

SCR-101

Submitted on: 3/24/2024 1:14:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/25/2024 1:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Lorraine Sakaguchi | Testifying for Vegan Society of Hawaii | Support | In Person |

Comments:

Testimony in favor of SR101 Urging a transition to a plant-based lifestyle

I am writing as a representative of the Vegan Society of Hawai‘i (VSH). VSH's mission is to promote human health, animal rights, and protection of the environment by means of whole food, plant-based vegan education. VSH is an all-volunteer nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational and advocacy organization, formerly known for many years as the Vegetarian Society of Hawai‘i, which has been accomplishing our mission in Hawai‘i since 1990 for 34 years. We have active chapters regularly doing both in-person and online events throughout the year on Oahu, Maui, and Kaua‘i.

When I was growing up as a young child in Kalihi in the 1950s, there were not very many people who were noticeably overweight, so much so that I can remember being horrified to see other elementary school kids picking on and taunting those few children whom they called fat.

These days, such children and adults, too, are no longer in a tiny minority. In fact, many in Hawaii and elsewhere in the U.S. are coping with obesity and the debilitating health problems that come with poor food choices, much of it due to the increased availability of apparently affordable animal-based foods, which now mostly come from animals efficiently, but cruelly grown and processed.

In the 1950s, without today’s factory farming, chicken in people’s diets was less available. I think older people can still recall small feather quills sometimes poking out of the hand-cleaned chicken in their meals, an experience which would be rare today with factory-farmed processed chicken. When people ate out at diners and such then, a sprig of green parsley on the plate was standard, and a meal would usually not be complete without some salad or other veggies. Now, at too many fast food places and diners, you’ll rarely see an animal-based meal with that added plant color and nutrition; instead there’ll be just the “good stuff,” which is often far from good for people’s health.

Fortunately, we the people of Hawaii can not only learn something from that somewhat healthier recent era in our history. We can take everything else we’ve learned, too, and ... We can do better!

A vast and growing body of the results of many research studies, as well as experience, has shown us that the Hawai‘i 's and the world's increasing reliance on animal agriculture and foods

has contributed in a major way to the earth's existential problems, including the negative effects of climate change and people's diet-driven debilitating chronic health problem

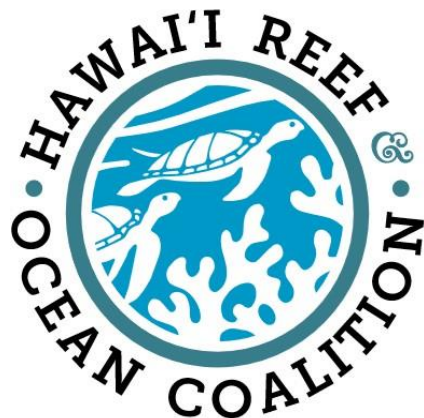
It has also caused humans generally to turn a blind eye to the cruelties, especially inherent in mass animal agriculture, which treats animals intended for food as unthinking, unfeeling commodities, not caring that these animals not only do understand what's happening to them, but can also feel affection, happiness, and loyalty, in addition to pain, dread, and hopelessness.

Happily, a vast body of research and experience has also been showing us that we can break that away from that disastrous trend. By moving in a knowledgeable, peaceful way towards a healthy and compassionate whole food, plant-based diet and lifestyle, we can help reverse or ameliorate many of the negative effects of climate change already upon us, enjoy a gentler, more sustainable relationship with our environment and our fellow sentient creatures on this earth, and generally experience better personal health, as well.

Thank you for reading this. Please support this resolution. It's an important beginning to help secure a brighter future for both the people and the 'āina of Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Lorraine Sakaguchi
President
Vegan Society of Hawai'i



To: The Honorable Chair Mike Gabbard, the Honorable Vice Chair Tim Richards, III, and Members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee.

