking for federal, state, and county funding opportunities to raise the necessary funds for the acquisition.

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  
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**SCR-189-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 11:09:19 AM

Testimony for WAL on 4/6/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Irene Sprecher	DLNR	Support	No

Comments:

I am available for questions. Please allow me Zoom access. Thank you.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA  
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 PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021**

**8:30 A.M.**

**VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 189, SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 154 –  
SENATE DRAFT 1**

**AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE PURCHASE, PRESERVATION, AND  
RESTORATION, OF AGRICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION LANDS IN MAUNAWILI  
VALLEY, OAHU TO PROTECT THE IMPORTANT ANCIENT AND HISTORIC SITES  
AND TRAILS AND WATERS IN MAUNAWILI VALLEY.**

Chairperson Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 189 and Senate Resolution No. 154, SD 1 that urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, the City and County of Honolulu, and other entities to work with The Trust for Public Lands and Hui Maunawili-Kawainui in their efforts to acquire the agricultural, cultural, and historic lands within Maunawili Valley. The Department of Agriculture offers comments.

These resolutions may need to prioritize the primary purpose(s) of the proposed acquisition of the identified properties – environmental (protect the marsh), cultural, historic, recreation, and/or re-establish agricultural production capacity. This prioritization may help to determine the kind of land management organization needed to carry out the purpose(s) to be protected and/or developed under conservation easement or fee purchase of the affected properties.



Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these resolutions.



**HAWAII**

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**Gregg H. Takara**  
Morgan Stanley

**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY SUPPORTING SCR 189 SD1 WITH SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS**

Senate Committee on Water & Land  
Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 8:30 a.m.  
Conf. Rm. 430 & Videoconference

Trust for Public Land (TPL) strongly supports SCR 189 SD 1 and thanks Senator Lee for introducing the resolution. We are grateful for his support of the protection of the Maunwili lands. We do suggest the following friendly amendments that more accurately reflect the status of current discussions with the landowner, HRT:

WHEREAS, HRT Realty, LLC, has expressed an interest in selling its Maunawili lands, or a significant portion thereof, for community benefit and stewardship, to the Department of Land and Natural Resources and non-profit 'āina based educational organizations~~Department of Agriculture~~, working in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, Ho'okua'āina, Kauluakalana, and the Kailua community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources, ~~Department of Agriculture~~, and other relevant state entities, as well as the City and County of Honolulu, and Hawaii congressional delegation, to work with The Trust for Public Land, ~~and the~~ Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, Ho'okua'āina and Kauluakalana in their efforts to acquire these important and rich agricultural, cultural, and historic lands and return them to community stewardship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional delegation, the Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, ~~Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture~~, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council, Councilmember of District 3 of the City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, members of Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, and Hawaiian Islands State Director of The Trust for Public Land.

Mahalo for your work on behalf of the people of Hawai'i during these very difficult times.

Lea Hong, State Director  
Edmund C. Olson Trust Fellow  
The Trust for Public Land  
[lea.hong@tpl.org](mailto:lea.hong@tpl.org)  
(808) 783-3653 (cell)



**Hika‘alani**  
**Testimony on SCR 189, SD 1**

AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE PURCHASE, PRESERVATION, AND RESTORATION OF  
AGRICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION LANDS IN MAUNAWILI VALLEY, OAHU TO  
PROTECT THE IMPORTANT ANCIENT AND HISTORIC SITES, TRAILS, AND WATERS  
IN MAUNAWILI VALLEY

House Committee on Water & Land  
Hearing: Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 8:30 a.m.

Aloha, and mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony on behalf of Hika‘alani, which **strongly supports** SCR 189, SD 1. This resolution affirms support for the purchase, preservation, and restoration of lands currently owned by HRT Realty, LLC, in Maunawili Valley, in the ahupua‘a of Kailua.

Hika‘alani is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, founded in 2010, dedicated to the restoration of indigenous land-use, culture, and identity in Kailua, O‘ahu. We are educators, scholars, and practitioners of Hawaiian culture with deep-rooted ties to our Kailua home. Our vision is to reestablish centers of stewardship and learning at storied places in the ahupua‘a of Kailua where we can again gather, as Hawaiians did in centuries past, to practice the culture that sustains and defines us.

Hika‘alani, a member of the Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, is excited to see that the efforts of the Hui, cultural organizations, ‘āina based groups, and others in the Kailua community, are coming to fruition with the goal of purchasing and restoring important agricultural, cultural and historical lands and places in Maunawili. The Maunawili wetlands, together with Kawainui, constitute the most intact traditional landscape in the Kailua ahupua‘a. We see in the Maunawili lands the potential for agriculture, and the culture associated with that agriculture. This is especially true because the Maunawili lands include almost all of Kailua’s Hanalei soil – the richest and most fertile soil in Hawai‘i – and can once again grow kalo and other healthy food crops that can significantly increase local food production. Hika‘alani embraces the opportunity to support mahi‘ai (farmers) to open up the rich agricultural and kalo lands of Maunawili. We believe that the health of people is mirrored in the health of the land and vice-versa. We know this connection is intensified when we renew the connection between Hawaiian people and the ‘āina. If we work to restore our lands, we are also restoring the health, identity, and survival of the people. In addition, Maunawili has a rich history that is largely unknown, even in the Kailua community, and it is our desire to help bring that history to life so that it can be recognized, honored, and celebrated.

