

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

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

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FIRST DEPUTY

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BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
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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  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Thursday, March 28, 2024  
3:30 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 152/ SENATE RESOLUTION 130  
REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO COLLABORATE  
WITH THE STATE TO EXPAND COMMUNITY GARDENING OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR RESIDENTS

Senate Concurrent Resolution 152 and Senate Resolution 130 requests the City and County of Honolulu to Collaborate with the State to expand community gardening opportunities for residents. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports these resolutions and offers the following comments.**

These resolutions are 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:

- Lands administered by the Department in urban spaces are few and may not be suitable; however unimproved and overgrown property owned by but not being maintained by the Department of Education may offer suitable space for community gardens.
- Funds are needed to cover support for installations, including irrigation, fencing, and additional personnel capacity as there is only one City and County of Honolulu garden coordinator at this time.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on these resolutions.



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March 28, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**TESTIMONY ON SCR 152 & SR 130**  
REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO COLLABORATE WITH  
THE STATE TO EXPAND COMMUNITY GARDENING OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
RESIDENTS

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference  
3:30 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and McKelvey, Vice-Chair Richards, 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 152 and SR 130**, which request the City and County of Honolulu to collaborate with the State to expand community gardening opportunities for residents.

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-152**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 5:08:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/28/2024 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to:- REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO COLLABORATE WITH THE STATE TO EXPAND COMMUNITY GARDENING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS.

**SCR-152**

Submitted on: 3/27/2024 9:16:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/28/2024 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ellen Awai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support SCR152 collaborating with City and County and other counties with the state in community gardening. Yes, now that many of us live in tiny apartments including kupuna who needed to downsize, community gardening is essential to keep people in touch with the land or aina. This is one of Hawaii's essential life concepts, and native Hawaiians have the moololo of the kalo or taro plant being our brother, after kalo appeared from one of the first infants burial. We are one with the land!

Honolulu's Parks & Recreation has grown a lot with a lot of responsibilities and great improvements with Mayor Blangiardi! The state needs to take some of that responsibility and perform what they have exampled. During the pandemic, even I tried to participate in the C&C gardening program and would have loved to work with land but ended up in Ewa, where the sun can be so hot on my side of the community that plants seem to die, or I have not developed a green thumb. But also their park activities have improved with the use of technology and their knowledgeable friendly staff. I realized that even doing arts and crafts, have greatly improved my state of mind, especially dealing with the daily stuggles of life. The state needs to get more involved with the people!

Support SCR152.

**SCR-152**

Submitted on: 3/28/2024 9:36:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/28/2024 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Grandinetti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to grow more of our own food!