

HB-834

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 10:45:53 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Is there an explanation somewhere of the necessity of such quarries? Is that what the legislature is exploring? Are there any places which are off limits/?



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2021

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Thursday, February 11, 2021 8:30 a.m.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 430
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Support for HB834: RELATING TO A BLACK CINDER CONE QUARRY SITE SURVEY.

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA). HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture. The 2019 Hawaii Census of Horticulture show horticulture operations in Hawaii sold a total of \$89.2 million in floriculture, nursery and specialty crops.

This letter is to show **support** for site surveys to be undertaken to provide new cinder quarry sites that are much needed for our agriculture industry. It is important for industry to have reliable access to black cinder media, as it is used by a significant number of agriculture businesses and is required for the exporting of potted plants.

Without new access to a clean and reliable cinder source, our industry could face undue hardship of having no quality media available to produce our crops, impacting the future prospects of our industry. The previously available sources of black cinder have been heavily used and no longer have quality black cinder.



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

There is also the issue of having nematode free cinder, which allows us to not have to steam the media (a costly process), so that our plants in turn can be nematode free.

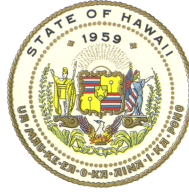
If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext. 2627, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,

Eric S. Tanouye
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

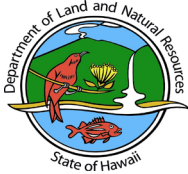
DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Thursday, February 11, 2021
8:30 AM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 430

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 834
RELATING TO A BLACK CINDER CONE QUARRY SITE SURVEY**

House Bill 834 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources, in collaboration with the County of Hawaii (County), to conduct site surveys to identify locations for black cinder cone quarries on the island of Hawaii, requires a report to the legislature, and makes a general fund appropriation of an unspecified amount. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department generally supports measures that facilitate economic recovery on Hawaii Island, but has concerns with this bill to the extent it requires all state and county lands to be considered in surveys for a quarry site, and apparently allows for state funds to be expended on surveys of private lands. Additionally, the mandate of the bill seems overly broad in requiring the Department and the County to identify possible locations. A quarry in a designated natural area reserve may be possible location, but would not be legally permissible. A narrower mandate would be to identify the most suitable locations. Accordingly, the Department proposes the following amendments (changes indicated in bracketed strikethrough or underlining).

SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural resources, in collaboration with the county of Hawaii, shall conduct site surveys on the island of Hawaii to identify ~~[possible]~~ the most suitable locations for new black cinder cone quarries.

(b) ~~[All]~~ Any lands on the island of Hawaii owned by the State ~~[and]~~ or county of Hawaii ~~[shall]~~ may be considered in determining where to conduct site surveys. Lands owned by private parties may be considered and site surveys may be conducted pursuant to agreements with the landowners.

(c) The department of land and natural resources, in collaboration with the county of Hawaii, shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2022. The report shall include:

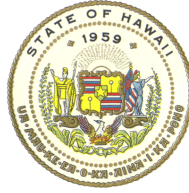
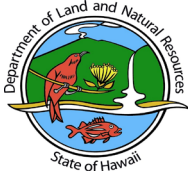
- (1) A list of lands determined to be ~~[possible]~~ the most suitable locations for new black cinder cone quarries, including a list regarding ownership of each parcel of land;
- (2) Any accessibility issues to the lands;
- (3) Ways the State may help facilitate access to interested industries;
- (4) Any proposed legislation; and
- (5) Any other matters the department and county believe are relevant for consideration.

The general fund appropriation in the bill is currently blank. The Department recommends an appropriation of at least \$150,000 to cover staff time and the procurement of a geologist, mineralogist or other specialist as a consultant on the project.

Finally, the Department notes that applicants for licenses of quarry operations on state lands typically identify sites through their own research and expertise and then request that State to issue a lease for the site after applicant completes an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement for the proposed quarry operation at its expense.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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Finally, the Department notes that applicants for licenses of quarry operations on state lands typically identify sites through their own research and expertise and then request that State to issue a lease for the site after applicant completes an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement for the proposed quarry operation at its expense.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-834

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:08:51 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elton Mow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Another cinder source is greatly needed for our plant industry the existing source needs to be steam sterilized for half a day so the retrofitted semi truck can only accomodate 2 truckloads a day which further adds the driver cost to the steaming cost.