The opportunity for various government agencies, non-profit organizations, and community members working together to purchase the Maunawili lands currently owned by HRT Realty, LLC, is unprecedented. Hika‘alani is inspired by this opportunity and strongly supports this collaborative effort.

Again, mahalo piha for the opportunity to present this testimony in **strong support** of SCR 189, SD 1.

Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie  
President of the Hika‘alani Board of Directors



**Hui Maunawili-Kawainui  
Testimony on SCR 189, SD 1  
Affirming Support with Proposed Amendments**

FOR THE PURCHASE, PRESERVATION, AND RESTORATION OF AGRICULTURAL  
AND CONSERVATION LANDS IN MAUNAWILI VALLEY, OAHU TO PROTECT THE  
IMPORTANT ANCIENT AND HISTORIC SITES, TRAILS, AND WATERS IN  
MAUNAWILI VALLEY

House Committee on Water and Land  
Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 8:30 a.m.

Aloha and mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony on behalf of the Hui Maunawili-Kawainui **strongly supporting** SCR 189, SD 1, which affirms support for the purchase, preservation, and restoration of lands currently owned by HRT Realty, LLC, in Maunawili.

The Hui is a group of descendants and residents of Maunawili and Kailua who represent a coalition of Hawaiian cultural and environmental organizations. Our purpose is to protect prime agricultural and culturally significant lands in Maunawili. We have joined together to restore the health of Maunawili so that the valley can resume its vital and traditional role in the ahupua‘a of Kailua as a source of free-flowing fresh water and place of abundant agriculture and rich cultural resources. We support strengthening the Native Hawaiian presence and traditional practices in the ahupua‘a of Kailua, particularly in growing kalo and other healthy foods to feed future generations of our community. Maunawili is a storied place in Hawaiian culture, a place of abundance, where lo‘i kalo provided food not solely for Kailua, but for the entire Ko‘olaupoko area and beyond. Our vision is to restore Maunawili to that place of abundance, growth, and healing for all in Hawai‘i.

We are in agreement with the proposed amendments submitted to this Committee by the Trust for Public Land (TPL), with whom the Hui has been working closely over the last several years. As noted in TPL’s testimony, these more accurately reflect the status of current discussions between TPL and the landowner, HRT.

Thus, we concur with TPL and propose the language of SCR 189, SD1 be amended to read as follows:

WHEREAS, HRT Realty, LLC, has expressed an interest in selling its Maunawili lands, or a significant portion thereof, for community benefit and stewardship, to the Department of Land and Natural Resources and non-profit ‘āina based educational organizations, working in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, Ho‘okua‘āina and Kauluakalana and the Kailua community; and . . .

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and other relevant state entities, as well as the City and County of Honolulu, and the Hawaii congressional delegation, to work with The Trust for Public Land, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, Ho‘okua‘āina and Kauluakalana in their efforts to acquire these important and rich agricultural, cultural, and historic lands and return them to community stewardship; and . . .

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional delegation, the Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, ~~Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture~~, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council, Councilmember of District 3 of the City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, members of Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, and Hawaiian Islands State Director of The Trust for Public Land.

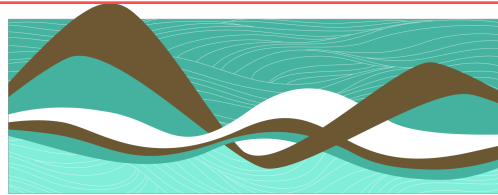
Again, mahalo piha for the opportunity to present this testimony in **strong support** of SCR 189, SD 1.

Oswald Stender  
Barbara Pope  
Deborah Pope

On behalf of the Hui Maunawili-Kailua

**Hui Maunawili-Kawainui**

Beth Anderson - Hui Kawainui-Kailua Ka Wai Ola  
Paul Brennan – Kailua Historical Society  
Chuck Burrows - Hui Kawainui-Kailua Ka Wai Ola  
Laurie Carlson – Maunawili Resident  
Kīhei de Silva - Hālau Mōhala ‘Ilima, Hika‘alani, Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club  
Māpuana de Silva - Hālau Mōhala ‘Ilima, Hika‘alani, Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club  
Lehuakona Isaacs - ‘Ahahui Mālama i ka Lōkahi  
Mei Ling Isaacs - ‘Ahahui Mālama i ka Lōkahi  
Herb Lee - Pacific American Foundation, Hui Kawainui-Kailua Ka Wai Ola  
Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie – Hika‘alani  
Alan Murakami – Maunawili resident  
Barbara Pope - Maunawili resident  
Deborah Pope – Kailua resident with multi-generational ties to Maunawili  
Oz Stender - Maunawili resident  
Mark Paikuli Stride - Luluku Farmers Association, Aloha ‘Āina Health and Learning Center  
Dean Wilhelm - Ho‘okua‘āina at Kapalai Farms  
Kaleomanuiwa Wong - Kauluakalana



## HAWAI'I LAND TRUST

Testimony on SCR 189, SD 1  
Affirming Support with Proposed Amendments  
House Committee on Water and Land  
Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 8:30 a.m.

