



March 22, 2022

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Peruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Members
State House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Dear Chair Hashem and Members of the House Agriculture 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 HR 68 and 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 HR 68 and HCR75.**

Me ka ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herb Lee, Jr.", written over a blue horizontal line.

Herb Lee, Jr.
President & CEO

