

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
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ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
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BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
and
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2024
1:15 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 210/ SENATE RESOLUTION 186
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO WORK
WITH THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY
GARDEN ON THE EAST LAWN OF THE STATE CAPITOL**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 210 and Senate Resolution 186 requests the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to work with the City and County of Honolulu to establish a community garden on the east lawn of the state capitol. **The Department supports these resolutions and offers the following comments.**

This resolution is aligned with the mission of the Department's Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program. The Kaulunani Program builds capacity in our communities to plan for, establish, manage, and protect green infrastructure, including street trees, urban forests, green spaces, bioswales, and related natural areas where we live, work, and play. The Kaulunani program also supports community gardens and food production when they include trees and are not limited to non-woody greens/herbs/vegetables.

The Department offers the following comments when this resolution is implemented:

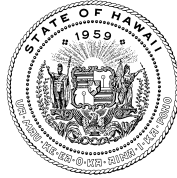
- Currently, a demonstration garden of native and Polynesian introduced species exists at the Ewa-Makai corner of the Kalanimoku building across Punchbowl Street from the capitol. Although the Kalanimoku grounds are under DAGS jurisdiction, DAGS requires that the department cover

the maintenance of that native garden. DAGS will not maintain any landscaping that differs from its existing template. The Department contracts and pays for the maintenance.

- The community garden would need to be protected from vandalism, which damages plants in the Kalanimoku native plant garden, which is not secured or protected.
- Funds are needed to cover the installation, including irrigation, fencing, and possibly management of community gardens, as volunteer community members would need additional support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on these resolutions.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
AND
WATER AND LAND**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024, 1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S. R. 186 and S. C. R. 210

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO WORK WITH THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY GARDEN ON THE EAST LAWN OF THE STATE CAPITOL.

Chairs McKelvey and Inouye, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Elefante, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.R. 186 and S.C.R. 210.

S.R. 186 and S.C.R. 210 requests that the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) and Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) work with the City and County of Honolulu (CCH) to establish a community garden on the east lawn of the State Capitol. DAGS provides comments on this measure and would like to share some concerns regarding this measure that would establish a

community garden in the Capitol District. We would ask that the committee consider the following concerns:

- There is a liability concern should an individual(s) consume contaminated items from the community garden. Unregulated and improperly prepared fruits and vegetables have been linked to serious illnesses. The Risk Management Office has serious concerns about the potential for claims against the State should an individual(s) consume contaminated items linked to the garden, and name the State as the responsible party. Given the lack of 24-hour security and the challenge presented with properly fencing the area to prevent unauthorized entry, there is a high likelihood that an individual may enter the site and urinate and/or defecate in the garden.
- The structural impact to the State Capitol Building's underground parking garage, which occupies most of the east lawn, may be compromised from the garden's increased usage of water to sustain it. It is highly probable that water infiltration issues will arise and that damage to the parking garage's lights and electrical wiring will occur. Repairs to the parking garage electrical wiring are already underway and planned to commence in May of 2024.
- Given the historic nature of the site, the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) would likely need to be consulted and provide approval of the new use before the garden would be allowed to be developed.
- The determination of a responsible group to be tasked to maintain and

caretake the garden would need to be made. Prior agreements with the Korean and Vietnam Veteran's Associations still exist but as members age out, the maintenance of the memorial is becoming an issue.

- Existing security and monitoring funding will be needed to mitigate expected vandalism.
- Our Central Services Division does not have sufficient staff to provide coverage to maintain and manage a community garden in addition to the significant amount of grounds it oversees in this district.
- It is not clear as to the community that would be served by the community garden. Community gardens, in other urban environments, typically have a well-established group that have committed to maintaining and managing the site. We are not aware that this group has been identified.
- There is no parking in close proximity to the area where the community garden is being proposed which may create a hardship for garden caretakers and visitors that may need to bring tools, equipment, and supplies to manage and maintain the community garden.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

SCR-210

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 9:34:52 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/27/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Hawaii Seed Growers Network	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha GVO/WTL Committee Chair, Co-Chair, Members of the Committees,

The Hawai'i Seed Growers Network is in full support of SCR210 which would create a community garden on a portion of the East Lawn of the Capitol. The Hawaii Seed Growers Network currently engages with over 4,000 home gardeners across the State.

Mahalo to those who have created this Resolution, as it clearly would show the commitment of the Hawai'i State Government in furthering the creation of a more sustainable community food system. Since there are 600 people on the waiting list for gardening space with the City and County of Honolulu's Community Garden Program, the dedication of this space would be the right direction for enhancing legislative food policies. The Garden could also serve as a Center for community classes that would further extend it's reach. Mahalo for your consideration of this Resolution.



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March 27, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON SCR 210 & SR 186

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO WORK WITH
THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY GARDEN
ON THE EAST LAWN OF THE STATE CAPITOL

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
1:15 PM

Aloha Chairs McKelvey and Inouye, Vice-Chairs Gabbard and Elefante, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SCR 210 and SR 186, which request the Department of Accounting and General Services and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to work with the City and County of Honolulu to establish a community garden on the east lawn of the State Capitol.

By participating in community garden programs our residents can gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture, adopt healthier eating habits, and develop stronger support for Hawaii's agriculture industry. We still have a long way to go to educate our residents about agriculture, and Community gardens are tools that will help in the education process. It is an investment to have well-informed farmers, consumers, and supporters of Hawaii's agricultural industry in the future.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

SCR-210

Submitted on: 3/23/2024 8:39:35 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/27/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Bishop	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha GVO/WTL Committee Chairs and Members,

No. Just vote no.