FOR THE PURCHASE, PRESERVATION, AND RESTORATION OF AGRICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION LANDS IN MAUNAWILI VALLEY, OAHU TO PROTECT THE IMPORTANT ANCIENT AND HISTORIC SITES, TRAILS, AND WATERS IN MAUNAWILI VALLEY

Aloha and mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of SCR 189 SD 1. Mahalo to Senator Lee for introducing the resolution. Hawai'i Land Trust respectfully joins with Hui Maunawili-Kawainui and The Trust for Public Land in suggesting the friendly amendments below that more accurately reflect the status of current discussions with the landowner, HRT.

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, d/b/a Hawai'i Land Trust (HILT), is Hawai'i's islands-wide land trust that is both a Hawai'i 501(c)3 nonprofit, and a nationally accredited land trust. Our mission is to protect and steward the lands that sustain Hawai'i and perpetuate Hawaiian values by connecting people to 'āina. HILT is working in partnership with Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, The Trust for Public Land, and the landowner HRT to find a win-win conservation solution for the Maunawili lands of great cultural, agricultural, and ecological significance.

Suggested amendments:

WHEREAS, HRT Realty, LLC, has expressed an interest in selling its Maunawili lands, or a significant portion thereof, for community benefit and stewardship, to the Department of Land and Natural Resources and non-profit 'āina based educational organizations~~Department of Agriculture~~, working in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, ~~and the~~ Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, Ho'okua'āina and Kauluakalana, and the Kailua community; and . . .

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources, ~~Department of Agriculture~~, and other relevant state entities, as well as the City and County of Honolulu, and the Hawaii congressional delegation, to work with The Trust for Public Land, ~~and the~~ Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, Ho'okua'āina and Kauluakalana in their efforts to acquire these important and rich agricultural, cultural, and historic lands and return them to community stewardship; and . . .

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to

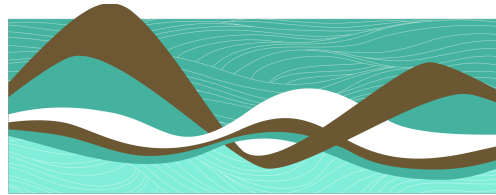
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Laura H. E. Kaakua, *President & CEO*



## HAWAI'I LAND TRUST

Hawaii's congressional delegation, the Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, ~~Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture~~, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council, Councilmember of District 3 of the City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, members of Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, and Hawaiian Islands State Director of The Trust for Public Land.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony in strong support of SCR 189 SD 1 with amendments.

Laura H. E. Kaakua  
President & CEO  
Hawai'i Land Trust

**SCR-189-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 12:17:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/6/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paula Ress	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Maunawili is the lungs and arteries for the windward side. The waters, forest and historic sites must be protected.

**SCR-189-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 2:39:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/6/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support an amended SCR 189 SD1, as proposed by Hui Maunawili Kawainui in its testimony.

Hawai'i must get serious about its resiliency and food insecurity. We rely on 90% of our goods and services from other states and ports. Especially for a food supply, we must invest in making lands available to those future generations who are increasingly cognizant of their need to protect agricultural land, especially highly rated ones like those in Maunawili, so they can engage in farming to cultivate locally produced food.

Moreover, we need to incorporate what has already been proven to work, an ahupua'a-based land management system for resources protection and management so farmers can effectively and efficiently farm without harming the environment in the long term.

Maunawili has some of the most highly rated Hanalei soils in Hawai'i on an island where most of the islands' population reside. In addition, it has access to naturally flowing water that can irrigate crops. Ancient Hawaiians realized this rare combination of resources and made Maunawili famous as a breadbasket for O'ahu in ancient times. More recent farmers are recognizing this opportunity to restore this valley to its former greatness as a food resource area of special recognition.

The State should be partnering with the Hui and its allies, including Weinberg Foundation and the Trust for Public Lands, so these potentially highly productive lands can once again be utilized by farmers in an eco-friendly and community-based way to enhance this island's food security. Please allow the budding partnership of interested parties now engaged in pulling together the package needed to acquire these lands for the uses specified above.

This land acquisition presents a golden opportunity to truly make a difference in the future food security and resources management we are all seeking to enhance as a matter of sound policy for the State. I urge you to strongly support this resolution and pass it out for final adoption.

Mahalo for this opportunity to express my position.

**SCR-189-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 2:57:38 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/6/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pauline Mac Neil	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support S.C.R. No. 189 S.D.1 and the purchase, preservation and restoration of agricultural and conservation lands in Maunawili Valley.

In addition to protecting important archeological sites, passage of the Resolution will encourage sustainable agriculture and food security and safeguard water resources that support diverse ecosystems that are beneficial to our present and future health and economic and social well being.

Mahalo