

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

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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)

**SR-83**

Submitted on: 3/23/2024 7:05:47 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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 SR83. 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.

If HCR is not passed, please pass HR83. Mahalo!

Helen Cox, Chair

Kaua`i Climate Action Coalition

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.

**SR-83**

Submitted on: 3/22/2024 7:56:26 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice chair Richards, and members of AEN

I support SCR101/SR83

There are many benefits to promoting a Hawaiian plant-based economy. Hawaii is blessed with a year round climate that is conducive to growing many types of products locally.

Food:

Growing local plant-based foods reduces transportation from the mainland, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and contributes favorably to human health.

Construction Materials:

Building construction has a huge impact on the climate, water, and land use practices. Production of building materials such as steel and cement involves significant carbon emissions. Replacing carbon-intensive building materials with locally grown plant substitutes offers a great opportunity in agriculture and construction trades.

“Construction grade bamboo”. Bamboo varieties can be processed into wood substitute building materials that are stronger, more flexible, and lighter than timber or steel. They can be treated to be more fire and termite-resistant than wood. Due to rapid growth, bamboo sequesters ten times as much carbon as trees!

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

“Biocements” produced from cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) can be substituted for Portland cement, currently transported from the mainland.

Please pass these resolutions to mitigate the climate crisis and strengthen Hawaii’s economy.

Thank you for your consideration,

Keith Neal

Waimea

**SR-83**

Submitted on: 3/23/2024 11:33:25 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruth Heidrich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please adopt this resolution as we are killing ourselves, our children, and our planet with our meat-centered diet. Research is absolutely clear that animal products are causing our epidemic of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and more, whereas a whole food/plant-based diet can prevent and even reverse most of these conditions. In addition, the WHO has noted that animal husbandry is the number one cause of our climate crisis. We need to act NOW!

**SR-83**

Submitted on: 3/24/2024 12:39:30 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support of SR83. 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

**SR-83**

Submitted on: 3/24/2024 12:56:50 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
P TIBBS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this important resolution.

**SR-83**

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 9:34:15 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!