

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 COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2022
1:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 225 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 75
URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND PARTNERS TO UTILIZE THE PROPERTY
LOCATED AT 45-230 KULAULI STREET, KANEOHE, HAWAII, FOR AQUACULTURE
PURPOSES THAT WILL NOT UNREASONABLY INTERFERE WITH THE
DEPARTMENT'S REGULAR USE OF THE PROPERTY

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 75 and House Resolution 68. These resolutions urge the City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services to partner with the University of Hawaii, Pacific American Foundation, and other organizations to utilize the property located at 45-230 Kulauli Street, Kaneohe, Hawaii, for aquaculture purposes that will not unreasonably interfere with the Department of Environmental Services' regular use of the property. The Department appreciates the broad intent of these resolutions; however, we defer to the City and County of Honolulu with respect to the alternative community uses being considered for the approximately 16-acre site.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Friday, April 22, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

By

Darren T. Lerner, PhD
Director, Sea Grant College Program,
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

And

Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 75 – URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND PARTNERS TO UTILIZE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 45-230 KULAULI STREET, KANEOHE, HAWAII, FOR AQUACULTURE PURPOSES THAT WILL NOT UNREASONABLY INTERFERE WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S REGULAR USE OF THE PROPERTY.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) strongly supports HCR 75 to establish an Aquaculture Area Lease Program. This measure specifically allows for the identification of public lands and waters to be leased for commercial aquaculture purposes.

Over the past several years, Hawai'i Sea Grant has been collaborating with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture on several NOAA-funded aquaculture initiatives including establishing a Hawai'i-Pacific Aquaculture Consortium to promote and expand aquaculture development in Hawai'i and the Pacific region and expanding state-wide workforce development capacity for the aquaculture industry. The outcomes associated with these efforts will be extremely beneficial for the State in terms of food security, STEM education, workforce, and entrepreneurship development, as well as aligns closely with the mission of our Center of Excellence for Sustainable Aquaculture and Coastal Resources.

Funding will help to expand current operations and create new opportunities that will support the growth of Hawai'i's aquaculture industry and attract more investors, growers, and aquaculturists, thereby promoting the State's economic development.

Hawai'i Sea Grant's mission is to provide integrated research, extension, and education activities that increase understanding and use of ocean and coastal resources of the Hawaiian and Pacific Islands and support the informed personal, policy, and management decisions that are integral to realizing this vision. Hawai'i Sea Grant is part of a national network of 34 university-based programs associated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that promote better understanding, conservation, and use of coastal resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HCR 75.



April 20, 2022

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and the Environment
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

My name is Herb Lee, Jr. and I am the President & CEO of the Pacific American Foundation Hawaii Inc. (PAFH), the current landowner of Waikalua Loko I'a next to the former City Sewage Treatment Plant in Kāne'ohe. We are in total **SUPPORT of HCR 75.**

The restoration of Waikalua Loko began in 1995 and has enjoyed tremendous community support and involvement which led to our acquisition of the property in 2015. The Pacific American Foundation has had a long-standing relationship with the University of Hawaii since 1995, specifically with Windward Community College, the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology and UH Sea Grant.

We are a native Hawaiian serving institution which through the context of the restoration effort have been able to create and innovate education programs in all academic core areas. In addition, the journey has allowed us to pursue high levels of research, career development and have proudly become one of the largest "community resource/school" on the windward side. We have become a "bridge builder" of linking both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods in immersive, hands-on experiences within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system.

It is our hope that support from the State House of Representatives will further a collective voice from the community in supporting not only the restoration of the fishpond but further research and development opportunities between our partners to contribute to a more food sustainable Hawaii over the generations to come.

I respectfully ask you to please **PASS HCR75.**

Me ka ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herb Lee, Jr.", written over a printed name and title.

Herb Lee, Jr.
President & CEO