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i and Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **Senate Concurrent Resolution 101/ Senate Resolution 83 URGING A TRANSITION TO A PLANT-BASED LIFESTYLE**

Hearing: Monday, March 25 1:01 p.m., room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seeks to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i show the world the way back to a safe and stable climate.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i and Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition **STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR101/SR83!**

Transitioning to a plant-based lifestyle is critical in reducing climate heating from atmospheric greenhouse gases!

Regarding **food choices**, **worldwide phase-out of animal agriculture, combined with a global shift to a plant-based diet, would effectively halt the increase of atmospheric greenhouse gases for 30 years according to** a study by scientists at Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley, **and use less land, energy, and water.** The transition also would hugely **benefit human health.**

Regarding **building materials**, there is a great opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by replacing carbon-intensive building materials such as timber, steel and cement with plant substitutes. Building construction has a huge impact on the climate. Production of building materials such as steel and cement involves some of the largest carbon emissions. Cutting mature trees for buildings involves a very large loss of carbon sequestration. **We need to decarbonize our building construction!**

Plants can provide structural building alternatives that are much less harmful for the climate.

For example, there are types of **clumping bamboo** that can grow very rapidly with sufficient water. They can be processed into wood building materials that are stronger, more flexible, and lighter than timber or steel. They can be treated so they are more fire and termite-resistant than wood. They sequester ten times as much carbon as trees!

“**Hempcrete**” developed from industrial hemp can substitute for building blocks.

“**Biocements**” produced from cyanobacteria (blue-green algae or “pond scum”) can substitute for Portland cement.

Hawaii’s year-round growing season and areas with ample water make it ideal for development of plant-based building materials.

This may be a great opportunity for Hawai’i to lead in decarbonizing buildings while developing plant-based local industries!

Plant-based building materials have great potential to bring “green” jobs to Hawai’i!

Please pass these resolutions to mitigate the climate crisis by transitioning to a plant-based lifestyle!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i and Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii
hi.ccl.lobby@gmail.com
cclhawaii.org



March 24, 2024

SUPPORT FOR SCR101 - SR83

Dear Chair Chair Mike Gabbard, the Honorable Vice Chair Tim Richards, III, and Members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee,

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) - Hawaii, supports SCR101 - SR83, which urges a transition to "incorporate plant based nutrition and plant-based construction materials".

CCL Hawaii comprises over 1000 members across Hawaii. We advocate for effective, efficient, and equitable climate legislation.

We support SCR101 - SR83 as it will help foster the cultivation and use of bamboo, a canoe plant, that can provide a traditional food resource as well as construction grade dimensional lumber. Locally grown and processed; giant, clumping bamboo (the fastest growing plant on earth), has the ability to sequester large amounts of atmospheric carbon, and could become an important resource in reaching Hawaii's zero emission goals.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Please support SCR101 - SR83.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Reilly for CCL- Hawai'i

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change solutions. CCL Hawaii's 1,000+ members are part of a 180,000+ global organization. For more information, visit citizensclimatelobby.org.



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

March 25, 2024

Subject: *SCR 101 - URGING A TRANSITION TO A PLANT-BASED LIFESTYLE*

Aloha e Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and the Senate Committee of Agriculture and Environment,

I am writing to express my strong support for the SCR 101 urging a transition to a plant-based lifestyle in Hawaii. I deeply appreciate the recognition of the numerous benefits that a plant-based lifestyle can bring to our communities and environment.

First and foremost, embracing a plant-based lifestyle aligns with the principles of Aloha 'Āina, fostering a harmonious relationship with the land and promoting practices that protect and enhance our natural environment. By encouraging the cultivation of endemic and canoe plants, supporting the restoration of the Ahupua'a system, and advocating for sustainable building materials, we not only honor our cultural heritage but also ensure the well-being of future generations.

Furthermore, transitioning to plant-based nutrition offers a host of benefits to human health. Numerous health care associations and scientists, including the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, the American Heart Association, the MD Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas, and EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health advocate for a plant-based diet due to its positive impact on reducing the risk of chronic diseases and promoting overall well-being while also living within safe planetary boundaries.

