



**Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth in Support of HB205 HD1
Related to Agriculture**

Senate Committee on Agriculture

24 March 2015, 3:15pm, Room 414

Audrey Newman

Hawai'i Green Growth

P.O. Box 535 Ho'olehua, Hawai'i 96729

Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 60 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) supports the Office of Hawaiian Affairs priority HB205 HD1 to update the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives to support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops, and small farms.

The language proposed by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs recognizes the important role of traditional farming and Native Hawaiian cultural practices in building a more sustainable, resilient future for Hawai'i. This bill seeks the promotion and growth of traditional Hawaiian agricultural technologies – including loko i'a (fishponds), māla (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated patches) – crops, and small-scale farms to perpetuate culture, support disaster preparedness, and food security in a changing climate.

In addition to supporting local agriculture and perpetuating Native Hawaiian culture, **HB205 HD1** will help us to continue building smart sustainable communities and aid in climate resilience. This bill will advance action on the *Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona 'Ae'ōia*, a joint leadership commitment to achieve six sustainability targets by 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, green jobs and education. The *Aloha+ Challenge* was unanimously endorsed by the 2014 Legislature (SCR 69), and signed by Hawai'i's Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The *Aloha+ Challenge* was also internationally recognized as a model of integrated sustainability at the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa.

We respectfully urge your support for **HB205 HD1**. Mahalo nui for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Newman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Audrey" being more prominent than the last name "Newman".

Audrey Newman

Senior Advisor, Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG)

Bringing leaders together to achieve sustainability in Hawai'i & be a model for a green economy

<http://www.hawaiigreengrowth.org>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: yogardenhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB205 on Mar 24, 2015 15:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 9:22:36 AM

HB205

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for HWN/AGL on Mar 24, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Stern	Yogarden LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB205 on Mar 24, 2015 15:15PM
Date: Monday, March 23, 2015 12:45:25 PM

HB205

Submitted on: 3/23/2015

Testimony for HWN/AGL on Mar 24, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS HB 205, HD1, RELATED TO AGRICULTURE, Which amends the State's Agricultural planning statute to provide that to achieve the agricultural objectives of the State Planning Act, it shall be the policy of this State, (1) To perpetuate, promote, and increase traditional Hawaiian farming, such as the use of loko i'a, mala, and irrigated lo'i, and traditional Hawaiian crops, such as kalo, 'uala, and 'ulu; and (2) To increase and develop small-scale farms. (HB 205, HD1) Over the past few years, LURF has been involved in working with concerned Legislators, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, representatives for the University of Hawaii, and Taro farmers (Stakeholders) relating to the preservation of State Taro Lands in the Conservation District and propagation of Hawaiian taro. These efforts have confirmed that there are many uncertainties and challenges relating to traditional Hawaiian farming and the successful propagation and maintenance of traditional Hawaiian crops. LURF believes that HB 205, HD1, represents an opportunity to gather data and information regarding traditional Hawaiian farming and Traditional Hawaiian crops, that would help the Stakeholders, the State and the public to successfully propagate and maintain Hawaiian crops. Thus, LURF respectfully recommends TWO AMENDMENTS to this measure: (1) PILOT PROJECTS. Add authorization for the State to create "Pilot Projects" to implement traditional Hawaiian farming systems and to successfully propagate Hawaiian crops; perhaps these Pilot Projects could be for three sites on each island (shoreline, inland and mountains); also, (2) BEST PRACTICES REPORT. Require one of the Stakeholder groups, or another State entity, to prepare ongoing "Best Practices" reports regarding, among other things the successes or failures relating to traditional Hawaiian farming systems and the propagation, maintenance, of traditional Hawaiian crops. The purpose of these "Best Practices" reports would be to provide information and guidance relating to the best Hawaiian farming practices and the best propagation and maintenance practices for Hawaiian crops. This information could be used by other public agencies, as well others in the agricultural industry.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: kamakane73@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB205 on Mar 24, 2015 15:15PM*
Date: Monday, March 23, 2015 6:35:57 AM

HB205

Submitted on: 3/23/2015

Testimony for HWN/AGL on Mar 24, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: paulizakmusic@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB205 on Mar 24, 2015 15:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 9:44:13 AM

HB205

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for HWN/AGL on Mar 24, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Izak	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB205 on Mar 24, 2015 15:15PM
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015 7:09:41 PM

HB205

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for HWN/AGL on Mar 24, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
penny levin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The existing goals for agriculture under HRS 226-7 include perpetuating the viability of sugar and pineapple; growth and development of diversified agriculture; and an agriculture industry that continues to be part of a dynamic and essential component of Hawaii's strategic, economic and social well-being. These objectives have not been revisited for more than 20 years. While they recognize our primary export crops and the drive for export markets they have never acknowledged our oldest and most important cultural origins in agriculture. In the last 20 years we have shifted our awareness to the need for a greater focus on local food self-sufficiency. Eighty-five percent of our food is import dependent. This is our greatest security risk. None of the existing objectives for agriculture address this as an issue of primacy. All of the objectives point to economics as the source for social well-being, missing a more holistic approach both to agriculture and well-being.

Abundance springs from a connection to place and people; not just revenues. As the conditions of our soils and water resources have declined we would do well to consider that none of the objectives address the critical need for focus on restorative agriculture practices if we are to continue to have a vibrant agricultural economy. The perpetuation, promotion and increase of traditional Hawaiian crops and practices, and the growth of small farms will move us one small, but important measure towards addressing some of these missing piecing. Both these objectives are embraced as mechanisms for encouraging agricultural practices attentive to the land and enhancing community well-being, family and cultural resilience. They provide the Department of Agriculture with enriched guidance for future food security. The proposed additions to Hawai'i's planning goals and objectives for agriculture recognize that traditional Hawaiian crops and small farms are a vibrant and vital part of our economy. I strongly support this bill. Mahalo.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: psgmikilua@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB205 on Mar 20, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Friday, March 20, 2015 11:15:09 AM

HB205

Submitted on: 3/20/2015

Testimony for HWN/AGL on Mar 20, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phyllis S. Geiser	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I apologize for the late testimony. I am in strong support of recognizing traditional Native Hawaiian farming techniques and Hawai'i's small farms. I personally benefited from the nutritional value of Kalo as a child. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov