TESTIMONY OF J.P. DAMON CONCERNING SB 3111 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 08, 2016, 10 AM COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE HAWAII STATE SENATE

LATE

Aloha,

Moanalua Gardens is owned by Kaimana Ventures, Ltd., of which I am the president and sole owner. I am one of S.M. Damon's great-grandchildren. I purchased the Gardens from the trustees of his estate in 2006 and have operated it since then. Moanalua Gardens was the beloved creation of my great grandfather and the land has been under my family or my stewardship for a hundred thirty two years.

My father took an active interest in the operation of the Gardens and some of my earliest memories are from the time I spent with him there. In turn, I have made it a priority to spend time with my children at the Gardens and to emphasize to them their responsibility in keeping the Gardens and being good stewards of it. It is my hope that they will pass it on to their children and that this will continue for many generations to come.

I first learned about SB 3111 last week. I was not contacted by the sponsors of this legislation or anyone else before then. The Gardens are not for sale. I want to be very clear: I am unwilling to sell the Gardens and will actively resist any effort to compel a sale.

I have devoted my time and financial resources to improving the Gardens and will continue to do so. I think the Gardens are kept at a level that is above what is seen in any public park. A change in ownership from me to the State of Hawaii or some other governmental entity is going to result in a decline rather than enhancement of the Gardens.

Moanalua Gardens does not need government intervention. I respectfully request that SB 3111 not proceed.

J.P. Damon

gabbard2 - Donna

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Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB3111 on Feb 8, 2016 10:00AM		

SB3111

Submitted on: 2/7/2016 Testimony for WLA on Feb 8, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony for the important concern. I am in support of this measure. With its rich history, it is important that we preserve and protect this land as a state park. Furthermore, I believe that the Moanalua community should be allowed significant input for its uses and operations. Specifically, the Moanalua Garden Foundation, which has called the Garden it's home for more than a generation, and plays an important roll in events such as the Prince Lot Hula Festival on the grounds, should be given special consideration.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

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