Safe planetary boundaries can be reached by embracing plant-based living to significantly mitigate the environmental impact of our food choices. Studies conducted by institutions like the University of Oxford, Stanford University, and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization have highlighted the substantial reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful effects associated with animal agriculture. By phasing out animal agriculture, we can take meaningful steps towards combating climate change and preserving our precious natural resources.

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2024, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

In light of these compelling reasons, I urge you to support this resolution and take decisive action towards promoting a plant-based lifestyle in Hawaii. By doing so, we can foster a healthier, more sustainable future for our state and inspire positive change on a global scale.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Mahalo,
Janine Mariano & Hawaii Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

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**Building Decarbonization Task Force
Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents**

HawaiiChangeAgents@gmail.com
hawaiichangeagents.org

March 24, 2024

SUPPORT FOR SCR 101/SR 83 URGING A TRANSITION TO A PLANT-BASED LIFESTYLE

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

The Building Decarbonization Task Force of the Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents supports SCR101 and SR83, which urges a transition to a plant-based lifestyle."

Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents (HECA) consists of ten task forces; one of which is the Building Decarbonization Task Force. This task force supports SCR101 and SR83 because replacing carbon-intensive building materials such as timber, steel and cement with plant substitutes would yield significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Production of building materials such as steel and cement are carbon intensive activities. Cutting mature trees for buildings involves a very large loss of carbon sequestration. For many applications, these materials have plant-based substitutes, which are much less harmful for the climate:

- For example, there are types of **clumping bamboo** that can grow very rapidly with sufficient water. They can be processed into wood building materials that are stronger, more flexible, and lighter than timber or steel. They can be treated so they are more fire and termite-resistant than wood. They sequester ten times as much carbon as trees.
- "**Hempcrete**" developed from industrial hemp can substitute for building blocks.
- "**Biocements**" produced from cyanobacteria (blue-green algae or "pond scum") can substitute for Portland cement.

In addition, plant-based building materials have great potential to bring "green" jobs to Hawai'i.

Please pass these resolutions to mitigate the climate crisis.

Mahalo,
Building Decarbonization Task Force of HECA (by Paul Bernstein)



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

SCR101/SR83

URGING A TRANSITION TO A PLANT-BASED LIFESTYLE.

Monday, March 25, 2024, 1:01PM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **offers comments on SCR101/SR83** which urges a transition to a plant-based lifestyle.

We believe that individuals should have the freedom to choose their diet based on their specific needs and values, but we are concerned about a State Resolution that includes disparaging comments about the cattle industry. In order to support Hawaii's agricultural production, we should focus on how to increase consumption of locally purchased products so that we keep funds in the state and continue to have access to fresh, healthy foods, including beef as a high-quality protein. Our goal is to ensure agricultural lands stay in agricultural production, especially rangelands that produce beef while also providing important ecosystem services (Bremer et al., 2021).

Advancing Food Security

With cattle consistently in the top 5 agricultural commodities in the state, beef is incredibly important to advancing Hawaii's food security. Hawaii's paniolo have endured generations of challenges, and while the pineapple and sugar industries faltered, the cattle industry continues to steward tracts of land and find innovative ways to stay in business. We encourage the State to look to Hawaii's ranchers as partners in increasing food security, such as continuing to provide beef for the Farm to School program and as a resource for reducing fire fuel loads.

Nutrition

The American Heart Association recognizes beef as a heart healthy protein and even provides recipes that include lean beef. Research by Roussell et al (2012) shows eating lean beef as part of a heart-healthy dietary pattern can help maintain normal cholesterol levels. Hawaii's locally grown beef provides 10 essential nutrients in a single 3 oz. serving. This includes high-quality protein, iron, zinc and B vitamins. The iron in beef is heme iron, which is more easily absorbed than nonheme iron, which is the main form of iron found in plant proteins. Iron is vital as it helps red blood cells carry oxygen to body tissue, but even further, it also plays an important role in cognitive health such as memory, learning, and reasoning.



