

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS ATTA  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021  
2:00 P.M.  
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**SCR 246, SD1  
REQUESTING THAT A WORKING GROUP BE CONVENED TO DEVELOP  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE REVITALIZING ECONOMY AND  
AGRICULTURE LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE**

Chairperson Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 246, SD 1. This resolution requests that a working group be convened to develop recommendations for implementing the revitalizing economy and agriculture leadership initiative. The Department of Agriculture (“the Department”) has serious concerns with this measure.

The Department appreciates the intent of this measure, however, questions its ability to participate and perform as expected due to the proposed loss of positions and funding currently being debated in the Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

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

SCR 246 SD1 – REQUESTING THAT A WORKING GROUP BE CONVENED TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE REVITALIZING ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

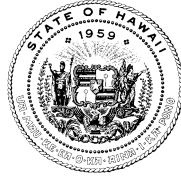
Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SCR 246 SD1. We support the need to improve agriculture in Hawai'i; the use of a working group to provide recommendations on how to make that happen; and, the use of well-documented farming practices that improve soil health, and that make farming economically viable.

While we support this effort, we also recognize that the pandemic has seriously cut into the personnel capital of a number of the organizations mentioned, affecting their ability to engage with this resolution. So, while we defer to the organizations as to their ability to participate on such a task force, particularly in light of the numerous agriculture task forces being recommended, we welcome our participation in this effort.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
HEARING ON APRIL 14, 2021 AT 2:00PM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**SCR 246, SD1, REQUESTING THAT A WORKING GROUP BE CONVENED TO  
DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE REVITALIZING  
ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE**

April 14, 2021

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) submits comments on this resolution requesting that a working group be convened to develop recommendations for implementing the revitalizing economy and agriculture leadership initiative. DHHL appreciates the motivation behind this resolution and sees an opportunity to work collaboratively to develop recommendations regarding implementation of the Revitalizing Economy and Agriculture Leadership initiative, but notes that the Department's mission is to develop and deliver land to native Hawaiians. As such, DHHL's land and resources in this effort will be for its beneficiaries.

For Maui, Hawaii, Kauai, and Molokai, the waiting list for an agricultural lot is longer than a residential lot. Given this strong apparent demand for agricultural lots and DHHL's extensive agricultural land inventory on the neighbor island, DHHL has gone through consultation with our beneficiaries and conducted public hearing with the community to amend our rules to include a new type of award of leasehold. The Subsistence Ag award will allow DHHL to award a lease up to 3 acres in size to address those on the Agricultural Waiting List. These leases will not be required to have as extensive infrastructure improvements that would be expected with a residential lease award. With lower infrastructure requirements, DHHL will be able to award more lots with less cost.

Projects have commenced on Hawaii Island, Kauai, Molokai and Oahu to provide Subsistence Ag lots.

- In Honomu, on Hawaii Island, the master planning has commenced and engineering for the initial phase of lots is under design. In Panaewa, DHHL is subdividing a 10 acre ag lot into smaller subsistence ag lots.

- On Kauai, lands in Hanapepe will utilize CIP funding to master plan lots, including Subsistence Ag lots, and seek to engineer necessary infrastructure including water, drainage and roads.
- On Molokai, the CIP funding will allow subdivision of larger Ag lots into smaller Subsistence Ag lots and will also allow for extending much needed infrastructure to more lots.
- On Oahu, CIP funding has allowed for the design of Subsistence Ag lots in Waimanalo. The engineers for the water, electrical, drainage and roadways has commenced.

Any initiatives that support implementation of Subsistence Ag in these areas would help not only DHHL's beneficiaries, but the agricultural economy.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



# Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Date: April 14, 2021  
Time: 2:00 p.m.  
Where: Via Videoconference

## TESTIMONY

By Marissa Harman  
Director of Asset Management

**RE: SCR 246, SD1 – Requesting that a working group be convened to develop recommendations for implementing the Revitalizing Economy and Agriculture Leadership initiative.**

E ka Luna Ho‘omalua Nakashima, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalua Matayoshi, a me nā Lālā o kēia Kōmike, aloha!

Kamehameha Schools **SUPPORTS SCR 246, SD1**. We believe that our educational mission is best achieved in a society that supports and enables the success of our learners. One significant component of such a society is a sustainable, local food system. For this reason, we have heavily invested in agriculture on our lands across Hawai‘i to contribute to the State’s Aloha+ Challenge goal of doubling local food production by 2030.

We believe that this working group can play a pivotal role in uplifting our local food system. Kamehameha Schools is willing to participate as a member of the working group.

Accordingly, we kindly request you **PASS SCR 246, SD1**.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership. Mahalo nui!