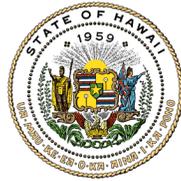


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025
10:30 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 139
REQUESTING 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.

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Concurrent Resolution No. 139. This resolution requests 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. This resolution also requests the Department of Transportation to consider traffic signage for speed limits and "no passing" zones. The Department offers comments on the proposed Corridor designation and a list of prioritized agricultural infrastructure improvements.

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 resolution 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.



This resolution requests the Department to “establish a list prioritizing potential agricultural infrastructure improvement projects that would provide the most value to the State...” This resolution identifies infrastructure needed by farmers to include roads and water systems. This resolution 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 proposed Corridor, then the Department would respectfully recommend that the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism be the requested agency in this resolution 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 but 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 this resolution.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



WENDY GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
HUI HO'OULU AINA MAHIAI

TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEM

April 11, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 139/SENATE RESOLUTION 157

REQUESTING 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 Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Concurrent Resolution 139 & Senate Resolution 157, requesting 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.

Some of Hawaii's largest diversified farmers operate on the central plain of Oahu. Investing in the region's aging plantation era infrastructure is of critical importance not only because of the impact on the production of crops, but also

because of the economic impact on the community. Making these investments will ensure the infrastructure can support agriculture production for centuries to come.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC
PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759
(808) 688-2892

SCR139, Requesting 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

House AGR Hearing – 10:30 AM
Friday, April 11, 2025

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the House AGR Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 42 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. Our family farms grow approximately 1 million pounds of weekly import replacement produce. I am a volunteer director, serving as Chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have also served as an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

This measure acknowledges the importance of Central Oahu's most productive agricultural lands by requesting the designation of Kunia, Leilehua Plateau, and Poamoho as the Central Oahu Agricultural Corridor. Further, the measure acknowledges the need for state and county agencies to work towards preserving it amongst competing needs for land. Assessment and recommendations for a prioritized list of Infrastructure improvements for these agricultural lands will enhance Hawaii's increased capacity for food security.

Farm workers and farmers need safe roadway entrances and exits to their farms. Traffic calming recommendations and enforcement of 35 miles per hour speed limits, no-pass zones, and other methods must be a priority to protect farmers and agricultural workers.

Your support of this measure is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

SCR-139

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 11:15:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/11/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Miyamoto	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Farm Strong!