Environmental Stewardship

If we encourage individuals not to choose beef, some of our most avid land stewards will suffer. Ranchers are stewards of the land and are key in removing invasive species, reducing fire fuel loads, and increasing carbon sequestration through rotational grazing. Beef raised in the US has one of the lowest carbon footprints in the world, and according to the Environmental Protection Agency, cattle are responsible for just 2% of greenhouse gas emissions in the US, with the full lifecycle of raising cattle accounting for 3.7% of greenhouse gas emissions (Rotz et al., 2019). This improvement in production is a result of research in genetics, the quality of cattle feeds, animal welfare and management techniques, and the inclusion of technology.

Since almost 20% of Hawaii's land is in pasture (with that number dropping each year due to conversions to other uses), we should not be discouraging the consumption of local beef. **We believe that a variety of diets can exist and that people can choose a plant-based lifestyle without the disparaging language towards cattle and beef.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director

Sources Cited

Bremer, L. L., Nathan, N., Trauernicht, C., Pascua, P., Krueger, N., Jokiel, J., Barton, J., & Daily, G. C. (2021). Maintaining the Many Societal Benefits of Rangelands: The Case of Hawai'i. *Land*, 10(7), Article 7.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/land10070764>

Rotz, C. A., Asem-Hiablie, S., Place, S., & Thoma, G. (2019). Environmental footprints of beef cattle production in the United States. *Agricultural Systems*, 169, 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agsy.2018.11.005>

Roussell, M. A., Hill, A. M., Gaugler, T. L., West, S. G., Heuvel, J. P. V., Alaupovic, P., Gillies, P. J., & Kris-Etherton, P. M. (2012). Beef in an Optimal Lean Diet study: Effects on lipids, lipoproteins, and apolipoproteins. *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 95(1), 9–16. <https://doi.org/10.3945/ajcn.111.016261>

SCR-101

Submitted on: 3/23/2024 7:03:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/25/2024 1:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Helen Cox | Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of Kauai Climate Action Coalition to support SCR101. We are a group of over 150 Kauai residents . .KCAC recognizes the imminent and devastating effects of the climate crisis, and works through education, direct action, and supporting effective policy to mitigate this crisis and create a sustainable, thriving, and equitable future. We support the transition to a plant-based lifestyle as a critical step towards reducing greenhouse gases.

We all recognize that we face a climate crisis that has existential implications not only for us but also for future generations. Animal agriculture is known to be a leading driver of climate change. Currently, the planet is growing enough crops to build feed the 80 billion land animals who are used for food. The University of Oxford reported that if the world shifted to a plant-based diet, we could feed all 8 billion humans on the planet, and reduce global farmland by more than 75%, which would allow us to rewild and reforest the lands no longer used for animal agriculture.

In addition to the environmental impact, plant-based eating improves our human health. Decades of research and thousands of studies indicate that plant-based eating reduces the risk of heart disease and certain cancers, as well as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and obesity. While many mistakenly believe that a plant-based diet cannot supply adequate protein, humans can survive and thrive on a plant-based diet .

Also, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by replacing carbon-intensive building materials such as timber, steel, and cement with plant substitutes. Building construction has an enormous impact on the climate. Production of building materials such as steel and cement involve some of the largest carbon emissions. Cutting mature trees for buildings results in a large loss of carbon sequestration.

Plants provide structural building alternatives that are much less harmful for the climate. For example, there are types of clumping bamboo that can grow very rapidly with sufficient water. They can be processed into wood building materials that are stronger, more flexible, and lighter than timber or steel. They can be treated so they are more fire and termite-resistant than wood. They sequester ten times as much carbon as trees! And there are other promising plant-based construction materials as well. Plant-based building materials have exciting potential to diversify our economy and create “green” jobs and industries.

