

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Monday, March 29, 2021
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 189
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 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 working on several due diligence items required for the purchase of the property and 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
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 COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND AND AGRICULTURE
AND ENVIRONMENT**

**MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2021
1:00 P.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 189, SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 154
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.**

Chairpersons Inouye and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 189 and Senate Resolution No. 154 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.



SCR189

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Wai a me ka ‘Āina
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka ‘Oihana Mahi‘ai a me ke Ao Kūlohelohe
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Malaki 29, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Lumi 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR189, 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.” Protecting these resources and valued cultural sites are 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. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SCR-189

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 12:15:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/29/2021 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Victoria Anderson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please pass this important resolution.