



**STATE OF HAWAII
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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Monday, April 11, 2022
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

in consideration of
GM 795
**NOMINATING JONATHAN DEENIK TO THE GREENHOUSE GAS
SEQUESTRATION TASK FORCE.**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) supports GM 795.

Dr. Jonathan Deenik currently serves as a Soil Fertility and Soil Quality Specialist at the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR). He is also the current UH CTAHR extension agent representative on the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force (GHGSTF).

Dr. Deenik earned his PhD in Soil Science from UH Mānoa and conducts research to address challenges communities face in maintaining environmental quality (water, soil, and air), agricultural productivity, and human health. Since his appointment at UH CTAHR, Dr. Deenik has developed an extensive applied research program on soil fertility and soil amendments in wetland taro and intensive vegetable production systems. He also contributed to the GHGSTF-sponsored Hawai‘i Agriculture Research Center (HARC) Soil Health Plan Pilot Project, completed in 2020, by generating soil health reports for HARC using a Hawai‘i Soil Health Tool he helped develop.

Dr. Deenik remains a valuable member of the GHGSTF whose expertise in soil management and soil fertility is essential for fulfilling the GHGSTF’s healthy soils mandates under Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §225P-4. We believe that Dr. Deenik is more than qualified to continue his service on the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force and fully endorse his nomination to another term.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Monday, April 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

GM 795 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force, Gubernatorial Nominee, JONATHAN DEENIK, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of GM 795 which is recommending Dr. Jonathan Deenik to be appointed to the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force.

Dr. Deenik is a faculty member in the Tropical Plant and Soil Science Department in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He is an Extension Specialist with responsibilities in instruction and research. In addition, Dr. Deenik is the chair of his department. Dr. Deenik is an expert in soil management with an expertise in maintaining and improving soil health. Soil carbon sequestration is a key component of soil health. His expertise is recognized both within Hawai'i, within the United States and throughout the scientific community.

Dr. Deenik would be an excellent member of the Task Force and provide a necessary expertise that will help the group and the state of Hawai'i.

We strongly support this nomination as defined in GM 795.