Please pass SCR101. Mahalo!

Helen Cox, Chair

Kaua'i Climate Action Coalition

SCR-101

Submitted on: 3/22/2024 7:37:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/25/2024 1:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Susan B Roberts Emery | Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Memeber of committee,

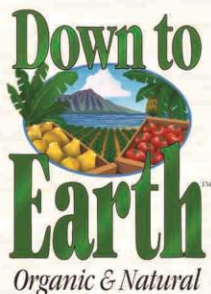
I am writing today, on behalf of the Green Party of Hawai'i , to ask for a yes vote for SCR101, urging a transition to a plant based lifestyle. The key word is Lifestyle . As a farm worker myself, I work with organic produce . It is a lifestyle, to seed, plant, and nurture the plants until we can harvest. Hawai'i was a sustainable nation before industrial chemical based farming took a strangle hold on our people. The way back to healthy guts and minds is more plants in our diet and therefore in our lifestyle. No one is asking for a 100 percent commitment to a plant based diet, but a reduction in animal based agriculture is a small step in the right direction.

Mahalo nui,

Susan RobertsEmery

Co Chair GPH

Love Life!



SCR101/ SR83 URGING A TRANSITION TO A PLANT-BASED LIFESTYLE
House Committee on Agriculture and the Environment
March 25, 2024, 1:00pm State Capitol

Aloha Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair, Sen. Tim Richards, Vice Chair, and Committee Members.

Down to Earth Organic and Natural testifies in support of SCR101/SR83.

Down to Earth Organic and Natural has six locations on Oahu and Maui. Since we opened in 1977, we have supported healthy lifestyles and preservation of the environment by selling local, fresh, organic and natural products, and by promoting a healthy, plant-based and vegetarian lifestyle.

We are strongly in support of SCR101/SR83 urging a transition to a plant-based lifestyle.

Since 1977 Down to Earth has been encouraging our communities to adopt a plant-based way of eating. The single most important thing an individual can do for their health, for the environment, and for the sake of the innocent animals is to adopt a plant-based, vegetarian diet. Healthy vegetarian diets support a lifetime of good health and provide protection against numerous diseases, including our country's three biggest killers: heart disease, cancer, and stroke. The American Dietetic Association states that vegetarians have "lower rates of death from ischemic heart disease; ... lower blood cholesterol levels, lower blood pressure, and lower rates of hypertension, type 2 diabetes, and prostate and colon cancer" and that vegetarians are less likely than meat-eaters to be obese. Well-planned vegetarian diets provide us with all the nutrients we need, minus the saturated fat, cholesterol, and contaminants found in animal flesh and eggs.

What we choose to eat is one of the most significant factors in our personal impact on the environment and climate change. The United Nations and many leading environmental organizations—including the National Audubon Society, the WorldWatch Institute, the Sierra Club, and the Union of Concerned Scientists—recognize that raising animals for food damages the environment more than just about anything else. Urging our communities to adopt a plant-based meatless diet, or to at least begin the transition one day a week, is highly beneficial for the sustainability of our communities and the 'aina.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these resolutions.

Alison Riggs
Public Policy & Government Relations Manager
Down to Earth

2525 S. King St., Suite 309
Honolulu, HI 96826
Phone (808) 824-3240
Fax (808) 951-8283
E-mail: alison.riggs@downtoearth.org

Corporate Office
P.O. Box 1166
Kailua, HI 96734
Phone: (808) 484-5890
Fax: (808) 484-5896
corporate@downtoearth.org

Oahu Locations

Honolulu
2525 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96826
Phone: (808) 947-7678
Fax: (808) 943-8491
honolulu@downtoearth.org

Kailua
573 Kailua Road
Suite 101
Kailua, HI 96734
Phone: (808) 262-3838
Fax: (808) 263-3788
kailua@downtoearth.org

Pearlridge
98-211 Pali Momi Street
Suite 950
Aiea, Hawaii 96701
Phone: (808) 488-1375
Fax: (808) 488-4549
pearlridge@downtoearth.org

