

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023
ROOM 224
1:01 P.M.**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 109 AND
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 115
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DESIGNATE KUNIA,
LEILEHUA PLATEAU, AND POAMOHO AS THE CENTRAL OAHU AGRICULTURAL
CORRIDOR AND TO ESTABLISH A LIST PRIORITIZING POTENTIAL
AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS THAT WOULD
PROVIDE THE MOST VALUE TO THE STATE.**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 109 and Senate Resolution No. 115. These resolutions urge the Department of Agriculture (Department) to designate Kunia, Leilehua Plateau, and Poamoho as the Central Oahu Agricultural Corridor and to establish a list prioritizing potential agricultural infrastructure improvement projects that would provide the most value to the State. The Department offers comments and recommendations.

With respect to the requested designation of the proposed Central Oahu Agricultural Corridor, the Department would consider identifying, rather than designating, the Corridor, as we have no program or authority to formally designate a geographic area. We also recommend the resolutions declare a purpose for the proposed designation or identification of the Corridor. For the Committee's information, the Department has identified and testified about the need to protect the "Kunia Corridor" from non-agricultural uses and activities. As we informally describe it, the "Kunia Corridor" extends from the Royal Kunia community and the Hawaii Agricultural



Research Center to the south and Schofield Barracks and Wheeler Army Airfield to the north, with the Kunia Road at its core.

The resolutions request the Department to “establish a list prioritizing potential agricultural infrastructure improvement projects that would provide the most value to the State...” The resolutions identify infrastructure needed by farmers to include roads and water systems. The resolutions should specify whether this list of prioritized infrastructure is to be limited to the proposed Central Oahu Agricultural Corridor or the island of Oahu, or the entire State. If the list of prioritized infrastructure is specific to the agricultural lands within the Corridor, then the Department would respectfully recommend that the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism be the requested agency in these resolutions as the ADC controls thousands of acres of agricultural land, operates the Waiahole Ditch, and is a major party to the Wahiawa Irrigation System.

The Department notes that “potential agricultural infrastructure improvement projects” may be expressed in general terms in county plans. County zoning ordinances and State land use law identify permitted and permissible uses on agricultural land and do not identify specific infrastructure projects. Therefore, there is little, if any, utility to include county zoning and State land use law in establishing the list of prioritized potential agriculture infrastructure improvement projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these resolutions.



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of SCR109/SR115

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Time: 1:01 PM

Place: Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of SCR109/SR115**, which urges the Department of Agriculture to designate Kunia, Leilehua Plateau, and Poamoho as the Central Oahu Agricultural Corridor and to establish a list prioritizing potential agricultural infrastructure improvement projects that would provide the most value to the state.

With the state's objective to double local food production by 2030, creating the Central Oahu Agricultural Corridor and prioritizing infrastructure improvement projects could be valuable steps toward that goal. This initiative would have positive short-term and long-term impacts, and as companies with a vested interest in Central Oahu agriculture, we support this resolution.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and we urge you to pass this measure.

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.

SCR-109

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 11:53:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/29/2023 1:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brian Miyamoto | Testifying for Hawaii Farm Bureau | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

No Farms No Food