

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 HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWÉ 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

S. B. 2

JANUARY 28, 2025, 3:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 225 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

RELATING TO TREES

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) offers **comments** for S.B. 2, which requires the State to the extent practicable, to plant fruit trees in new or renovated landscaping that includes trees. Provides that the State is not liable for any injuries or illnesses resulting from the harvesting or ingesting of fruit, including food-borne illness.

DAGS provides the following comments:

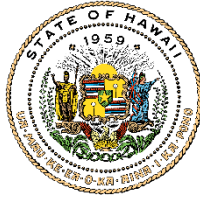
1. Unlike non-fruit bearing trees, there would be additional resources needed to properly clear/dispose of fallen fruit along with the general maintenance required to keep the fruit trees healthy.
2. New policies would be required for public access to fruit trees as well as a proper maintenance scope/schedule.

3. There may be additional liability concerns for the State from injuries to the public resulting from fruit trees.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this proposed measure.

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Tuesday, January 28, 2025
3:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2
RELATING TO TREES

Senate Bill 2 proposes that the State, to the extent practicable, plant fruit trees in new or renovated landscaping that includes trees. The bill would authorize persons to harvest fruit from those fruit trees and provides that the State is not liable for any injuries or illnesses resulting from the harvesting or ingesting of fruit, including food-borne illness. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department agrees with the need for more urban trees and the need to support food security. Selecting the proper tree species for any site and purpose is key to maximizing the long-term benefits of any tree or urban forest setting. Beyond planting, providing maintenance of trees is essential for their survival. Fruit trees often require additional maintenance (i.e., irrigation, proper pruning to make fruits accessible, and pest control) to produce edible and desirable fruit.

Kaulunani, the Urban and Community Forestry Program of the Department, supports community efforts to plant, maintain, and manage fruit trees and agroforestry systems. There may be opportunities to achieve some of the objectives of Senate Bill 2 through Kaulunani programming.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Government Operations Committee,

Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber
Kohala, Hawai'i

Tony Vera
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hāna, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakalā, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahālāwai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Moloka'i

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports SB2.**

SB2 Trees represents a forward-thinking approach to sustainable agriculture and food security in Hawaii by incorporating fruit-bearing trees into state-managed land development projects. This initiative not only enhances the aesthetic and ecological value of public spaces but also contributes meaningfully to local food systems. By requiring the inclusion of fruit trees in new or renovated landscapes, the state takes a proactive stance in addressing food scarcity and promoting local agriculture. Fruit trees bear the promise of seasonal harvests that can provide fresh, nutritious produce free of commercial supply chains, thus reducing food miles and bolstering our local economy. By strategically planting these trees, Hawaii can simultaneously expand green spaces and promote community-based food sourcing, enriching soil and supporting biodiversity in the process.

Moreover, empowering individuals to harvest these fruits reinforces community values of sharing and self-sufficiency while minimizing potential food waste. By clarifying that the state assumes no liability for the risks associated with harvesting and consuming the fruit, SB2 Trees encourages local engagement and the type of communal stewardship necessary for long-term sustainability.

SB-2

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 3:56:34 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT this Bill to provide food for the people of Hawaii and I urge all members of the Committee to **VOTE YES** on this Bill.

SB-2

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 3:56:59 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaia Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are incredibly food insecure in Hawai'i. We must plant more fruit trees that are culturally appropriate.

SB-2

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:07:25 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2 that requires the State, to the extent practicable, to plant fruit trees in new or renovated landscaping that includes trees.

Planting fruit trees on government property provides several benefits, including enhancing food security by producing fresh produce for the community, improving environmental quality by providing shade and oxygen, and promoting biodiversity by attracting pollinators.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.