Kapolei
4460 Kapolei Parkway
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707
Phone: (808) 675-2300
Fax: (808) 675-2323
kapolei@downtoearth.org

Kakaako
500 Keawe St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 465-2512
Fax: (808) 465-2305
kakaako@downtoearth.org

Maui Location

Kahului
305 Dairy Road
Kahului, HI 96732
Phone: (808) 877-2661
Fax: (808) 877-7548
kahului@downtoearth.org

www.downtoearth.org

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024
1:01 PM**

CONFERENCE ROOM 224 AND VIDEOCONFERENCE

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 101 AND SENATE RESOLUTION 83
URGING A TRANSITION TO A PLANT-BASED LIFESTYLE**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR101 / SR 83. These resolutions urge a transition to a plant-based lifestyle. The Department of Agriculture (Department) respectfully offers supportive comments regarding plant-based construction materials and further commenting that the Department supports plant- and animal-based agriculture.

Plant-based building materials, grown in Hawaii, would replace building materials that are imported. Import replacement reduces the pathways for the introduction of invasive pests that include building materials. The caution with importing plants for plant-based building materials is the need to check with the Department for prior approvals to determine if the plant material is harmful to the state. Should these resolutions lead to further discussion regarding the use of sustainable building materials, the Department requests that Plant Quarantine Staff be included as well as an industrial hemp farmer, each with specialized expertise to enhance the discussion.

Regarding greenhouse gas production, the EPA reports that in 2021 all agricultural activities were responsible for only 9.4 percent of total gross U.S.



greenhouse gas emissions. This includes combined plant- and animal-based production. Research and development in Hawaii demonstrated that cattle feed additives from limu kohu can significantly reduce greenhouse gas methane emissions. The Department's Aquaculture Development program incorporated restorative aquaculture in its planning that combines aquatic plants and animals to benefit coastal ecosystems while providing economic development. Livestock producers assist with response to invasive species, stewarding pasture lands, and subsequent fire mitigation. These types of advances in science and land management activities indicate the important role animal agriculture contributes to Hawai'i food security while protecting natural resources.

Hawai'i has a diverse ethnic and cultural makeup that is reflected in our food that incorporates plant and animal proteins. Historically, Polynesians brought chickens and pigs to the islands and established loko i'a. Today, terrestrial and aquatic animals continue to be significant components of the state's food sources.

Respectfully, the Department comments that personal choice should direct everyone's lifestyle with regards to food.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Hearing on March 20, 2024 at 1:00 pm

SUPPORTING HB 2083 HD 3

My name is John Kawamoto, and I support HB 2083 HD 3 with a amendments.

This bill advances Hawaii's food security and improves nutrition for the children of Hawaii. The intent of the bill is worthy, but it does not go far enough.

Hawaii produces only about 15% of its food. About 85% of food consumed by Hawaii residents is imported. Disruptions on the mainland and other parts of the world threaten the food supply chain, and therefore Hawaii's food security. To encourage more food to be produced in Hawaii and make Hawaii more food secure, the Legislature set a goal of 30% food served in public schools to be locally sourced.

This bill authorizes the Department of Education (DOE) to establish a program to incentivize individual public schools to submit to the DOE a plan for the school to reach the local farm to school meal goal of 30% of food served in the school to consist of locally sourced products by 2030. A plan would make each school more likely to attain the goal. However, the bill authorizes, but does not require. The bill should be amended to require each school to submit a plan to the DOE.

This bill also authorizes the DOE to establish a pilot program at Mililani High School to provide a plant-based meal as an option under the school meals program. Plant-based diets offer all the necessary protein, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals for optimal health. Plant-based diets are associated with lower risks of developing coronary heart disease and high blood pressure, and also with increased longevity.

