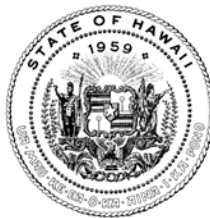


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of  
CARTY S. CHANG  
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
AGRICULTURE**

**Friday, February 6, 2015  
9:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 773  
RELATING TO COMMUNITY FOOD FORESTS**

House Bill 773 proposes to establish a community food forest program that works collaboratively to provide a source of healthy food. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this bill, but does not feel it is necessary.**

Community food forests or agroforestry systems provide a number of benefits to the public, including increased tree canopy, watershed health, a food source, and contributes to healthy communities through physical activity. House Bill 773 proposes to create a program within the Department focused on the establishment and maintenance of community food forests.

The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife has a number of programs that provide community engagement on State, County, and private lands, such as the State Forest Stewardship Program (FSP), the Federal Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF), the Forest Reserve System (FRS), and other grant funding sources. Several successful community projects include the Kokua Kalihi Valley's food and medicinal gardens on State Park lands funded in part by the FSP & UCF programs, and the Keanae arboretum and lo'i taro garden on forest reserve land on Maui funded by the Hawaii Tourism Authority and the FRS. Through these partnerships the Department is successfully supporting communities with local food resources, discouraging vandalism, and improving health through the active management of these lands.

The Department believes that through these existing programs, the goals for House Bill 773 are being met without creating a new program. If a Food Forest Program is developed the Department notes that funding would be needed for successful implementation and distribution of program goals.

**CARTY S. CHANG**  
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**DANIEL S. QUINN**  
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

**W. ROY HARDY**  
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

onishi3 - Timothy

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:37 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: legechair@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB773 on Feb 6, 2015 09:00AM\*

**HB773**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 6, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

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