HB-834

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 4:42:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Russell Kuwaye	Puna Rock Co., Ltd.	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Russell Kuwaye, general manager of Puna Rock Co., Ltd.. We operate a rock quarry on the east side of the big island. In addition to our rock products, we also import soil and cinder in bulk and re-sell it to homeowners in their pickup trucks.

We are in full support of HB834 because within the last few years, the current supply of black cinder has been very limited. Black cinder is an essential component to make our cindersoil mix that is used for gardening, nurseries, lawns and landscaping.

Your support for HB834 will be greatly appreciated.

Mahalo Nui Loa

Russell Kuwaye, Puna Rock Co., Ltd.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Water and Land
Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 834 – RELATING TO BLACK CINDER CONE QUARRY SITE SURVEY

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Pihana Branco, and members of the House Committee on Water and Land:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 834 as it relates to the need for sources of black cinder cone for agriculture.

The floriculture industry is an important component of the Hawai'i agriculture industry. It is part of the “nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod” category found in the 2017 agricultural census by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agriculture Statistic Service. The value of that category in 2017 was \$100,381,000.

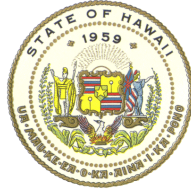
The cinder material is a critical component of the beds in which many commercial flowers can be grown. Experience has shown the advantage of using black cinder cone material over red, therefore the black is preferred.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UHM/CTAHR) works closely with the flower industry, with particular reference to our plant breeding program. Since the 1950's UHM/CTAHR has been providing new varieties of anthuriums at the rate of approximately one per year. The cinder cone material is also used in container grown plants, as does the landscape industry.

For these reasons, and in support of this very important industry whose flower materials are renowned beyond the borders of Hawai'i, we support this bill.

However, we are aware of the current financial climate of the State of Hawai'i and realize that state funding is reduced. For this reason, UH defers to DLNR on their budgetary issues and priorities.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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HB-834

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:17:33 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
andrew matsuura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Andrew Matsuura, I support bill HB 834.

I am a landscaper and Nursreyman, that relay on black cinder as a soil additive to our planting mix. Please allow us to continue our practice in this economic crisis.

Sincerely,

Andrew Matsuura

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Douglass S. Adams
Director

Dr. Sulma Gandhi
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

25 Aupuni Street, Room 1301 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4252
(808) 961-8366 • Fax (808) 935-1205
E-mail: chresdev@co.hawaii.hi.us

HB834

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

The County of Hawai'i supports HB834. This bill will require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to survey sites for new black cinder cone quarries.

The County of Hawai'i's agricultural industries utilize black cinder as a media, amendment and as a décor for landscaping. We are fortunate to have this unique material. It is light in weight, aerates media, clean and decorative. Increasing demand is depleting the inventory of the existing public quarry and causing increasing economic hardship on the potted foliage and floral producers, who are major exporters of agricultural products. There are quarries on private lands, but they are not available for public sales.

Red cinder and a mix of red and black cinder has been researched as a suitable substitute. Unfortunately, it is not desirable substitute for black cinder. It is high in iron requiring remediation, heavy, and the fine particles have a undesirable texture similar to clay.

We are in an urgent situation. An Environmental Impact Statement would be required before the development of a new quarry. During this time, the black cinder inventory will continue to shrink and stress the industries that are dependent on it. Your consideration of this bill is greatly appreciated.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug S. Adams", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Douglass S. Adams
Director, Research and Development

HB-834

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:51:33 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Tamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a landscape architect on the Big Island of Hawaii and I support this bill. Black cinder is a critical part of the landscape and nursery industry. We incorporate black cinder into a topsoil mix that we use on all of our residential and commercial projects. It provide adequate drainage to our topsoil mix and also helps to ammend poor soils. It is less dense and lighter in weight than red cinder, so the black cinder soil mix we use doesn't compact over time. We found that planted material using the black cinder soil mix stays healthier when compared to other soil mixes. The success of the projects that I work on is contributed to the use of black cinder.