School districts on the mainland have already proven that plant-based school lunch options can be offered extensively. For example, the New York City School District and the Santa Barbara Unified School District both serve a plant-based option at each meal. This bill should be amended to require each public school to offer a plant-based school lunch option.

With the foregoing amendments, I support the bill.

SCR-101

Submitted on: 3/22/2024 11:05:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/25/2024 1:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jacqueline S. Ambrose | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to; URGING A TRANSITION TO A PLANT-BASED LIFESTYLE.

SCR-101

Submitted on: 3/22/2024 7:01:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/25/2024 1:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stephen W Beidner | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am very excited about this proposal and support it wholeheartedly. Animal agriculture is a major cause of most environmental problems. Animal agriculture is responsible for more greenhouse gasses than all forms of transportation combined. Animal agriculture is the largest consumer of fresh water. Animal Agriculture destroys forests, wetlands and other wildlife habitats. Millions of other wildlife are killed by ranchers. Animal waste and erosion of animal feed croplands account for more water pollution than all other human activities combined. If we are to survive on this planet we have no choice other than switching to a plant-based diet. This same diet additionally is the only diet that has ever been proven to prevent and in many cases reverse heart disease, our #1 cause of premature death. It is also linked to the prevention of most other causes of premature death, like high blood pressure, diabetes, and some cancers. And finally animal agriculture is responsible for enormous animal suffering. This proposal is vital.

SCR-101

Submitted on: 3/23/2024 8:05:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/25/2024 1:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Susan L. Hall, Ph.D. | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly and urgently support Hawaii SCR101 proposing a plant-based diet for Hawaii. As a Nutritional Psychologist practicing in Kauai I feel this way of life could enormously benefit the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of people in Hawaii. Environmentally for our islands, for our country and for our world nothing makes more sense or can create greater change. In returning to the wise, ancient practices of the Hawaiian people, Hawaii can become a leader in this health and environmental revolution starting with passage of SCR101.

SCR-101

Submitted on: 3/23/2024 1:08:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/25/2024 1:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| katherine skow | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support SCR101, urging a transition to a Plant Based Lifestyle

Plant based eating has been shown over decades of research, and thousands of studies that it can prevent and reverse heart disease, the leading killer in the United States. Also, it can reduce the risk of cancer, high blood pressure, Type II DM, inflammation, autoimmune diseases, and improve our immune system and gut microbiome.

We've been taught that these chronic conditions are due to our genetics. In fact, what is commonly inherited and passed down from our family is our day-to-day meal choices.

There are many documentaries that present facts and benefits of plant based lifestyles, including What The Health, Cowspiracy, and The Game Changers, (with Arnold Schwarzenegger).

A common misconception is that plant-based eating means only eating greens, nuts, seeds, and fruit. But it can include burritos, pizza, spaghetti, nachos, burgers, tacos, curries, stir fry, sushi, and even spam (tofu) musubi, just using plant-based meats or plant-based cheeses.

Soy milk and other nut milks are much better for our bodies. Our children are given cow's milk in school, even though lactose intolerance affects a very high percentage of all people.

Animal agriculture is responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than all planes, trains, cars, jets, and trucks combined. Here is a quote from UC Berkley and Stanford: Phasing out animal agriculture represents "our best and most immediate change to reverse the trajectory of climate change".

The positive effects of avoiding animal agriculture are so far reaching and profound, from our own health and the lives of animals, as well as the effects on climate.

Mahalo for your time and attention on this very important issue.

Stephanie Skow, MD

Board Certified Psychiatrist and Plant-Based Physician & Educator

3/23/24

To: The Honorable Chair Mike Gabbard, the Honorable Vice Chair Tim Richards, III, and Members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee.

As a physician, I **support SCR101 and SR83**, Urging a Transition to a Plant-Based Lifestyle.

Do you know someone diagnosed with type II diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, cancer, or have a family member facing dementia, a child or teen struggling with asthma or acne?

We've been taught that these chronic conditions are a natural aging process or due to our genetics. In fact, what is commonly inherited and passed down from our family is our day-to-day meal choices.

When we consistently put the wrong fuel in our body, after time the parts start to wear and tear. **Would you put diesel fuel in your car?**

When we feed our bodies the correct fuel for human anatomy and physiology, things start running as they should. Does your jaw move up and down, and side to side? Do you have big and flat incisors? Blunt and small canines? Intestines 10 times your body length?

Then you are not an anatomical omnivore. **Eating foods that are not species-appropriate has health consequences.** Humans turned to meat and dairy out of survival. Just because we can eat these foods, doesn't mean we should.

Plant based eating has been shown over decades of research, and thousands of studies that it can prevent and reverse heart disease, our leading killer in the United States; in addition to reducing the risk of cancer, HTN, Type II DM, inflammation, autoimmune diseases, and improving our immune system and gut microbiome.

If any of you have seen **The Game Changers, with Arnold Schwarzenegger**, you'll remember the entertaining scene on how plant-based eating improves blood flow (to all organs); and how ED (erectile dysfunction) is an early warning sign of cardiovascular disease.

But who wants to eat salads all day?!?

Plant based eating does NOT equal salads + broccoli. It includes burritos, pizza, spaghetti, nachos, burgers, tacos, curries, stir fry, sushi, and even spam (tofu) musubi. We just do it with plant based meats or plant based cheeses.

Racial discrimination in our food choices?

Children are given cow's milk in school, even though lactose intolerance affects about 95 percent of Asian Americans, 74 percent of Native Americans, 70 percent of African Americans, 53 percent of Mexican Americans.

And lastly, the ethics.

Recently I met a man in his late 60's from the Midwest, at Kapaa Art Night; he said he's been vegetarian since his teens. I asked what made him change his diet at that age.

He said, "My high school teacher took our class on a fieldtrip, to a slaughterhouse."

Thank you,

Stephanie Skow, MD

stephanieskow@yahoo.com

SCR-101

Submitted on: 3/23/2024 2:00:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/25/2024 1:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Matt Nelson | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To: The Honorable Chair Mike Gabbard, the Honorable Vice Chair Tim Richards, III, and Members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee.

I strongly support SCR101/SB83 Urging a Transition to a Plant-Based Lifestyle.

Saturated fat and cholesterol, inflammatory heme iron, IGF1, TMAO's, toxic dioxins, which are found in meat, chicken, dairy, fish, cheese, and eggs, are the major contributors to developing heart disease, diabetes, some types of cancers, autoimmune disease, obesity, and dementia. Eating plant based is the #1 thing we can do to help prevent and reduce, and even reverse the most common chronic diseases.

Animal agriculture is the number one polluter of our lakes, rivers, oceans, and streams.

Animals are sentient beings who just want to live their lives and do not want to be artificially inseminated, selectively bred to grow larger and faster than they normally would, and have the babies stolen from them (the dairy and cheese industry), and slaughtered by age 1-3 years old. 99% of our meat and dairy and eggs comes from CAFO's (concentrated animal feeding operation).

In addition, cow meat and dairy is not native to Hawaii. It would be great to see culturally appropriate foods in schools, hospitals, and the community.

Thank you,

Matt Nelson

Kapaa, HI

SCR-101

Submitted on: 3/24/2024 12:41:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/25/2024 1:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Victoria Anderson | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I write in strong support of SCR101. This well-written resolution captures the triple-win for environmental survival, animal welfare, and human health that a widespread move to a plant-based lifestyle can achieve. Please pass this resolution, and then let's start providing more education about this in schools and in the public sphere.

Mahalo,

Victoria Anderson

SCR-101

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 9:33:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/25/2024 1:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sherry Pollack | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

SUPPORT!

SCR-101

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 9:43:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/25/2024 1:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kencho Gurung | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support this resolution!

SCR-101

Submitted on: 3/24/2024 12:56:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/25/2024 1:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| P TIBBS | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please pass this important resolution.